

Arvada Articulation Areas Enrollment Forecast 2025-2035

April 2025



Introduction

The Colorado Futures Center partnered with Jeffco Public Schools to provide student enrollment forecasts for the schools in the Arvada articulation area. The forecasts were prepared early in the academic year 2024-25 and before the October counts were available for the individual schools.

The forecasts reflect historical student enrollment through the end of academic year 2023-24 and also take into account the underlying demographic and development patterns in the Arvada area.

The following brief outlines the trends affecting enrollment in the school boundaries and presents the forecasts, by school and grade, for each of the schools in the articulation area. Finally, the brief concludes with a summary of trends likely to impact the Arvada area over the coming decade.

The following trends are likely to affect enrollment in Arvada articulation areas.



Birth rates universally declining, unlikely to reverse over the forecast horizon

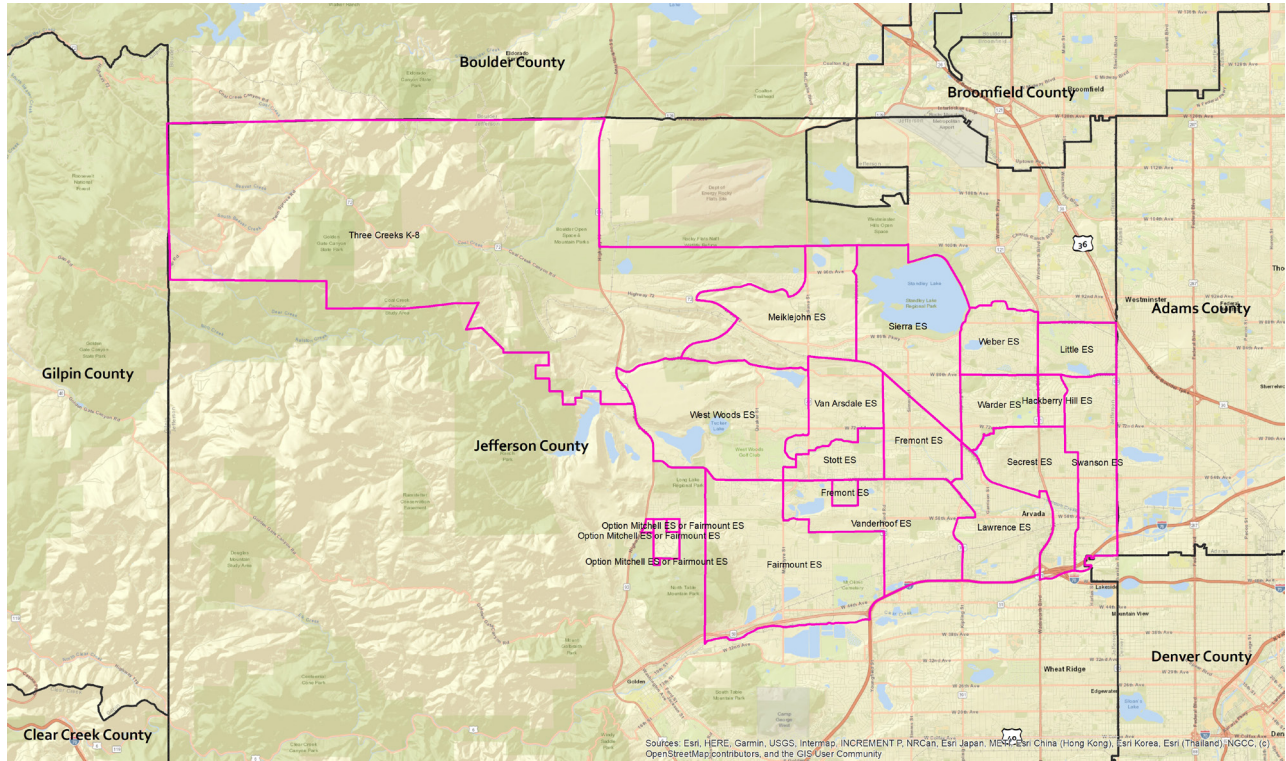


Aging households will turn over but likely yield fewer school aged children than in the past



Developing areas, largely in the west, will experience an enrollment swell and then likely normalize as empty-nesters remain.

Articulation area overview



Arvada articulation area elementary school boundaries 2024-2025

The map above and table below show the elementary school boundaries and the associated schools included in the Arvada articulation area student enrollment forecast to the year 2035.

Arvada	Pomona	Arvada West	Ralston Valley
Hackberry Hill Elementary School	Little Elementary School	Fairmount Elementary School	Sierra Elementary School
Lawrence Elementary School	Warder Elementary School	Fremont Elementary School	Van Arsdale Elementary School
Secret Elementary School	Weber Elementary School	Stott Elementary School	West Woods Elementary School
Swanson Elementary School	Pomona 6-12	Vanderhoof Elementary School	Meiklejohn Elementary School
North Arvada Middle School		Drake Middle School	Three Creeks K-8
Arvada High School		Arvada West High School	Oberon Middle School
			Ralston Valley High School

Modeling approach

The Colorado Futures Center (CFC) uses a yield approach to forecast enrollment. Simply stated, a yield approach applies a yield, or share, to an underlying population to project enrollment. With school choice expanding the breadth of the underlying population, the enrollment is forecast in three cohorts as follows:

- Those living in the articulation area,
- Those attending the school from elsewhere in Jeffco Public Schools,
- And those attending from out of district.



The yields are forecast statistically using historic yields for the particular school/grade as the basis for the projection. Yields are forecast for two specific underlying populations that serve as the base for potential students: the appropriate aged children living in the school boundary and the same aged children in the remainder of Jeffco school district boundary as potential students who might choose into the school. Forecasting the underlying population is sensitive to birth patterns, the number of women of child-bearing age and the share of births that will remain within the population at the time to enroll in elementary school. For schools that have been consolidated the forecast accounts for the combined historical enrollment.



Births and forecasts of future births



Forecasting births sensitive to forecast of females of childbearing years and fertility trends



Translating to underlying population sensitive to the relationship between births in the school boundary area and school aged children who live in the boundary in subsequent years

Data Sources

Enrollment cohorts: Jeffco Public Schools

Women of child bearing years (20-44): American Community Survey

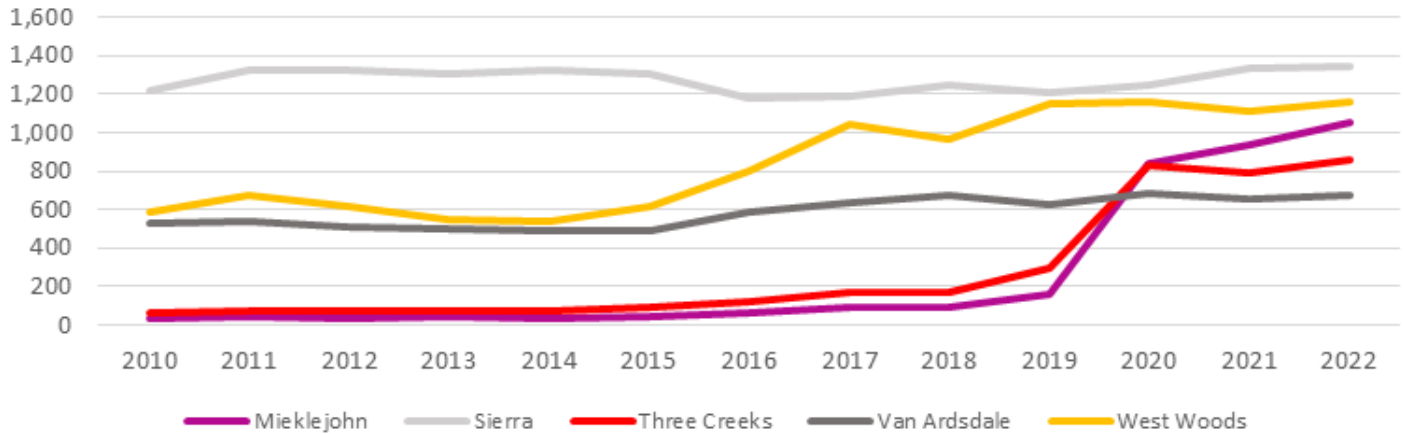
Births: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) vital statistics records

