REPORT FOR
YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
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ENROLLMENT PROJECTION STUDY

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I. INTRODUCTION

The development of short and long-range enrollment projections are essential tools for school districts as they decide on the best ways to provide students with a quality educational experience. The instructional programs and the school facilities are both linked to the number of students that need to be served by the District. While York School District One's enrollment has remained relatively stable over the course of the last ten years, the area is on the verge of experiencing moderate increases in its student enrollment. The availability of essential services such as water and sewer will, in part, drive the growth of the residential development in the district. As these services are expanded beyond the areas where they are now provided so will the growth in the residential market.

The primary factors that contribute to the anticipated increases in the student enrollment are the quality of the District's educational program and the attractiveness of the area for residential development. What is unique about the District is that the residential development and the concurrent increases in the student enrollment are not uniform throughout the district. Areas that have water and sewer are experiencing more growth than those areas which do not have these services. As a result, the present concentration of residential development is in areas of the District where these services are available.

In order to accommodate the anticipated increases in its student enrollment, the District has determined that a comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan needed to be developed. Part of that plan involved an Enrollment Projection Study which would provide the District with information that would enable it to keep pace with the overall population trends, the residential development, and the anticipated increases in the projected student enrollment. The report that follows is organized to provide an overview of these trends as well as to establish a baseline for the District's upcoming facility needs.

The early weeks of the 2020-2021 school year have provided the District with many challenges as to the way instruction is being delivered to students due to the outbreak of COVID-19. While the District's overall enrollment has decreased as parents have chosen other alternatives to educate their children, the manner in which schools are adapting does not lesson the need to broaden the scope of how the District can address its future enrollment increases.

II. DEMOGRAPHICS

A. POPULATION TRENDS

Based on U.S. Census Bureau data, the overall population for York County will have increased from 227,174 in 2010 to 285,275 in 2020, which represents an increase of 58,101 residents. Over the course of the next five years, from 2020 to 2025, it is expected that the overall population will increase from 285,275 to 316,690. This represents a five-year increase of 31,415 as compared to the ten-year increase of 58,101 that occurred between 2010 and 2020.

The population figures for the 5-19 year-old age group in York County will have increased from 48,677 in 2010 to 57,758 in 2020 for an overall increase of 9,081. Between 2020 and 2025 it is estimated that the population for this age group will increase from 57,758 to 63,380 which represents an expected increase of 5,622. The actual and estimated population figures for all ages as well as for the 5-19 year-old age groups are shown on Table 1 for York County.

The population figures shown on Table 2 are specific to the York School District One area of York County and includes people of all ages as well as those in the 5-19 year-old age group. Among those persons of all ages, the population increased from 31,177 in 2010 to 34,132 in 2020. This is an increase of 2,955 for the ten year period of time. It is expected that between 2020 and 2025, the population for all ages will increase from 34,132 to 36,790. This is a difference of 2,658 residents.

In the 5-19 year old age group, the population for the York School District One area decreased from 6,441 in 2010 to 6,382 in 2020. These figures, however, are expected to increase from 6,382 in 2020 to 7,038 in 2025. This is an expected increase of 656 for this age group. It should be noted that these figures include individuals who may not actually be enrolled in the public school system due to their ages or to the fact that they attend private school.

TABLE 1

POPULATION OF ENTIRE YORK COUNTY – ALL AGES		
YEAR 2010	YEAR 2020	YEAR 2025
227,174	285,275	316,690

POPULATION OF ENTIRE YORK COUNTY – AGES 5-19		
YEAR 2010	YEAR 2020	YEAR 2025
48,677	57,758	63,380

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau & ESRI Business Analyst

TABLE 2

POPULATION OF YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE – ALL AGES		
YEAR 2010	YEAR 2020	YEAR 2025
31,177	34,132	36,790

POPULATION OF YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE – AGES 5-19		
YEAR 2010	YEAR 2020	YEAR 2025
6,441	6,382	7,038

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau & ESRI Business Analyst

B. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

A summary of the building permit activity in the York School District One area is shown on Table 3. These data were provided by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments and show the number of permits issued from 2015 through the end of August of 2020. The permits were issued for what are described as single family detached residences that fall within the boundaries of the School District and include both the unincorporated areas of York County as well as the City of York.

