

Edgewater Articulation Area Enrollment Forecast 2024-2033

April 2025



**COLORADO
FUTURES CENTER**



Introduction

The Colorado Futures Center partnered with Jeffco Public Schools to provide student enrollment forecasts for the schools in the Edgewater articulation area. The forecasts were prepared in the spring of 2023.

The forecasts reflect historical student enrollment through the academic year 2022-23, incorporating the October count for the academic year. The forecasts also take into account the underlying demographic and development patterns in the Edgewater 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.

The following trends underlie the enrollment dynamics in the Edgewater area.



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

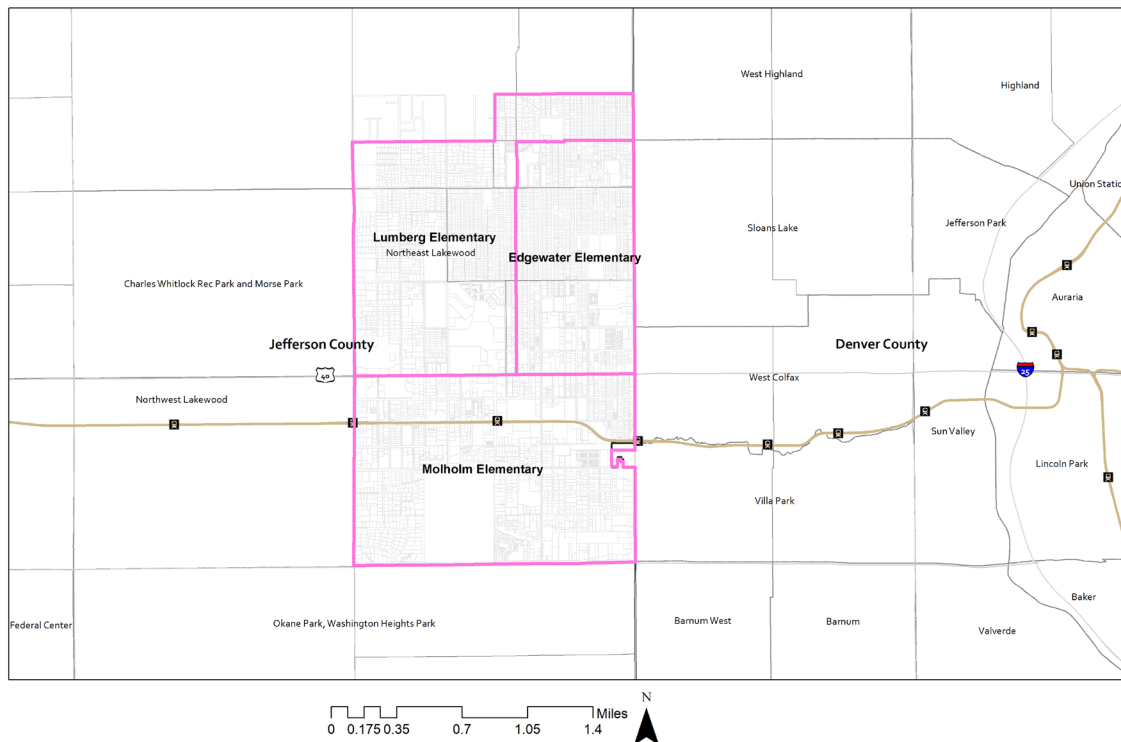


Aging households will turn over but likely yield fewer school aged children than in the past



Under baseline economic assumptions, Edgewater schools will continue to have fewer kindergarten aged children than were born in the area 5 years prior

Articulation area overview



Edgewater 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 Edgewater articulation area student enrollment forecast to the year 2033. Jefferson Jr/Sr High boundary encompasses all three elementary schools.

Edgewater Articulation Area

Edgewater Elementary School

Lumberg Elementary School (in combination
with Molholm Elementary School)

Jefferson Jr/Sr 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, such as the combination of Molholm into Lumberg, 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

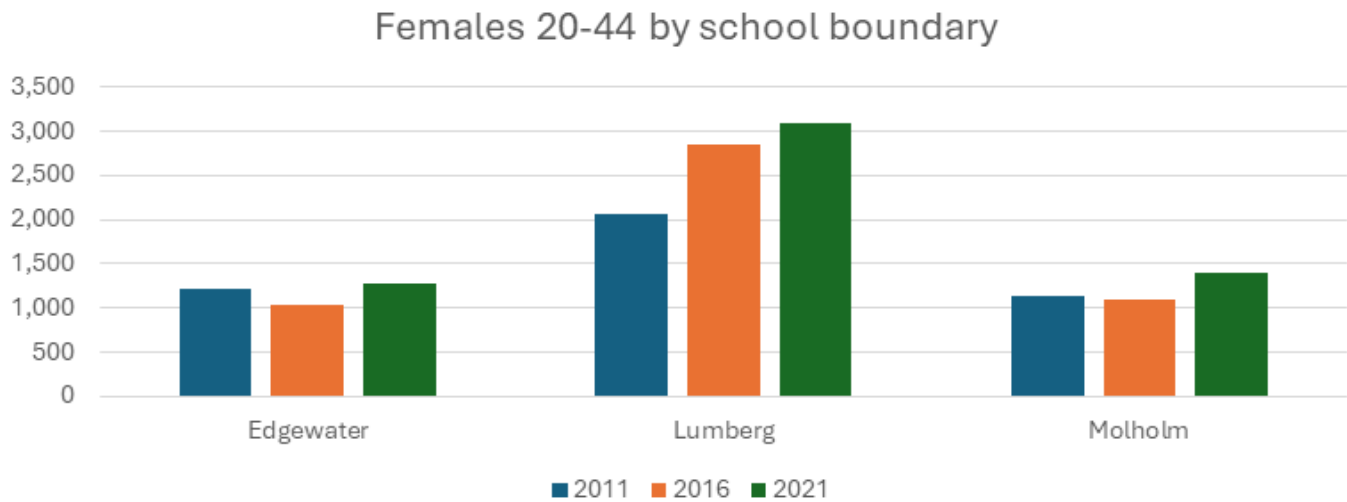
Women of child bearing years (20-44): American Community Survey