Single year of age: Colorado State Demography Office (SDO)

Trends affecting the forecast

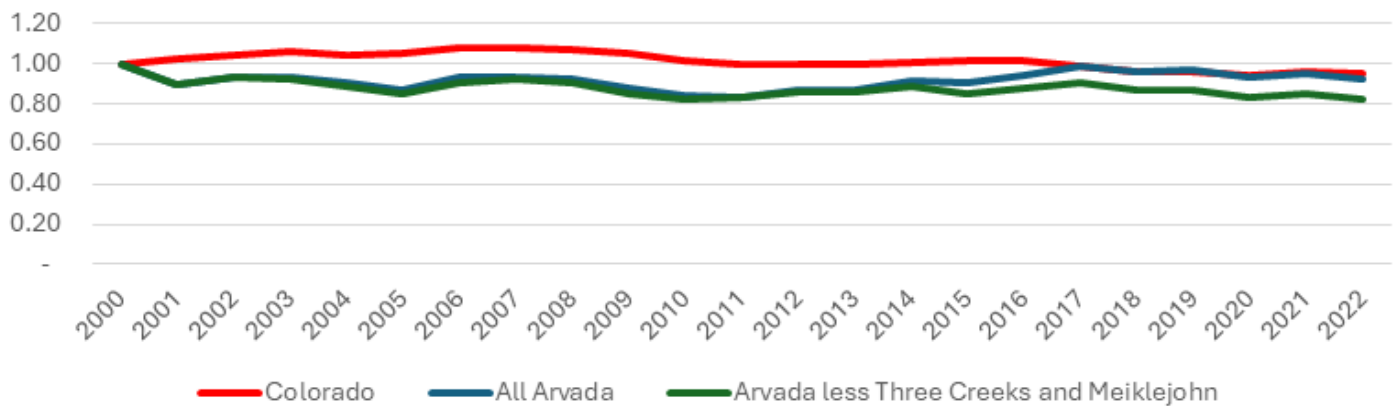
Trend 1: Due to the newly developing nature of the northwest portion of Arvada, women

Females of childbearing age: Ralston Valley elementary schools



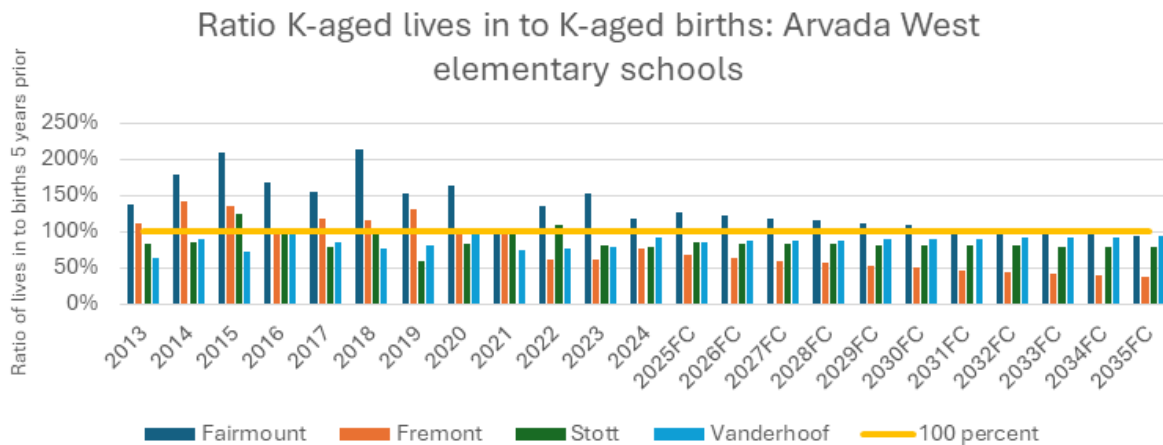
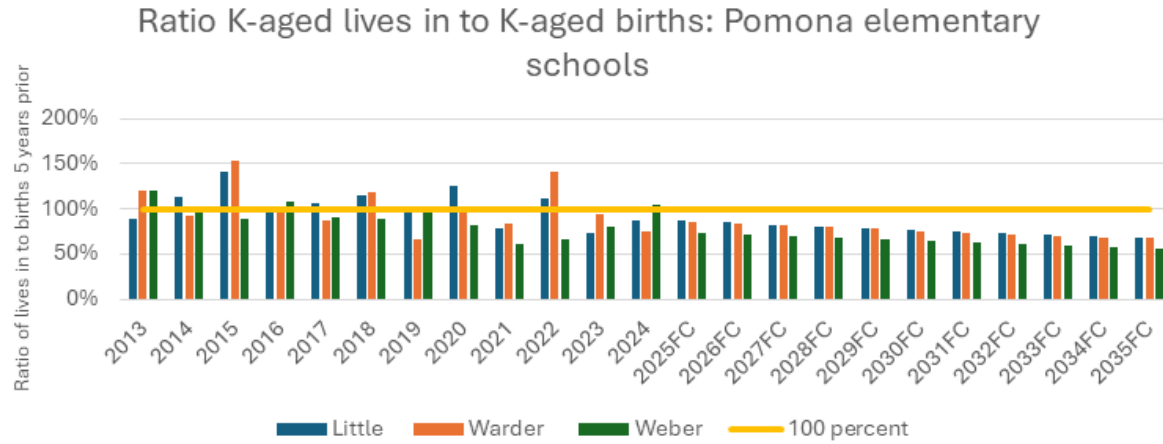
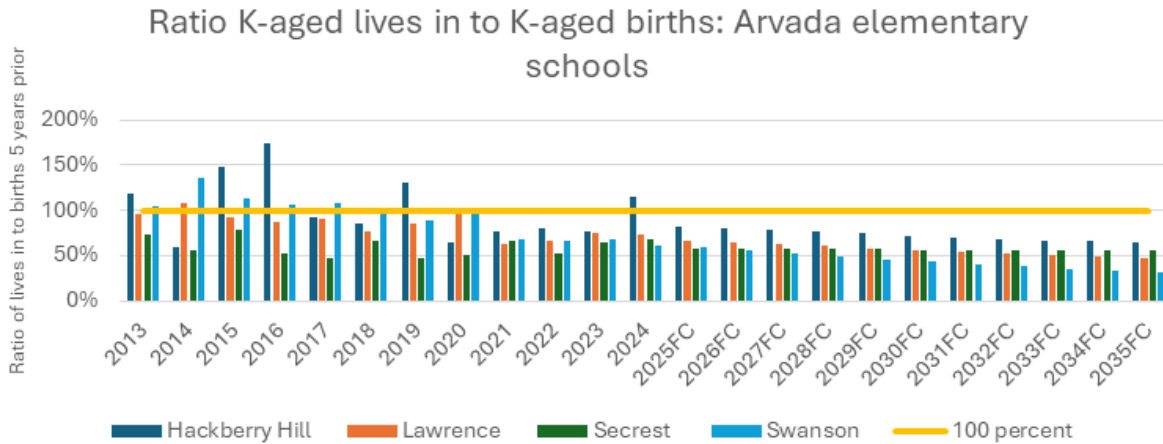
Trend 2: The growth in the Ralston Valley area has helped return Arvada births to the state trend. Without northwest Arvada, the articulation area would be lagging the state in births.

