EVANSTON/SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

TO: District 65 School Board

CC: Dr. Angel Turner, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Stacy Beardsley, Asst. Superintendent of PMA

DATE: February 10, 2025

RE: Updated Demography Study as of December 2024

Objective: ___ Information __X_ Discussion ____ Follow-up ____ Decision

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Background:

In 2021, District 65 contracted with Charles Kofron, PhD, LLC to conduct a comprehensive geodemographic study. The final report was presented and shared with the school board at the February 14, 2022 Personnel, Buildings and Grounds, and Finance Committee meeting. The full report can be found in February 14, 2022 Personnel, Buildings and Grounds, and Finance Committee meeting.

A sample of key findings from the report included:

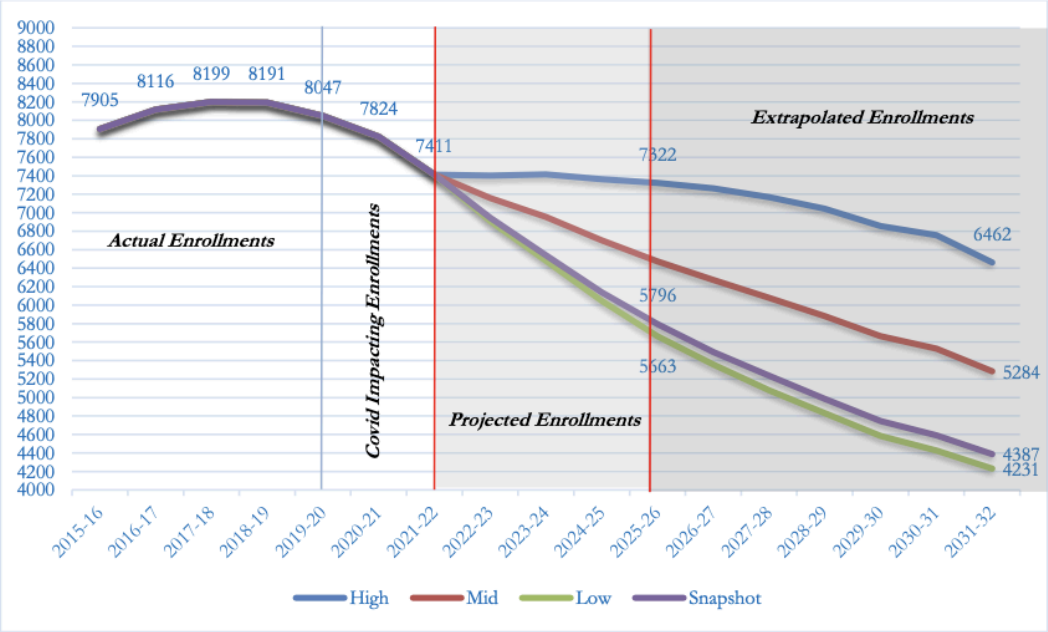
Over the next 5 years or from 2021 through 2026 with July 1 as the effective date…

- The total population under 15 years is expected to decline by about 5%.
- The larger percentage decline will take place in the middle school-aged population (-11%).
- Elementary grade population will decline by 6%.
- It is expected that the population under 1 year will increase by about 2%.
- Larger increases are observed in the 25-29, 40-44, and 65 and over age categories.
- Larger declines are seen in the 10-14, 30-34, and 55-59 age groups.

Per the Kofron report, *"Based on the age and race tables, it appears that the district's population is aging or in a phase of incipient decline. The larger decline in the population under 20 years and the increase in the population 65 years and older are definite signs of population aging. It's interesting to note the projected declines in the 45-49-, 50-54-, 55-59-, and 60–64-year age groups which may be due to socioeconomic and housing factors. Also, it is noteworthy that the 30-34- and 35-39-year age groups are projected to decline which could explain the projected decline in the population under 10 years of age."*

The Kofron report provided projected enrollments through 2031-32 with high, mid, low and snapshot series. It is important to note that these numbers are rolled up using a methodology and data that includes all possible children in these age groups to reflect extrapolated enrollments. These numbers do include students who are of school age that do not attend District 65 but live within the District 65 boundaries.