With the exception of 2019, the number of permits issued is lower for the City of York than it is for the unincorporated areas of York County that fall within District boundaries. One difference is that only one permit is needed for a residential development that may include multiple homes which is the case for several of the permits issued by the City of York. This is in contrast to the permits issued in the unincorporated areas that are typically for single family residences and not for multi-home developments.

TABLE 3

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IN YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE			
BUILDING PERMITS*	**YORK COUNTY**	**CITY OF YORK**	**TOTALS**
2015	**97**	**12**	**109**
2016	**113**	**38**	**151**
2017	**115**	**32**	**147**
2018	**126**	**80**	**206**
2019	**83**	**89**	**172**
2020**	**68**	**33**	**101**
TOTALS	**602**	**284**	**886**

*SOURCE: CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS **PARTIAL YEAR: JAN-AUG 2020

Because no building permits have been issued for multi-home developments in the unincorporated areas, Table 4 shows only the residential development activity for the City of York. The total number of units is 1,502, of which 1,275 are yet to be completed. It should also be noted that the final plans for two of the developments are under review and the plans for four others are still pending. Even when building permits are issued there is no guarantee that the residential units will be constructed and occupied.

Among the nine developments shown on Table 4, four are located in the Hunter Street Elementary attendance area, three are located in the Cotton Belt Elementary attendance area, and two are located in the Harold C. Johnson attendance area. In general, it is expected that the developments shown on Table 4 for the City of York will be completed in the next five to seven years.

Over the course of the next few years it is very likely that in times of economic growth the number of building permits as well as the development activity in the District will increase beyond what is shown on Tables 3 and 4. This will, in turn, bring more families and more students to the District. In this regard, it is important that the District continue to monitor the residential growth and development activity in both the City of York as well as the unincorporated areas of York County that fall within its boundaries.

TABLE 4

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY - YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

CITY OF YORK	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS	TYPE OF UNITS	EXPECTED YR OF COMPLETION
1. ALEXANDER MEADOWS - HSES	145	123 SF & 22 TH	SF & TH	UNDER REVIEW
2. AUSTEN LAKES - CBES	327	100 SF	SF	2022
3. FERGUS CROSSROADS - HSES	353	243 SF & 110 TH	SF & TH	UNDER REVIEW
4. LIBERTY RIDGE - HCJES	128	128 SF	SF	2023
5. MERITAGE - S PACIFIC AVE & HUNTER - HSES	157	157 SF	SF	2025
-PENDING PROJECTS-				
6. BLACK HWY & ALEXANDER LOVE HWY - CBES	POTENTIALLY 152	152	SF	PENDING
7. PROJECT ADJACENT TO BROOKSIDE - HSES	POTENTIALLY 200	200	SF	PENDING
8. SPRINGLAKE - CBES	TBD	TBD	SF	PENDING
9. MCFARLAND RD & E LIBERTY ST - HCJES	POTENTIALLY 40	40	TH	PENDING
HSES - 855, CBES - 252, HCJES - 168 = 1,275				
TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS	1,502	1,275		

SF=SINGLE FAMILY: 1,143
TH=TOWNHOMES: 132
TOTAL: 1,275

10/8/2020

III. ENROLLMENT DATA

A. ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

During the ten school years from 2010-11 to 2019-20, there were some minor fluctuations in the District's PK-12 enrollment at the elementary, intermediate, middle, and high school levels. At the elementary level, the enrollment for Hickory Grove-Sharon includes students in grades PK-6 while the other four elementary schools serve students in grades PK-4. It should also be noted that the District changed the alignment of the elementary attendance areas for the 2011-12 school year. Since that time there have been no other changes in the elementary level attendance areas. Students from across the District attend York Intermediate School for grades 5-6 and York Middle School for grades 7-8. The students at Hickory Grove Sharon Elementary have the option to remain there for grades 5-6 or they can choose to attend York Intermediate School. The number of students that decided to attend York Intermediate from Hickory Grove-Sharon was less than ten for the 2019-20 school year.

