



Northbrook School District 27

Office of the Superintendent
John B. Deiter, Ph.D.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Board of Education
From: John Deiter
Re: Fall 2024 Enrollment Report
Date: September 19, 2024

This report provides a summary and analysis of our grade-level enrollment data. I have also provided future enrollment projections through the 2028-29 school year.

Fall Enrollment Data for 2024

- The total enrollment for the fall of 2024 is **1,315**. This number is **18** students fewer than last year's total and lower than last fall's projected number of 1,338.
- Each grade level enrollment considers the within-grade growth over the last school year. We grew in each grade level except 3rd-grade, where we lost one student. We are down from our projections because of a smaller-than-normal kindergarten cohort and smaller-than-projected growth in the 1st-grade cohort.
- At kindergarten, we relied on historical data and projected 125 students. Our actual enrollment is 111, 21 students fewer than last year's count. We have averaged 131 students over the previous 5 years. The last time the kindergarten cohort was this small was in 2017.

Adding this year's enrollment to the five-year average brings us to an average of 128 kindergarten students. I will continue to use the 125 number for projections, but I will monitor incoming enrollment in the spring.

- As you know, two key factors that have the most significant impact on our enrollment from year to year:
 1. Graduating eighth-grade classes are typically larger than the incoming kindergarten classes (due to growth over the nine years of the class).
 2. Within-grade growth from year to year in grades 1-8.
- Comparing our enrollments by building from last fall:
 - Hickory Point decreased by 40 students.
 - Shabonee increased by 22 students.
 - Wood Oaks increased by one student.

- This year marks our lowest overall enrollment since 2019-20. We will have to see if the lower kindergarten enrollment and smaller-than-normal growth from kindergarten to first grade is a trend or an anomaly.
- 2024-25 class sizes are smaller than our typical student-teacher ratios.
- When we look at the gender of our student population, we continue to have more boys than girls. After two consecutive years with more girls, we have five more boys than girls in this year's kindergarten. Overall, the difference across K-8 is 31 more boys than girls.
- I have noted that the demographics in the District have changed in the last ten years. This year, 63% of our students are White of non-Hispanic origin. Next, 26.3 % are Asian, 4.2% are Hispanic, 4.8% identify as Multiracial, and 1% are Black or African American. It's also worth noting that over 36% of our families report that a language other than English is their primary home language. Russian, Korean, Mandarin, and Polish are the most common after English.

In the 2012-13 school year, our total enrollment was 1,226; 83% of our students were White of non-Hispanic origin, 11% were Asian, 2.4% Hispanic, 2% Multiracial, and .6% Black or African American.

Figure 1: Fall Enrollment Data by School for 2024				
School	Grade	2024-2025 Fall Enrollment (Number of Sections)	Class Size	New Students in Fall 2022
Hickory Point	Kdgn	111 (7)	15-16	*43
	First	138 (8)	17-18	12
	Second	134 (7)	19-20	5
	Total	383		60
Shabonee	Third	159 (8)	19-20	7
	Fourth	148 (7)	21-22	5
	Fifth	148 (7)	21-22	8
	Total	455		20
Wood Oaks	Sixth	153	NA	11
	Seventh	144	NA	4
	Eighth	151	NA	3
	Total	448		18
Other Special Placements				
ECP (PreK)	K-8	11	NA	NA
NSA		} 18		
ELS				
Out-of-District Private School Private Residential				
	Total	29		NA
District Totals		1,315		98

* We define new kindergarten children as those students who did not have a sibling attend school on the last day of school last year.

New Student Move-Ins

- After several years of an increasing number of new students, this is our second consecutive year with a decline. This year, we have 98 new students compared to 113 new students in 2023-24, 125 in 2022-23, and 162 in 2021-22. Again, the largest decrease in new students is in kindergarten and first grade. A tighter-than-normal housing market in Northbrook may be partly responsible for the decline. It could also reflect the national and statewide birthrate decline from 2007-2022.