Graph 1: Total K-8 School District Enrollments and Projections



The study became an important data point for the Student Assignment Planning (SAP) group.

As the district moves into consideration of school closure or consolidation, a decision was made to contract a new demographic study report. The decision was made to contact a different demographer in an attempt to get an updated report and to further test and validate previous findings. Additionally, District 65 knew it would benefit from securing a demographic report that drew on the school boundaries that are slated to go into effect for the 2026-27 school year with the opening of Foster School.

The district contracted with McKibben Demographics in 2024 and received the final report in November 2024. This memo shares highlights from the McKibben report and draws general comparisons across reports. The report is also being made publicly available in the board packet and will be available as an input for potential school consolidation work.

McKibben Demography Executive Summary

1. The Evanston/Skokie School District 65 will experience steady population and modest enrollment decline over the next 10 years, primarily due to a growing elderly population,

an increase in empty nest housing stock and relatively low number of housing units turning over.

2. Total district enrollment is forecasted to decrease by 401 students, or -7.3%, from Academic Year (AY) 2024-25 through AY 2029-30. Total enrollment is expected to further decrease by 55 students, or -1.0%, from AY 2029-30 through AY 2034-35.
3. The resident total fertility rate (TFR) for the Evanston-Skokie School District 65 over the life of the forecasts is below replacement level (1.33 vs. the replacement level of 2.1). If the college students in the district are excluded, the district's TFR would be 1.64.
4. The dominant non-college in-migration flow to the district continues to occur in the 0-to-9 and 25-to-44-year-old age groups. These tend to be young families with school-age or preschool-age children, which helps increase the size of the district's relatively small 0-4 age groups.
5. The largest non-college out-migration flow occurs when the local 18-to-24-year-old population leaves the district, going to college or moving to other urbanized areas. This population group accounts for the largest segment of the district's out migration flow and will increase steadily over the next 10 years. The second largest migration outflow is in the 70+ age groups downsizing from their housing units.
6. The primary factors causing the Evanston-Skokie School District 65 enrollment to decrease over the next 10 years is the increase in empty nest households in the district, the relatively low number of elderly housing units turning over coupled with a modest rate of in-migration of young families.
7. Changes in year-to-year enrollment over the next 10 years will primarily be due to small cohorts entering and moving through the school system in conjunction with larger cohorts leaving the system.
8. The total elementary enrollment will slowly decrease over the next seven school years, then stabilize.
9. The median age of the population in the Evanston-Skokie School District 65 district will increase from 37.2 years in 2020 to 41.0 in 2035 confirming the continuation of the district's aging trend.
10. The average household size in the Evanston-Skokie School District 65 district increased from 2.29 in 2010 to 2.31 in 2020. This is contrary to both state and national trends.
11. Even if the district continues to have some amount of annual new housing unit construction over the next 10 years, the rate, magnitude and price of existing home sales will become the increasingly dominant factor affecting the amount of population and enrollment change.

This memo has pulled select tables from the report to highlight some of the data points. Individuals are encouraged to access and review the report for additional information. The data used by McKibben for the forecasts come from a variety of sources. The Evanston-Skokie School District 65 provided enrollments by grade and attendance center for the school years 2018-19 to 2024-25. Birth and death data for the years 2015 through 2023 were obtained from the Illinois Department of Health. The net migration values were calculated using Internal Revenue Service migration reports for the years 2015 through 2022. The data used for the calculation of migration models came from the United States Bureau of the Census, 2010 to

2020, and the models were designed using demographic and economic factors. The base age-sex population counts used are from the results of the 2020 Census.

Evanston-Skokie School District 65: Total Enrollment - Enrollment Forecasts: This table provides for enrollment forecast information for District 65 as a whole. A table for each individual school using the 2026-27 approved boundaries is available in Appendix D of the Demographic study. The projections extend to 2034-35. The bar chart to visually represent the totals is below table 1. The projections indicate that enrollment continues to decrease but at a more gradual rate over time before beginning a gradual increase in 2033-34 and 2034-35.