The District's historical enrollments by year and by grade are shown on Table 5 which follows on the next page. These figures, in the interest of consistency, are based on the district's 135-day actual enrollment figures for the last ten years. The figures do not include students that are enrolled in the District's pre-kindergarten programs. During the 2019-20 school year 241 students were enrolled in these programs which are located in each of the District's five elementary schools. Over the course of the last ten years, the District's pre-kindergarten enrollment, which is based on the needs of the students and the availability of space, has ranged from a low of 217 to a high of 252.

Also shown on Table 5 are the ten-year historical enrollments for students at York Intermediate, York Middle, and York Comprehensive High Schools. As previously mentioned, there are minor fluctuations in the enrollments for each of these schools over the course of the last ten years. In addition to the historical enrollment data shown on Table 5, grade group data for the elementary, intermediate, middle, and high school levels can be found on Chart 1 that follows the Projected Enrollment section of the report.

TABLE 5

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
SUMMARY OF ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS 2010-2011 TO 2019-2020

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS K-6	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
COTTON BELT ELEM K-4	560	390	380	383	387	383	374	369	384	374
HAROLD C. JOHNSON ELEM K-4	0	401	413	414	432	428	420	441	448	435
HICKORY GROVE-SHARON ELEM K-6	408	364	380	381	377	365	393	422	395	389
HUNTER STREET ELEM K-4	589	414	387	383	380	399	383	394	418	424
JEFFERSON ELEM K-4	501	437	420	419	409	414	425	449	430	389
TOTALS	**2,058**	**2,006**	**1,980**	**1,980**	**1,985**	**1,989**	**1,995**	**2,075**	**2,075**	**2,011**

INTERMEDIATE & MIDDLE SCHOOLS 5-8	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
YORK INTERMEDIATE GR 5-6	706	716	682	637	605	617	652	646	639	679
YORK MIDDLE GR 7-8	786	797	825	840	796	770	759	745	798	803
TOTALS	**1,492**	**1,513**	**1,507**	**1,477**	**1,401**	**1,387**	**1,411**	**1,391**	**1,437**	**1,482**

HIGH SCHOOL 9-12	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
YORK COMPREHENSIVE HIGH GR 9-12	1,454	1,433	1,410	1,454	1,560	1,559	1,571	1,536	1,439	1,469
TOTALS	**1,454**	**1,433**	**1,410**	**1,454**	**1,560**	**1,559**	**1,571**	**1,536**	**1,439**	**1,469**

GRAND TOTAL - GRADES K-12	5,004	4,952	4,897	4,911	4,946	4,935	4,977	5,002	4,951	4,962

B. PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

In recent years school districts have come to understand the importance of having accurate short and long-range enrollment projections. The essential services that districts provide for their students, teachers, administrators, and support staff are based on student numbers. As fiscal resources are being stretched for instruction, district operations, and capital improvements, districts can no longer rely on the way things were done last year as the basis for their future decisions. Since enrollment projections have now become an integral part of the decision-making process, the challenge that districts face is how to go about developing accurate enrollment projections that can assist them with their future decisions. It goes without saying that these projections must not only be accurate, but they must also be in tune with the growth patterns and residential development in various parts of the district.

While there are a variety of approaches available to forecast student enrollment, the one utilized for this study is a modified linear regression analysis. This type of enrollment projection works well for districts that are on the verge of moderate growth in their student population. As previously stated, a district's ability to develop and utilize up-to-date enrollment projections are essential to being able to support academic excellence as well as the ability to fund, upgrade, and construct new facilities. The case is no different, but just as compelling for York School District One.

The charts that follow show both ten years of historical enrollments as well as ten years of projected enrollments for the District and for each school. In developing these projections, factors such as the number of live births, the level of housing activity, and the population projections from sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau were taken into consideration. Chart 1 shows the historical enrollments for the District by grade and by grade group over the course of the last ten years. These numbers indicate a pattern that includes years where there were small increases and years where there were small declines in the enrollments.