Figure 2: Number of New Students to District 27 over the Past Five School Years

Year	K-2	3-5	6-8	Total
2020-21	92	17	15	124
2021-22	101	34	27	162
2022-23	86	23	16	125
2023-24	89	15	9	113
2024-25	60	20	18	98

Revised Enrollment Projections

- We revise our enrollment projections annually. This revision includes re-calculating all “within-grade-growth” factors incorporating this year’s enrollment data. We then use these new factors, a kindergarten projection of 125, and other idiosyncratic factors to develop our overall projections. For example, graduating a particularly large or small class in any given year can affect the next year’s total enrollment. Enrollment projections are found in Figure 3 below. These projections include an estimated number of 28 preschool children and students placed outside the district.
- Our projections have been revised from last year to reflect the small kindergarten cohort and the smaller-than-expected 1st grade.
- 2021’s kindergarten (class of 2030) cohort exceeded expectations in 2021 and then grew from 139 to 154 when they were in first grade. This growth necessitated an eighth section of first grade, and now they have 160 students in grade 2. We also plan eight sections for this cohort in grades 3-5.
- This year’s 1st-grade class has 138 students, seven fewer than projected last year. In anticipation of growth, we added a section to 1st grade this year. This additional section might not be needed in 2025-2026 if there is no growth this year.
- Shabonee welcomed the large 3rd-grade cohort and added an eighth section to keep class sizes in our preferred range. This class did not grow from last year. If it stays the same size in 2025-2026, we might be able to return to seven sections.
- The local housing market will have to be monitored to see if a trend is developing of more families with middle school-aged children moving out of rather than into the district. At the same time, the size of the kindergarten classes will need to be monitored as three of the last five classes have outnumbered the standard prediction of 125 students, while this year is significantly below 125.

Figure 3

Projected Enrollment 2025 - 2026											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other s	Totals
HP	125	121	140								386
SH				141	162	154					457
WO							152	155	146		453
Other											0
Totals	125	121	140	141	162	154	152	155	146	28	1324
Projected Enrollment 2026 - 2027											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other s	Totals
HP	125	136	122								383
SH				147	144	166					457
WO							159	154	157		470
Other											0
Totals	125	136	122	147	144	166	159	154	157	28	1338
Projected Enrollment 2027 - 2028											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other s	Totals
HP	125	136	137								398
SH				128	150	148					426
WO							171	161	144		476
Other											0
Totals	125	136	137	128	150	148	171	161	144	28	1328
Projected Enrollment 2028-2029											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other s	Totals
HP	125	136	137								398
SH				144	131	154					429
WO							153	173	144		470
Other											0
Totals	125	136	137	144	131	154	153	173	144	28	1325

Figure 4

Summary K-8 Enrollment Projection By School Year Totals					
School Year	Hickory Point	Shabonee	Wood Oaks	Other	Total
2024 - 2025	383	455	448	29	1314
2025 - 2026	386	457	453	28	1324
2026 - 2027	383	457	470	28	1338
2027 - 2028	398	426	476	28	1328
2028 - 2029	398	429	470	28	1325

- Our enrollment this fall is 1,315 students. This number is less than our projected enrollment. We should anticipate enrollment to stay steady over the next several years unless this year's growth is the start of a trend.
- This year's kindergarten class needs to be monitored for in-grade growth. We might be able to decrease a section when this group gets older. We might also be able to eliminate the eighth section for this year's 3rd grade when they are in 4th and 5th grade.
- We need to revisit our Master Facilities Plan and discuss adding space to Hickory Point to accommodate the increased demand for early childhood and larger cohorts.
- We will continue to use 125 as the base number for kindergarten enrollment.
- The increased demand for early childhood special education needs to be monitored.
- All class sizes are well within or below our preferred range. We plan to maintain a consistent staffing pattern level over the next four years with a possible slight reduction.