Evanston-Skokie School District 65: Total Enrollment

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-24	2034-35
K	770	630	626	593	590	526	572	576	575	574	572	577	581	585	590	599
1	776	752	625	663	639	614	560	594	592	591	590	588	586	590	594	599
2	798	725	690	628	670	662	618	567	601	599	599	596	597	595	599	603
3	802	779	694	684	635	683	656	623	572	606	605	602	599	601	599	602
4	836	766	733	700	685	642	675	663	627	576	612	608	604	600	602	600
5	850	823	736	723	698	689	638	678	668	631	580	615	612	608	604	606
Total: K-5	4,832	4,475	4,104	3,991	3,917	3,816	3,719	3,701	3,635	3,577	3,558	3,586	3,579	3,579	3,588	3,609
6	831	785	771	676	716	703	672	633	678	657	625	587	621	620	616	612
7	920	826	768	750	673	724	707	675	639	684	663	637	590	624	623	619
8	836	899	787	728	738	679	715	697	667	631	675	658	631	593	627	626
Total: 6-8	2,587	2,510	2,326	2,154	2,127	2,106	2,094	2,005	1,984	1,972	1,963	1,882	1,842	1,837	1,866	1,857
Total: All Grades	7,419	6,985	6,430	6,145	6,044	5,922	5,813	5,706	5,619	5,549	5,521	5,468	5,421	5,416	5,454	5,466
Change		-434	-555	-285	-101	-122	-109	-107	-87	-70	-28	-53	-47	-5	38	12
Percent Change		-5.8%	-7.9%	-4.4%	-1.6%	-2.0%	-1.8%	-1.8%	-1.5%	-1.2%	-0.5%	-1.0%	-0.9%	-0.1%	0.7%	0.2%
Total: K-5	4,832	4,475	4,104	3,991	3,917	3,816	3,719	3,701	3,635	3,577	3,558	3,586	3,579	3,579	3,588	3,609
Change		-357	-371	-113	-74	-101	-97	-18	-66	-58	-19	28	-7	0	9	21
Percent Change		-7.4%	-8.3%	-2.8%	-1.9%	-2.6%	-2.5%	-0.5%	-1.8%	-1.6%	-0.5%	0.8%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%
Total: 6-8	2,587	2,510	2,326	2,154	2,127	2,106	2,094	2,005	1,984	1,972	1,963	1,882	1,842	1,837	1,866	1,857
Change		-77	-184	-172	-27	-21	-12	-89	-21	-12	-9	-81	-40	-5	29	-9
Percent Change		-3.0%	-7.3%	-7.4%	-1.3%	-1.0%	-0.6%	-4.3%	-1.0%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-4.1%	-2.1%	-0.3%	1.6%	-0.5%