Birth comparisons: Indexed to year 2000 = 1

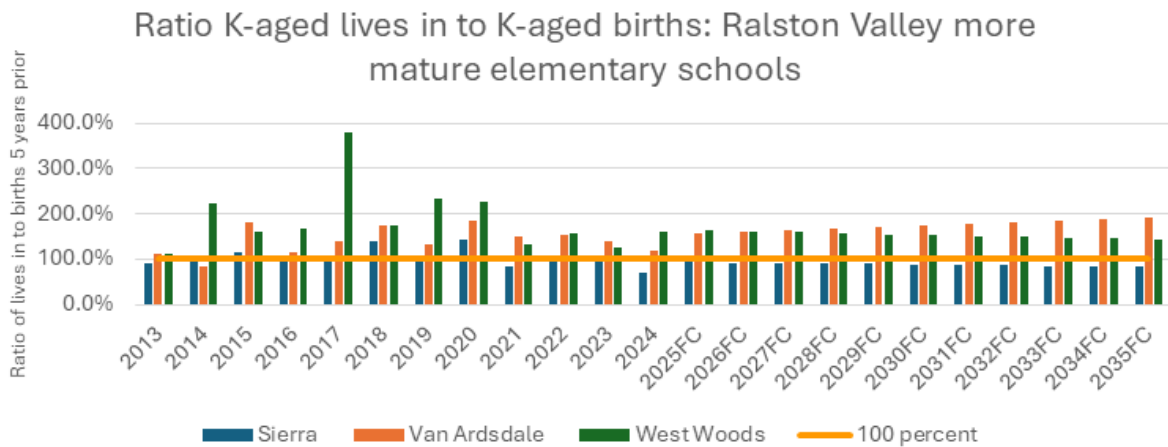


Trends affecting the forecast

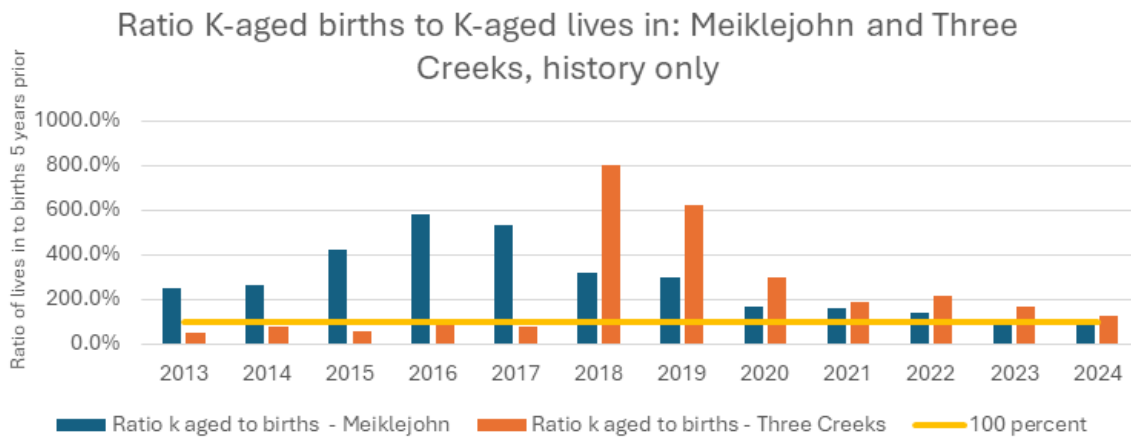
Trend 3: There is a pattern of migration of households with early school aged children to the western side of the articulation area. For elementary schools in the western side of the area, the ratio of kindergarten aged children who live in the school boundary to those born in the boundary five years prior is greater than one, indicating that households are relocating to those areas with school aged children. That same pattern is not evident for schools further east in the articulation area.



Trends affecting the forecast



Three Creeks and Meiklejohn are still normalizing. As new homes begin to turn over in the boundaries of these two schools it is expected that these schools will normalize to a pattern similar to Sierra, Van Ardsdale and West Woods.

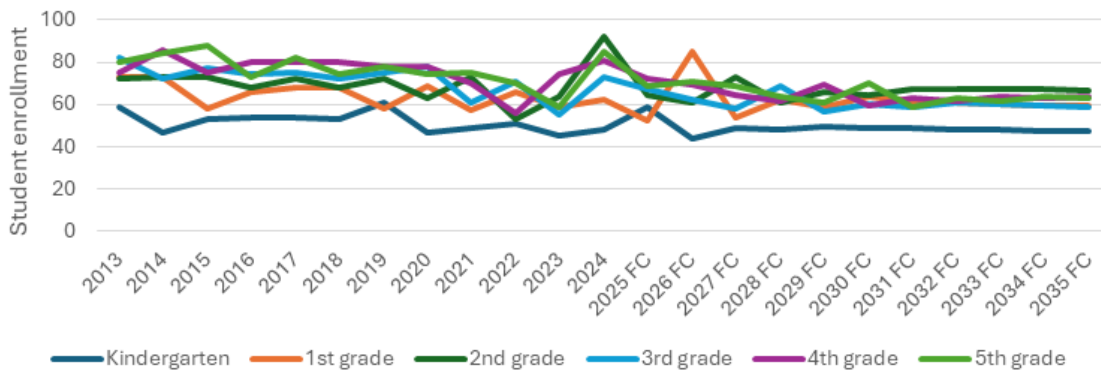


Forecasts by school and grade level

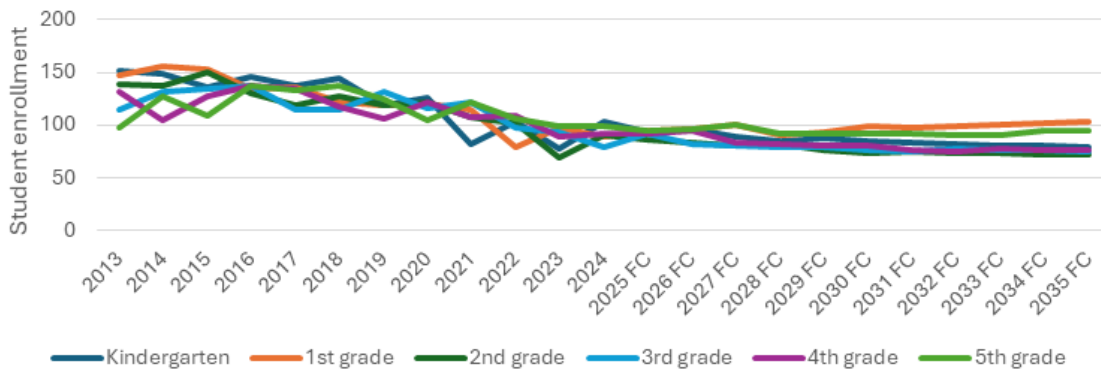
Arvada area schools

The elementary schools in the Arvada boundary are characterized by forecasts for flattening or continued declining enrollment, albeit in general with declines at a slower rate than the elementary schools have experienced in the past ten years. There is development occurring in some of the elementary school boundaries, particularly Secret where single family homes are under development. This development could offset some of the declining enrollment.