Chart 2 shows the projected enrollments for the next ten years up through 2029-30. These numbers indicate that the District's enrollment for grades K-12 is expected to increase by 1,140 students during this time period. The projected increases by grade group show increases of 508 for grades K-4, 145 for grades 5-6, 134 for grades 7-8, and 353 for grades 9-12. Pre-kindergarten students are not included in the District and school level projections. They should, however, be added back to the elementary school level projections when considering matters related to program capacity. A summary of the projected enrollments by school and by year is shown on Table 6 for grades K-12 and on Table 6A for grades PK-12.

CHART 1

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS 2010-2011 TO 2019-2020																	
SCHOOL YEAR	GR K	GR 1	GR 2	GR 3	GR 4	GR 5	GR 6	GR 7	GR 8	GR 9	GR 10	GR 11	GR 12	GR K-4	GR 5-6	GR 7-8	GR 9-12	TOTALS K-12
2010-11	401	374	362	413	403	413	398	407	379	398	381	336	339	1,953	811	786	1,454	5,004
2011-12	393	388	365	353	415	390	418	408	389	421	344	337	331	1,914	808	797	1,433	4,952
2012-13	368	407	362	362	374	398	391	414	411	412	384	285	329	1,873	789	825	1,410	4,897
2013-14	373	383	389	373	359	349	391	416	424	433	383	336	302	1,877	740	840	1,454	4,911
2014-15	409	362	367	373	385	335	359	393	403	456	401	346	357	1,896	694	796	1,560	4,946
2015-16	363	416	366	357	393	366	345	370	400	448	414	336	361	1,895	711	770	1,559	4,935
2016-17	364	386	405	357	371	401	363	368	391	453	398	360	360	1,883	764	759	1,571	4,977
2017-18	387	385	385	420	374	359	411	384	361	433	407	344	352	1,951	770	745	1,536	5,002
2018-19	380	386	391	388	420	380	369	416	382	415	375	352	297	1,965	749	798	1,439	4,951
2019-20	378	363	389	382	382	412	384	381	422	415	391	298	365	1,894	796	803	1,469	4,962

CHART 2

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS 2020-2021 TO 2029-2030																	
SCHOOL YEAR	GR K	GR 1	GR 2	GR 3	GR 4	GR 5	GR 6	GR 7	GR 8	GR 9	GR 10	GR 11	GR 12	GR K-4	GR 5-6	GR 7-8	GR 9-12	TOTALS K-12
2020-21	390	377	402	394	392	404	413	387	402	423	399	311	373	1,955	817	789	1,506	5,067
2021-22	400	389	416	406	404	410	416	394	408	431	408	319	383	2,015	826	802	1,541	5,184
2022-23	412	399	426	417	417	417	422	400	417	440	416	329	392	2,071	839	817	1,577	5,304
2023-24	422	409	437	431	432	423	431	408	427	448	425	337	403	2,131	854	835	1,613	5,433
2024-25	433	420	449	441	440	430	440	415	436	458	433	346	411	2,183	870	851	1,648	5,552
2025-26	446	430	455	450	448	437	447	422	444	467	440	353	418	2,229	884	866	1,678	5,657
2026-27	454	439	463	461	458	444	454	430	450	474	448	361	425	2,275	898	880	1,708	5,761
2027-28	461	449	470	467	466	452	460	440	458	483	457	369	433	2,313	912	898	1,742	5,865
2028-29	470	458	475	479	474	461	467	449	467	494	467	380	442	2,356	928	916	1,783	5,983
2029-30	479	469	483	488	483	468	473	460	477	504	476	389	453	2,402	941	937	1,822	6,102

TABLE 6

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
SUMMARY OF PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS 2020-2021 TO 2029-2030

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS K-6	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
COTTON BELT ELEM GR K-4	384	395	403	412	419	425	435	438	448	460
HAROLD C. JOHNSON ELEM GR K-4	445	455	466	475	486	494	504	513	521	531
HICKORY GROVE-SHARON ELEM GR K-6	399	394	403	412	420	429	436	448	455	462
HUNTER STREET ELEM GR K-4	452	480	505	533	555	570	582	592	602	613
JEFFERSON ELEM GR K-4	395	402	408	416	422	433	442	451	462	471
TOTALS	**2,075**	**2,126**	**2,185**	**2,248**	**2,302**	**2,351**	**2,399**	**2,442**	**2,488**	**2,537**