Forecasts developed November 2024

Green cells (2024-25 and earlier) are historical data

Blue cells (2025-26 and later) are forecasted years

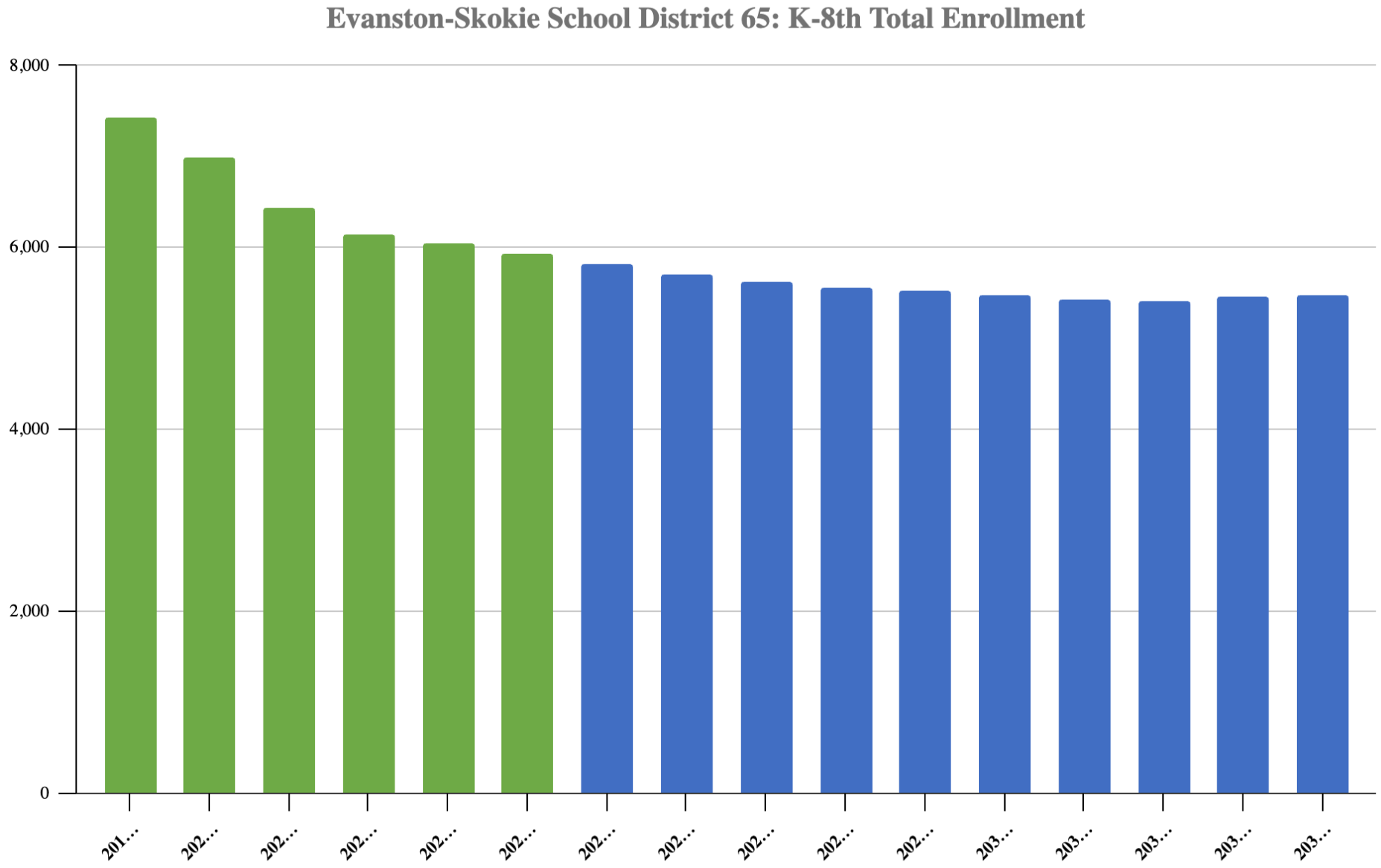

Evanston-Skokie School District 65: K-8th Total Enrollment
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
201…
202…
202…
202…
202…
202…
202…
202…
202…
202…
202…
203…
203…
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203…

Table 1 shares the forecasted district total population change for each of the K-5 attendance boundaries. This helps to inform the decreasing overall enrollment and shares forecasting about population by school. Four of our 11 elementary schools are predicted to have an increase in population of greater than 1% with Oakton and the Fifth Ward School/Foster having the greatest predicted population increases.

Table 1: Forecasted District Total Population Change, 2020 to 2030

	2020	2025	*2020-2025 Change*	2030	*2025-2030 Change*	*2020-2030 Change*
5th Ward	5,590	5,830	*4.3%*	6,080	*4.3%*	*8.8%*
Dawes	5,462	5,460	*0.0%*	5,380	*-1.5%*	*-1.5%*
Dewey	19,659	19,520	*-0.7%*	19,360	*-0.8%*	*-1.5%*
Kingsley	3,604	3,480	*-3.4%*	3,340	*-4.0%*	*-7.3%*
Lincoln	11,342	11,440	*0.9%*	11,360	*-0.7%*	*0.2%*
Lincolnwood	3,930	3,730	*-5.1%*	3,550	*-4.8%*	*-9.7%*
Oakton	8,579	8,890	*3.6%*	9,140	*2.8%*	*6.5%*
Orrington	8,767	8,850	*0.9%*	8,820	*-0.3%*	*0.6%*
Walker	8,103	8,200	*1.2%*	8,230	*0.4%*	*1.6%*
Washington	7,124	7,280	*2.2%*	7,360	*1.1%*	*3.3%*
Willard	4,053	4,090	*0.9%*	4,060	*-0.7%*	*0.2%*
District Total	**86,213**	**86,770**	***0.6%***	**86,680**	***-0.1%***	***0.5%***