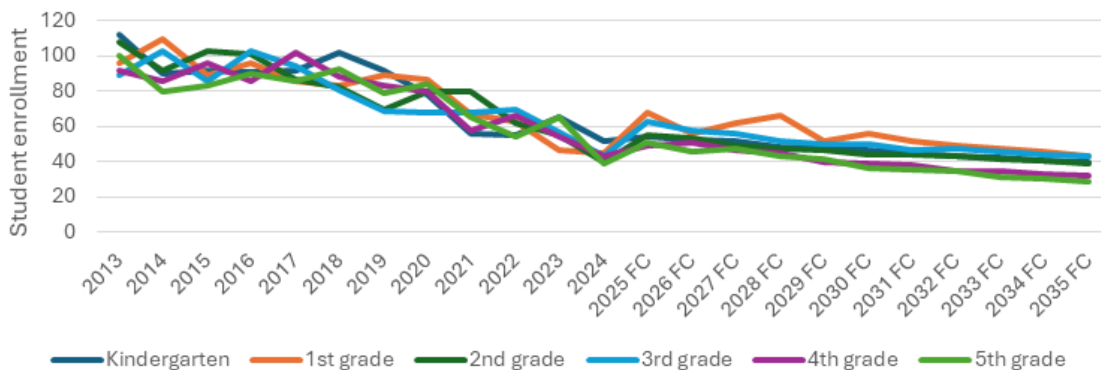
Hackberry Hill Elementary School



Lawrence Elementary School

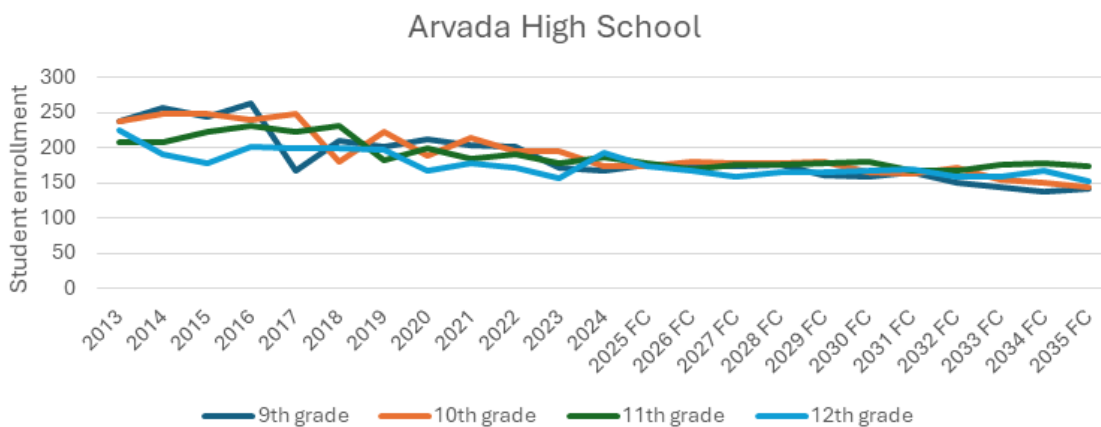
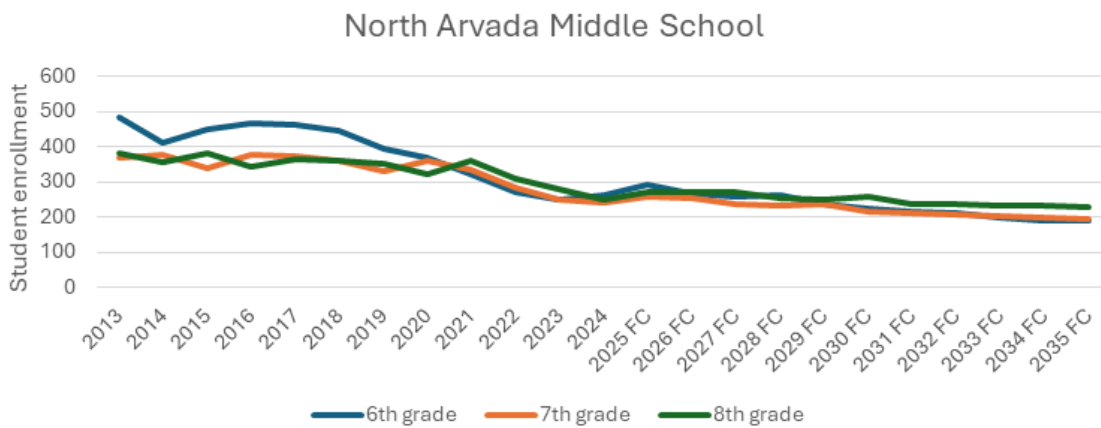
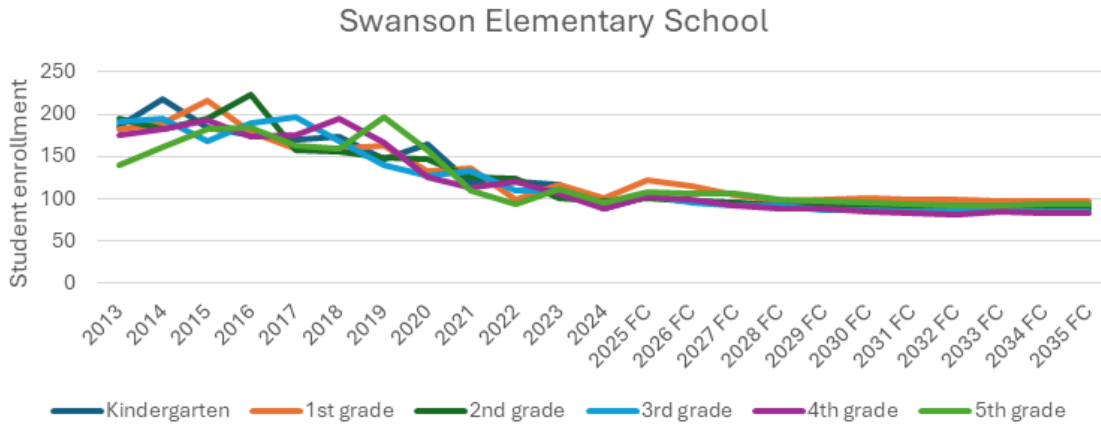