INTERMEDIATE & MIDDLE SCHOOLS 5-8	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
YORK INTERMEDIATE GR 5-6	697	715	725	737	751	762	774	783	796	806
YORK MIDDLE GR 7-8	789	802	817	835	851	866	880	898	916	937
TOTAL - GRADES 6-8	**1,486**	**1,517**	**1,542**	**1,572**	**1,602**	**1,628**	**1,654**	**1,681**	**1,712**	**1,743**

HIGH SCHOOL 9-12	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
YORK COMPREHENSIVE HIGH GR 9-12	1,506	1,541	1,577	1,613	1,648	1,678	1,708	1,742	1,783	1,822
TOTAL - GRADES 9-12	**1,506**	**1,541**	**1,577**	**1,613**	**1,648**	**1,678**	**1,708**	**1,742**	**1,783**	**1,822**

GRAND TOTAL - GRADES K-12	5,067	5,184	5,304	5,433	5,552	5,657	5,761	5,865	5,983	6,102

TABLE 6A

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
SUMMARY OF PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS 2020-2021 TO 2029-2030

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PK-6	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
COTTON BELT ELEM GR PK-4	445	461	464	473	480	486	496	499	509	521
HAROLD C. JOHNSON ELEM GR PK-4	496	506	517	526	537	545	555	564	572	582
HICKORY GROVE-SHARON ELEM GR PK-6	418	413	422	431	439	448	455	467	474	481
HUNTER STREET ELEM GR PK-4	522	550	575	603	625	640	652	662	672	683
JEFFERSON ELEM GR PK-4	435	442	448	456	462	473	482	491	502	511
TOTALS	**2,316**	**2,372**	**2,426**	**2,489**	**2,543**	**2,592**	**2,640**	**2,683**	**2,729**	**2,778**

INTERMEDIATE & MIDDLE SCHOOLS 5-8	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
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HIGH SCHOOL 9-12	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
YORK COMPREHENSIVE HIGH GR 9-12	1,506	1,541	1,577	1,613	1,648	1,678	1,708	1,742	1,783	1,822
TOTAL - GRADES 9-12	**1,506**	**1,541**	**1,577**	**1,613**	**1,648**	**1,678**	**1,708**	**1,742**	**1,783**	**1,822**

GRAND TOTAL - GRADES K-12	5,308	5,430	5,545	5,674	5,793	5,898	6,002	6,106	6,224	6,343

IV. SUMMARY

The previous sections of the report focused on population trends, residential development activity, as well as actual and projected enrollments which all influence the District's decisions in the areas of academics, facilities and finance. As with emerging school districts such as York School District One, the needs in these areas will result in challenges that will have to be addressed over the course of the next five to ten years and beyond.

The primary indicators for the York School District One, whether it is the U.S. Census Bureau data, the building permit data or the actual enrollments, all point to a moderate increase in both the overall and the school age populations. While this is currently more evident in the eastern parts of the district, there are signs that residential development is beginning to extend beyond these areas. When and how quickly this development takes place is related to the state of the infrastructure, the willingness of long-time landowners to sell their property, and whether or not the properties can be re-zoned for residential development.

The projected enrollment increases that are expected over the course of the next ten years all point to the continued need for the District to ensure that it's staffing, facilities and organizational structure support a vision that focusses on "building the foundation for tomorrow by sparking potential and inspiring success."

In support of the District's efforts to meet these needs, the following tasks are offered for consideration:

1. Develop yearly internal enrollment projections at both the district and school levels.

2. Schedule periodic meetings with the City of York and the York County planning staff to keep abreast of the residential development activity in the district.

3. Develop a student locator system that would support any future changes in the District's attendance areas.

4. Align the student locator system with the residence type data by adding a field for both indicators in the PowerSchool system.

5. Conduct a periodic update of each school's program capacity versus their actual and projected enrollments.

6. Develop a plan to manage the District's anticipated growth that would focus on financial resources, organizational structure, instructional space, and staffing.