In contrast, the demography report also provides projections for school enrollments and school enrollments decrease despite a small population increase (Table 5 below). The executive summary above shares that this decrease is primarily due to a growing elderly population, an increase in empty nest housing stock and relatively low number of housing units turning over. The projections for enrollment indicate that district enrollment is predicted to decrease by 5.4% between 2024 and 2034. These numbers are based on data gathered using the boundaries that are set to go in effect in 2026-27. Therefore, the 477 students that are indicated as enrollment at Foster are students who live in the Foster attendance boundaries and are currently attending other schools.

Table 5: Elementary Enrollment (K-5), 2024, 2029, 2034

	2024	2029	*2024-2029 Change*	2034	*2029-2034 Change*	2024-2034 Change
Foster/5th Ward	477	430	*-9.9%*	443	*3.0%*	*-7.1%*
Dawes	319	300	*-6.0%*	314	*4.7%*	*-1.6%*
Dewey	417	384	*-7.9%*	377	*-1.8%*	*-9.6%*
Kingsley	189	197	*4.2%*	203	*3.0%*	*7.4%*
Lincoln	452	412	*-8.8%*	414	*0.5%*	*-8.4%*
Lincolnwood	181	181	*0.0%*	194	*7.2%*	*7.2%*
Oakton	454	421	*-7.3%*	419	*-0.5%*	*-7.7%*
Orrington	259	264	*1.9%*	254	*-3.8%*	*-1.9%*
Walker	397	358	*-9.8%*	363	*1.4%*	*-8.6%*
Washington	424	385	*-9.2%*	383	*-0.5%*	*-9.7%*
Willard	247	226	*-8.5%*	242	*7.1%*	*-2.0%*
District Total	**3,816**	**3,558**	***-6.8%***	**3,609**	***1.4%***	***-5.4%***

Table 3: Household Characteristics by Elementary Area, 2020 Census provides additional information on Evanston/Skokie householder data. This table provides a breakdown of the percentage of householders in the 35-54 and the 65+ groups. This data helped to inform the demography report finding that an increasing portion of the Evanston/Skokie population is aging in place and decreasing the number of school-age children in District 65.

Table 3: Householder Characteristics by Elementary Area, 2020 Census

	Percentage of Householders aged 35-54	Percentage of Householders aged 65+	Percentage of Householders Who Own Homes
5th Ward	40.5%	23.6%	48.7%
Dawes	38.7%	29.0%	72.6%
Dewey	23.0%	27.1%	40.5%
Kingsley	33.9%	34.6%	75.5%
Lincoln	35.6%	21.9%	44.2%
Lincolnwood	41.3%	32.4%	83.6%
Oakton	38.3%	21.1%	44.8%
Orrington	28.0%	23.9%	52.2%
Walker	36.7%	35.6%	88.8%
Washington	42.9%	24.6%	64.6%
Willard	42.0%	30.9%	90.2%
District Total	**33.7%**	**26.4%**	**56.0%**

Table 7: Comparison of District Resident Enrollment by Grade with 2020 Census Counts by Age, 2020-2024. Over time, questions have arisen about whether the district's declining enrollment is primarily due to a reduction in the number of school-age children within the district boundaries or if more families are choosing to send their children to schools outside the district. While this table cannot fully answer that question, it does offer valuable insights into the percentage of school-age children, as indicated by the census, who attend District 65 schools.

For 2020, the percentage of students attending District 65 schools ranged from 71.1% to 89.2%, with a median of 81.7%. In 2024, the enrollment percentages ranged from 68.8% to 82.9%, with a median of 79.3%.