Secret Elementary School



Forecasts by school and grade level

Arvada area schools

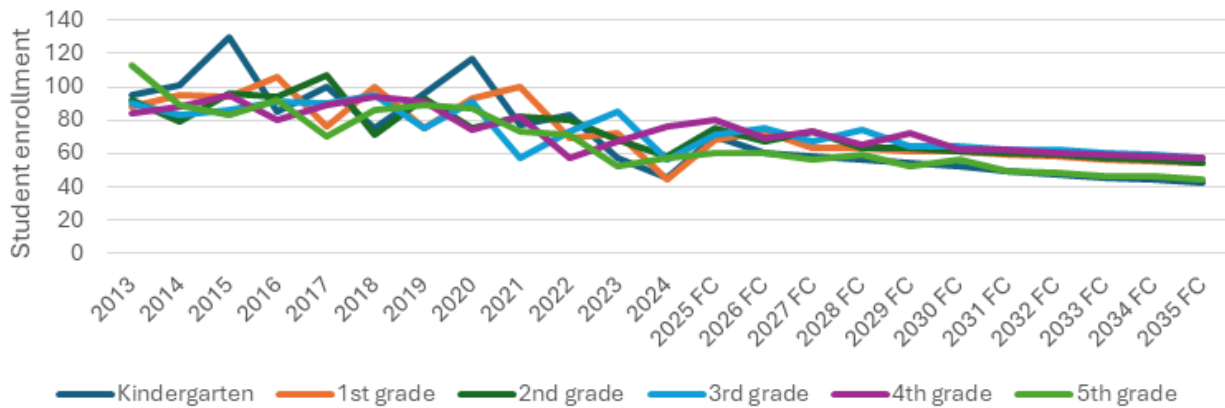


Forecasts by school and grade level

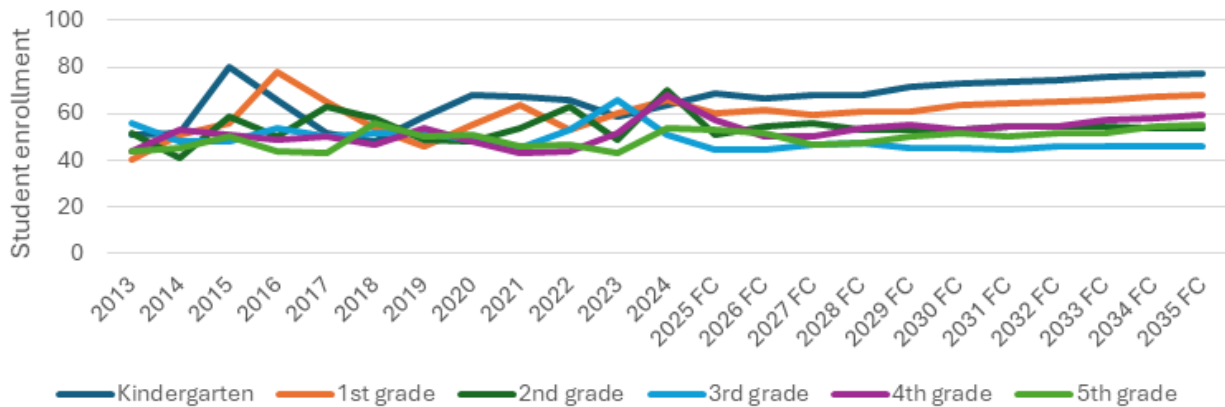
Pomona area schools

The Pomona area is characterized by mature neighborhoods with no significant development or redevelopment occurring. However, while most of Arvada is home to a significant aging population, the concentration of households headed by someone age 75 or older is slightly higher in the Pomona area, particularly in the Weber Elementary School boundary. This presents an opportunity in the next decade for turnover of older households and the potential for replacement households to contain school aged children.

Little Elementary School



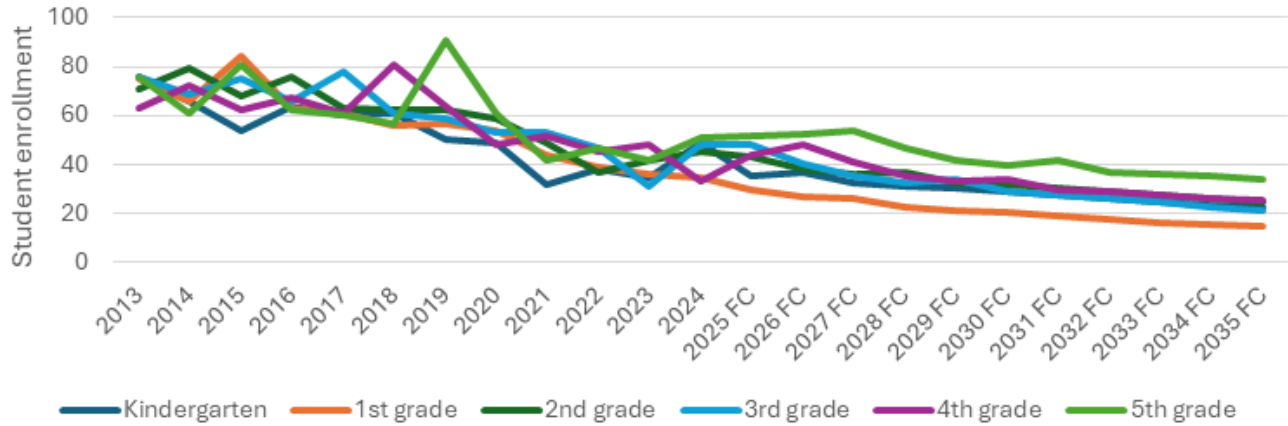
Warder Elementary School



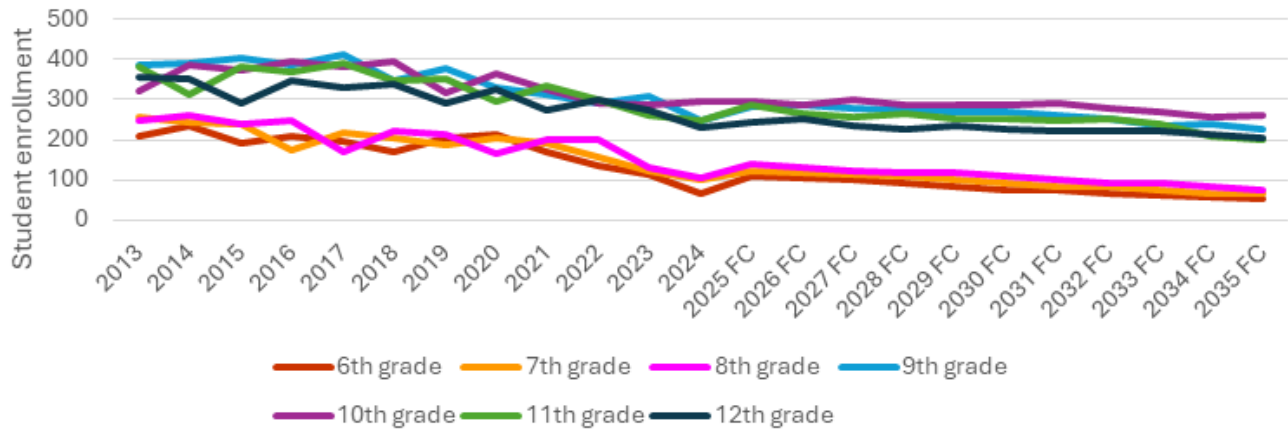
Forecasts by school and grade level

Pomona area schools

Weber Elementary School



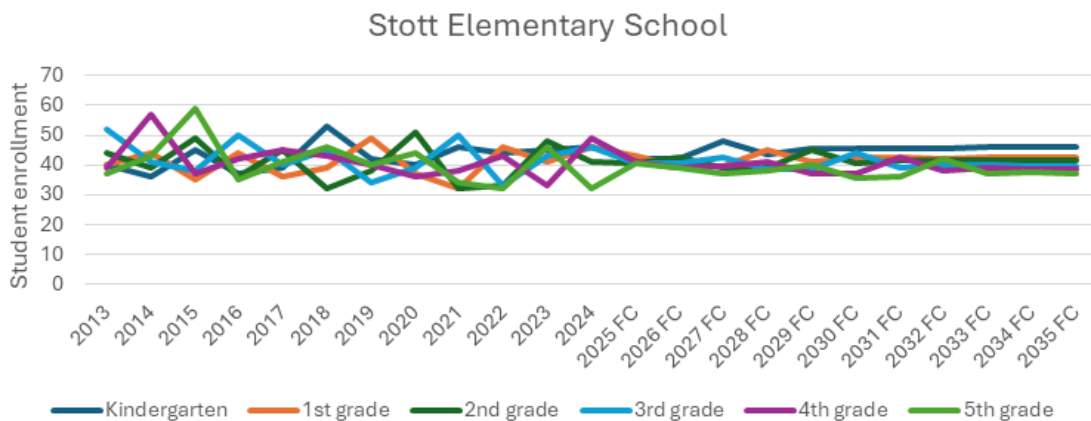
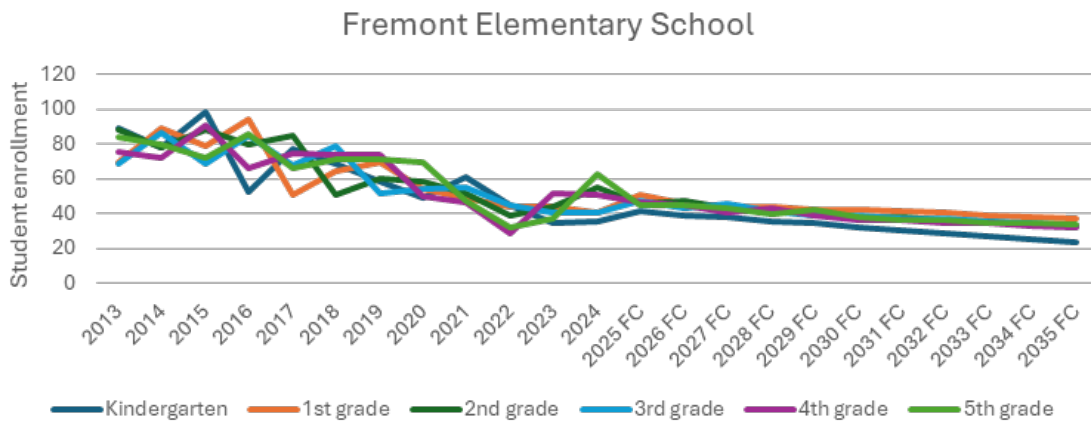
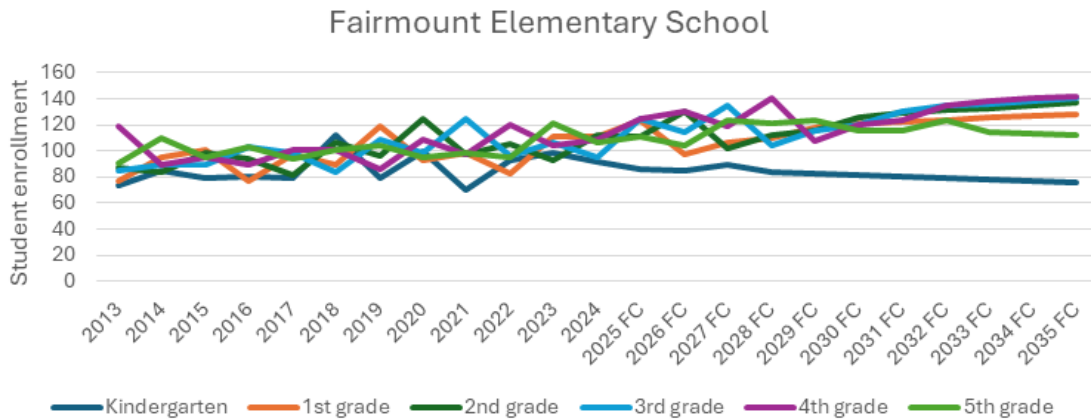
Pomona 6-12