Table 7: Comparison of District Resident Enrollment by Grade with 2020 Census Counts by Age, 2020-2024

2020 Census	**Under 1 year**	**1 year**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years**	**6 years**	**7 years**	**8 years**	**9 years**	**10 years**	**11 years**	**12 years**	**13 years**
Evanston-Skokie District 65 Total	**710**	**703**	**746**	**806**	**859**	**886**	**875**	**887**	**873**	**987**	**986**	**969**	**1,011**	**1,056**
2024-25 Grade		**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**				
2024 Enrollment		526	614	662	683	642	689	703	724	679				
% of Census Counts by Age		74.8%	82.3%	82.1%	79.5%	72.5%	78.7%	79.3%	82.9%	68.8%				
2023-24 Grade			**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**			
2023 Enrollment			590	639	670	635	685	698	716	673	738			
% of Census Counts by Age			79.1%	79.3%	78.0%	71.7%	78.3%	78.7%	82.0%	68.2%	74.8%			
2022-23 Grade				**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**		
2022 Enrollment				593	663	628	684	700	723	676	750	728		
% of Census Counts by Age				73.6%	77.2%	70.9%	78.2%	78.9%	82.8%	68.5%	76.1%	75.1%		
2021-22 Grade					**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	
2021 Enrollment					626	625	690	694	733	736	771	768	787	
% of Census Counts by Age					72.9%	70.5%	78.9%	78.2%	84.0%	74.6%	78.2%	79.3%	77.8%	
2020-21 Grade						**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
2020 Enrollment						630	752	725	779	766	823	785	826	899
% of Census Counts by Age						71.1%	85.9%	81.7%	89.2%	77.6%	83.5%	81.0%	81.7%	85.1%

General Comparison Points Across Demographic Studies:

Despite some variations, the trends for population and enrollment are fairly consistent across the two demographic studies. In regards to population, the Kofron study (p. 13) predicts the projected population in households and families to decline slightly (-.6% and 1.0%,respectively) while McKibben forecasts a .5% total population increase.

Similarly, when we compare enrollments, the reports generally come to the same conclusions: a continued gradual decline in enrollment.. The Kofron report provided high, mid, low and snapshot projections. This provision of different projections was due to unanswered questions about the rate and timing for which students may return to District 65 after exiting during the pandemic. The McKibben report provided a set of enrollment projections. This projection tracks most closely to the snapshot series provided by Kofron. The McKibben enrollment projections trend higher than the Kofron low series and slightly higher than the snapshot series. The McKibben report extends beyond the Kofron report due to the time it was prepared and does predict that enrollments level out and gradually start increasing in 2030-31 and 2031-32.

It is important to note that the Kofron report shares enrollment and projections using the current District 65 attendance boundaries. The McKibben report provides enrollment and projections using the board-approved attendance boundaries that are set to go into place in 2026-27 with the opening of the new Foster School.

Engagement with the Superintendent's Advisory Committee

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Group had an opportunity to engage in a facilitated exploration of the 2024 Demography study. After exploring the enrollment and population data, the teams generated the following headlines to capture key ideas that emerged from the data.

HEADLINES:

- District 65 closing the gap to pre pandemic enrollment
- Focus on managing current enrollment by providing best possible educational experiences
- Enrollment is not recovering to Pre 2020 levels

WONDERINGS:

- How far under capacity are we? What is capacity? How does this influence the number of schools?
- What other priorities need to be considered when making big decisions like closing or consolidations?
- How do you factor in King Arts/Magnets while using demography data/considering options for closing or consolidations?
- How does rezoning in Evanston potentially affect the forecast?
- How do you factor in the political influence on the immigrant student population when forecasting?

This engagement captured takeaways from the data and provided insight on how to introduce this report and other data inputs during the school closing and consolidation planning phase. The group provided insights from the data and also began to ask important questions about other data inputs.