Forecasts by school and grade level

Arvada West area schools

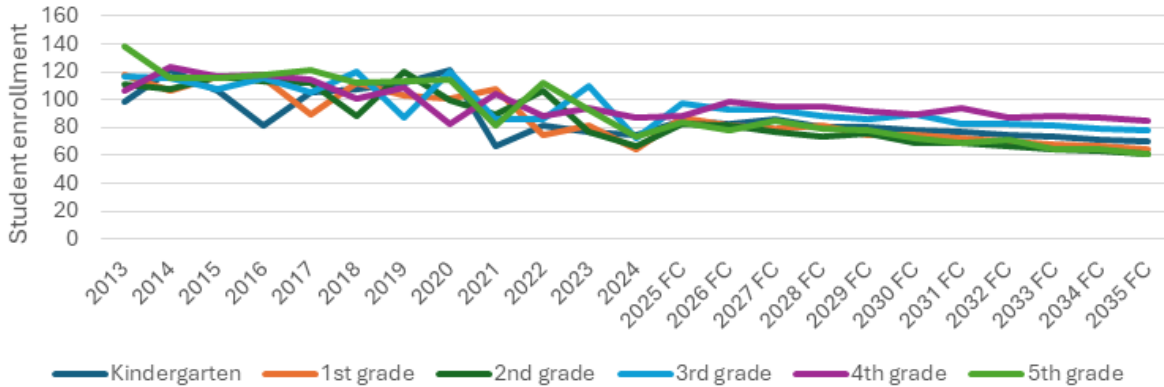
Arvada West area schools are characterized by a mix of stable and declining enrollment. Similar to Pomona, there are pockets of slightly higher concentrations of older households, particularly in the Fremont elementary School boundary, which could be a source of future school aged children. Development happening around Vanderhoof Elementary School also could serve as a source of students and offset some of the declining enrollment.



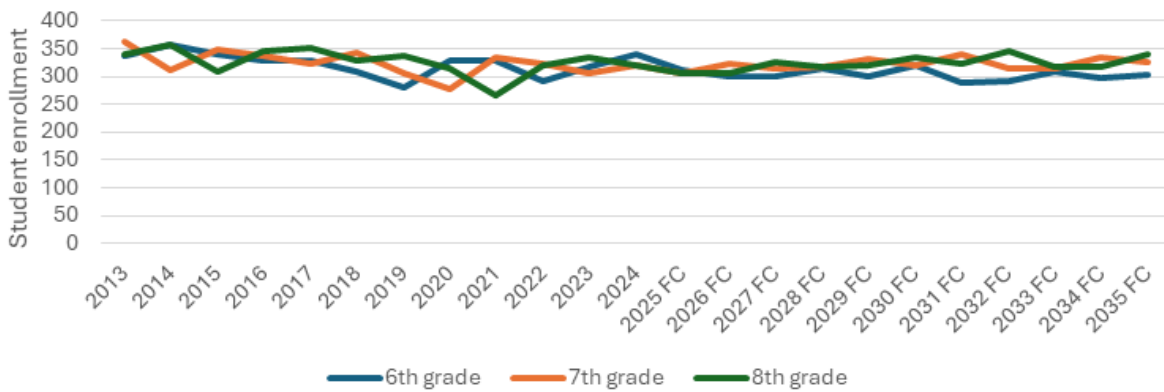
Forecasts by school and grade level

Arvada West area schools

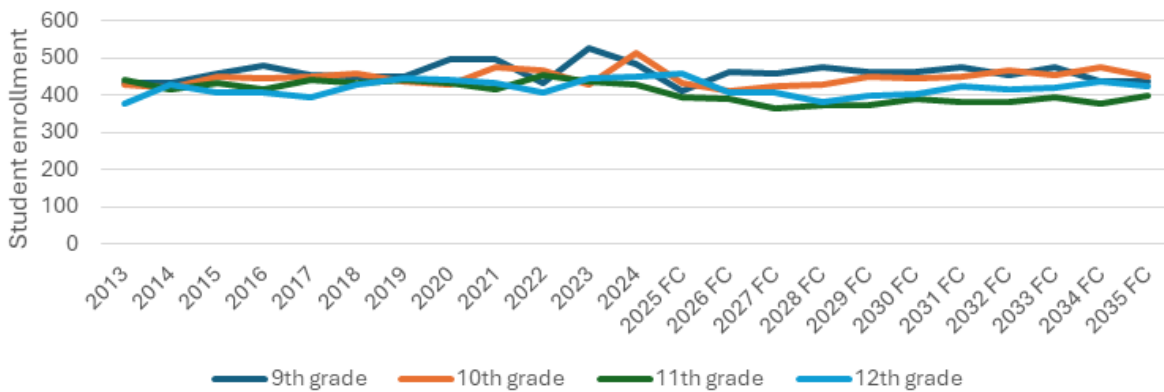
Vanderhoof Elementary School



Drake Middle School



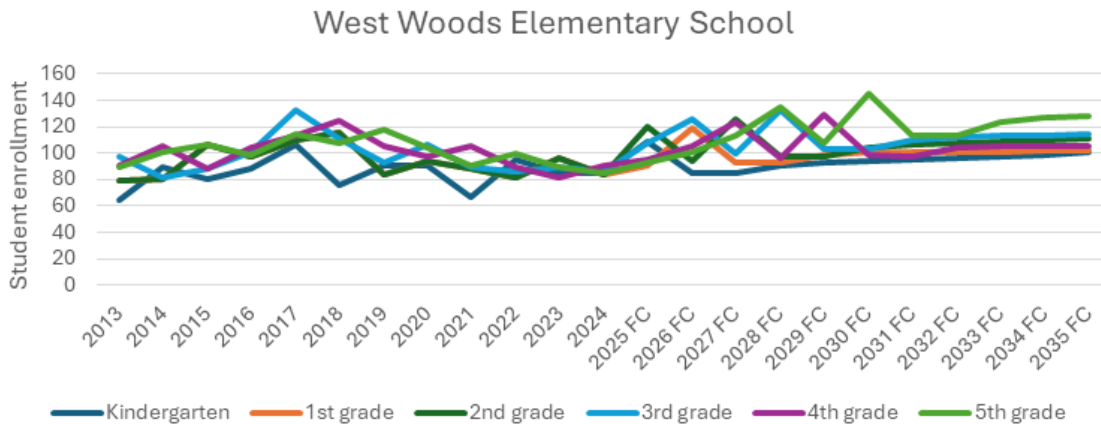
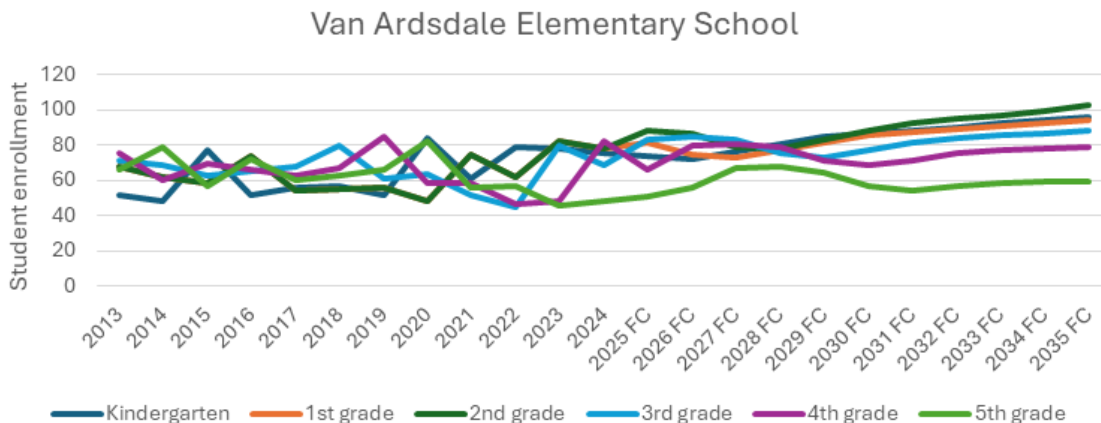
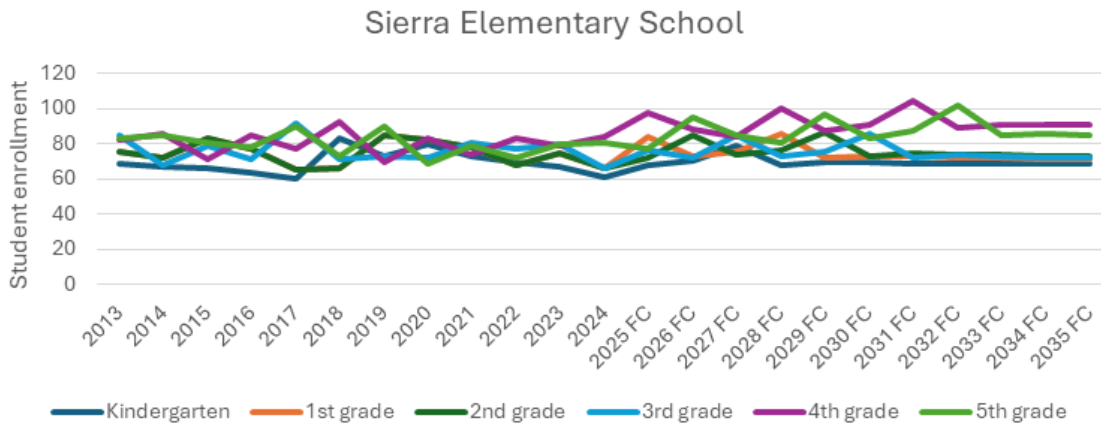
Arvada West High School



Forecasts by school and grade level

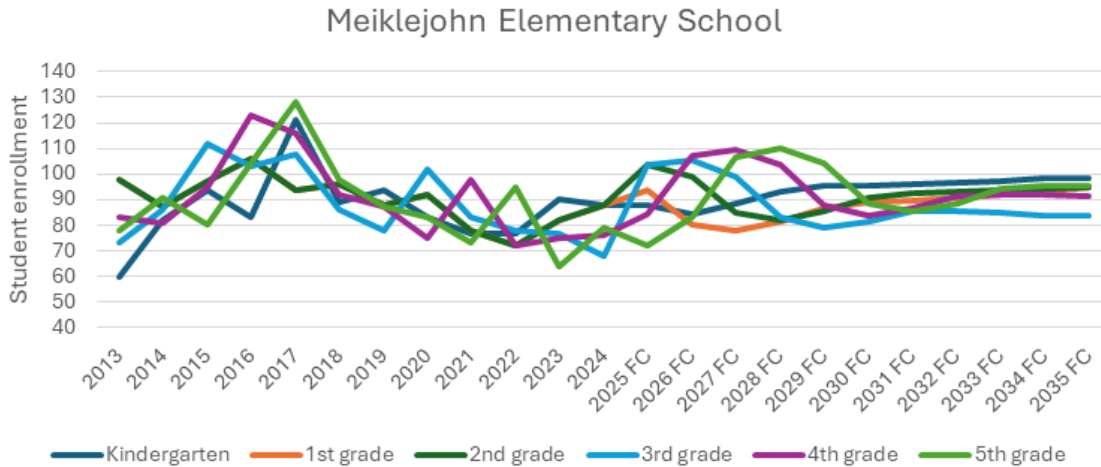
Ralston Valley area schools

The Ralston Valley area is characterized by a combination of mature older neighborhoods and significant areas of new development. The areas of new development, largely in the boundaries of Three Creeks and Meiklejohn Elementary schools are still normalizing to longer term trends of student enrollment and are likely to have some additional years of increases. Over time, if residents age in place, enrollment growth is likely to flatten.



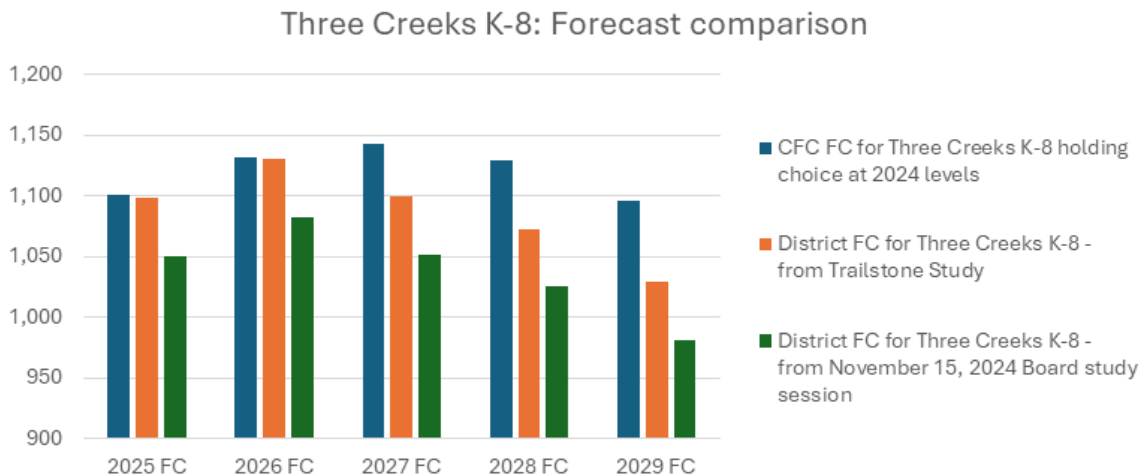
Forecasts by school and grade level

Ralston Valley area schools



Three Creeks K-8 was difficult to model with the yield approach used for the other schools which applied a forecast methodology to the underlying population. Instead, for Three Creeks only the forecast reflects a cohort approach, aging existing cohorts through the grade progression and applying the forecast yield to that underlying population. Then, consistent with current District policy, the forecast holds choice constant at current levels, not allowing for higher levels of choice even if the forecast model projects higher choice.