District Comparisons:

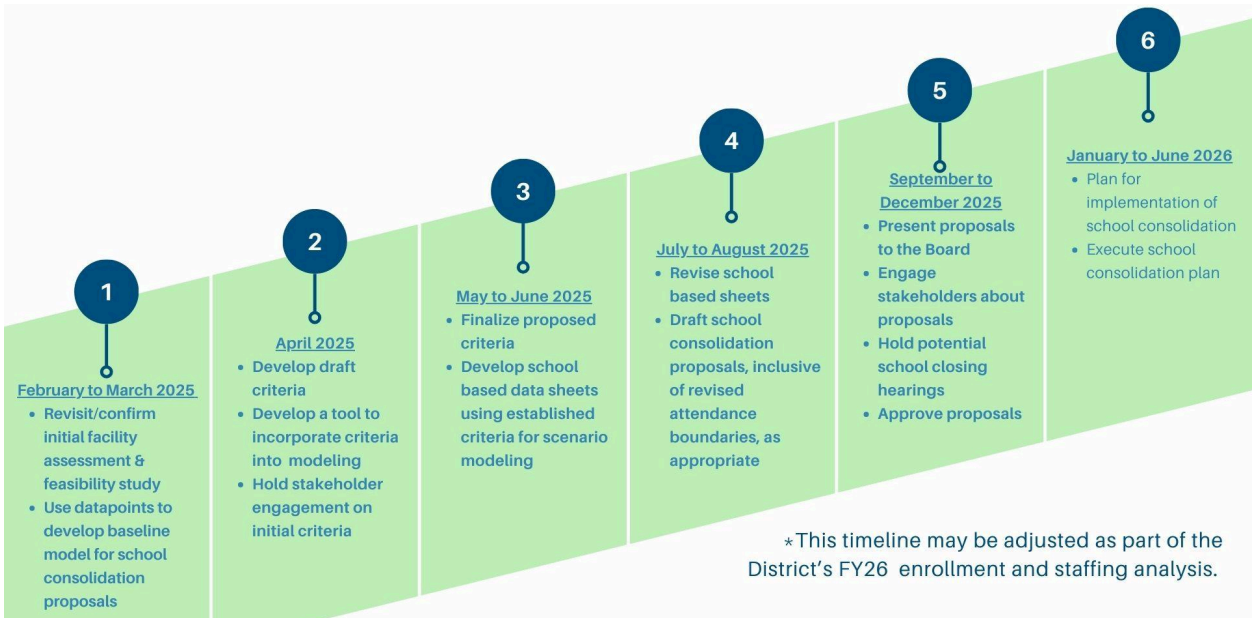
In November 2023, the Student Assignment and Registration team provided a memo that shared data on enrollment and buildings from other neighboring districts. In preparation for this memo, the ISBE 2024 enrollment report was reviewed and for PK/K-8 districts with similar enrollments, the number of schools and school structures were researched and provided below.

District Name	School Count		K-8
Glenview CCSD 34	8	3 PK-2, 3 3-5, 2 6-8	4157
CCSD 62	11	1 PK, 7 K-5, 1 K-8, 2 6-8	4171
Park Ridge CCSD 64	8	1 PK, 5 K-5, 2 6-8	4495
Downers Grove GSD 58	13	11 PK-6, 2 7-8	4674
New Lenox SD 122	12	1 K, 4 1-3, 3 4-6, 2 7-8, 1 K-8	4853
Orland SD 135	10	4 PK-2, 3 3-5, 3 6-8	5040
Arlington Heights SD 25	9	7 PK/K-5, 2 MS	5141
Oak Park ESD 97	10	8 PK/K-5, 2 MS	5437
Comm Cons SD 59	15	1 PK, 11 K-5, 3 MS	5528
Wheeling CCSD 21	12	9 K-5, 3 6-8	5781
Evanston CCSD 65	**16***	**1 PK, 10 K-5, 2 K-8, 3 6-8**	**6053**
Crystal Lake CCSD 47	12	9 K-5, 3 6-8	6804
Cicero SD 99	15	PK-2, PK-3, 4-6, PK-6, K-6, K-2, 7-8	8313
Joliet PSD 86	20	14 K-5, 1 1-5, 1 PK, 4 6-8	9094

* Count excludes Park and Rice

Next Steps:

District 65 is moving into phase 3 of the Structural Deficit Reduction Plan (SDRP). Phase 3 reviews and brings scenarios or recommendations for school closing and consolidation as the district works to move to a sustainability phase. Specifically, the following steps and timeline were provided at the January 2025 board meeting.



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Resources:

- McKibben Demography Report (2024)
- Kofron Demography Report (2021)