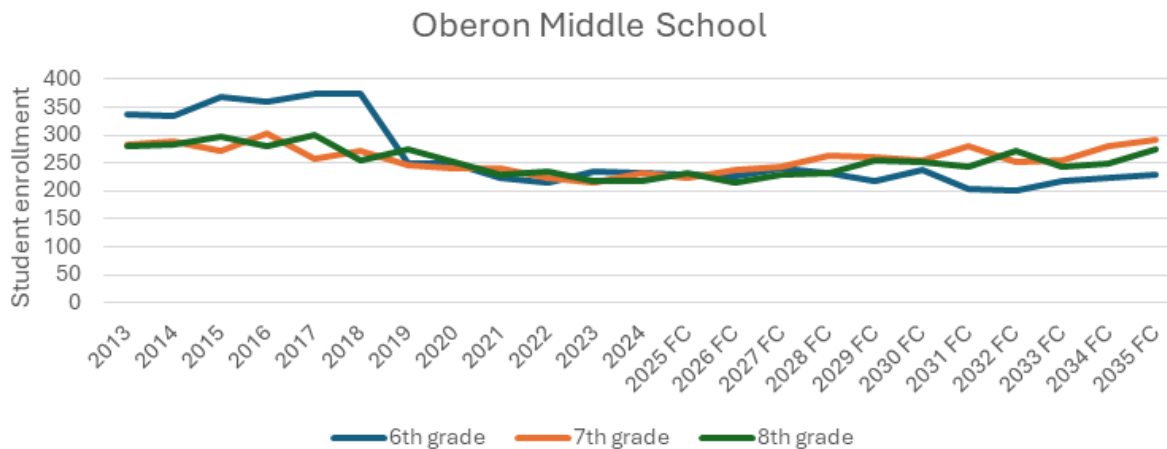
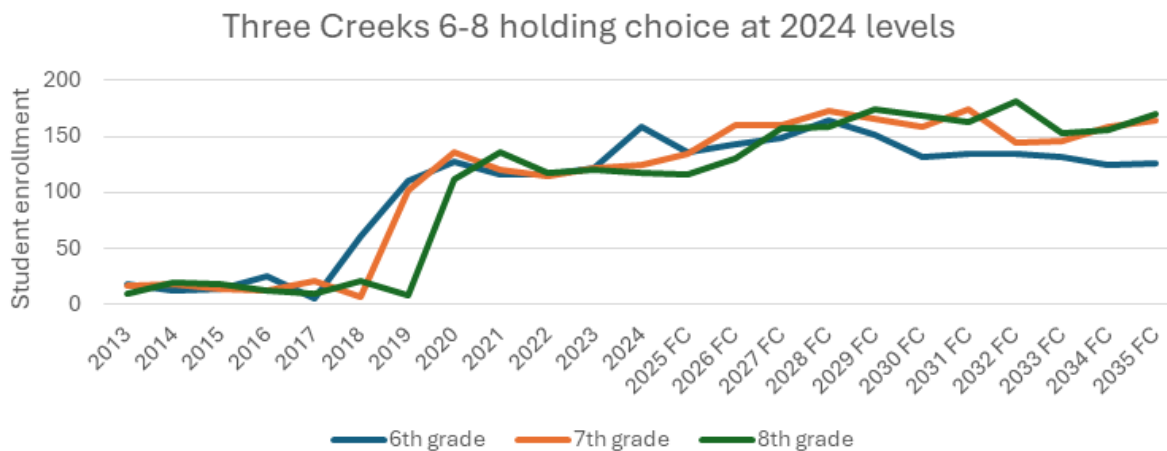
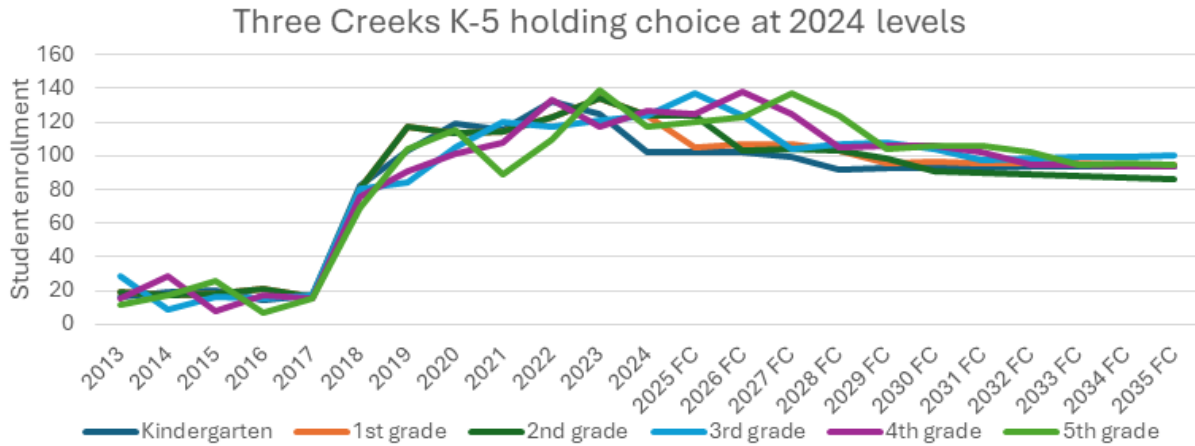
The current forecast was completed before the SY 2024-25 October count was available. As the graphic below demonstrates, the current forecast is trending higher than the latest actual counts or previous District forecasts. The high drift likely reflects lower levels of choice out and/or other educational options exercised by households in the Three Creeks boundary.



Forecasts by school and grade level

Ralston Valley area schools

The forecasts by grade cohort for Three Creeks K-5 and 6-8 as well as the remainder of the schools in the Ralston Valley area follow.

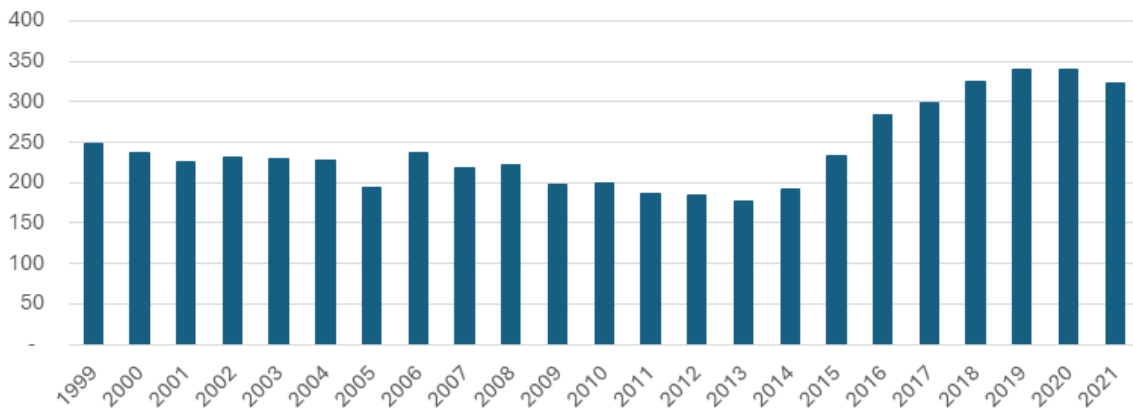


Forecasts by school and grade level

Ralston Valley area schools

The enrollment swell in the Ralston Valley High School below reflects the birth swell 14 years prior to 9th grade.

Births 14 years before 9th grade:
Ralston Valley High School



Ralston Valley High School