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

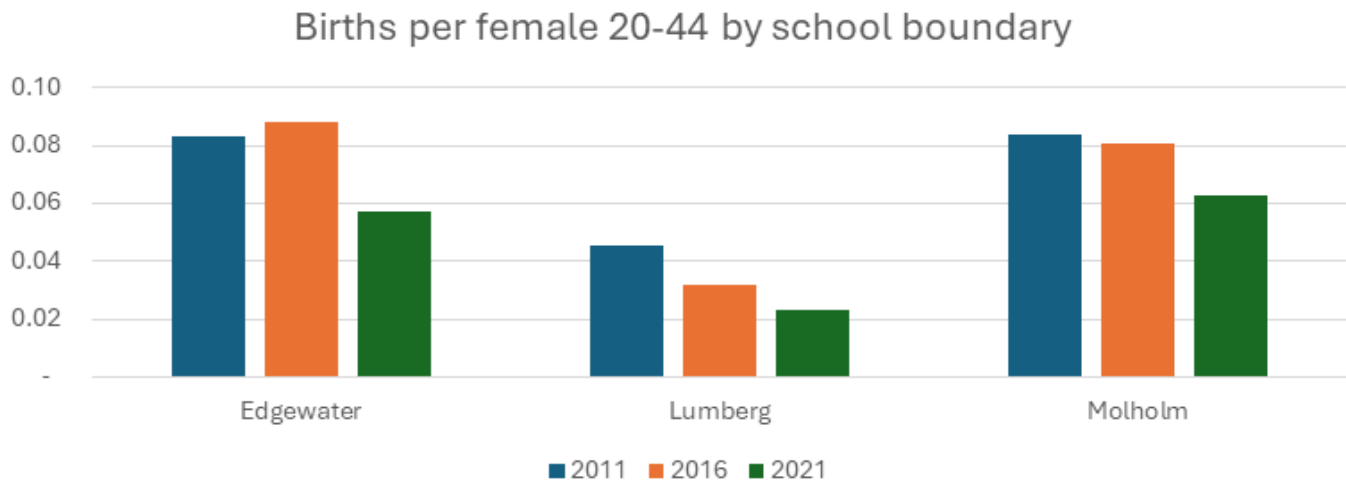
Single year of age: Colorado State Demography Office (SDO)

Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 1: Females of child-bearing age are increasing in the elementary school boundaries.

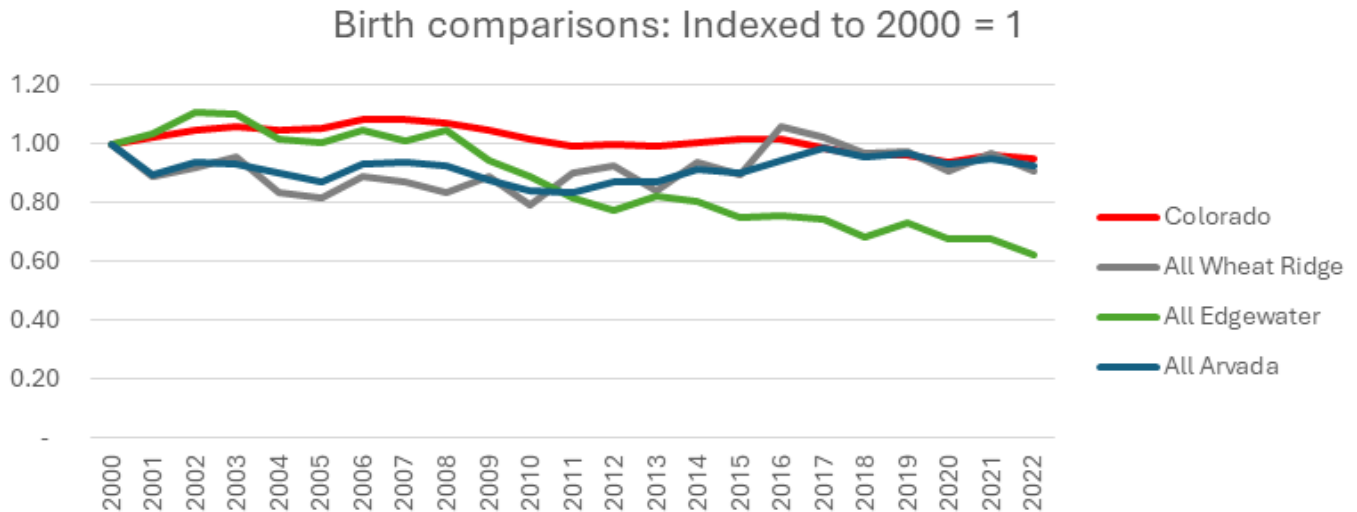


However, the births per female are declining.

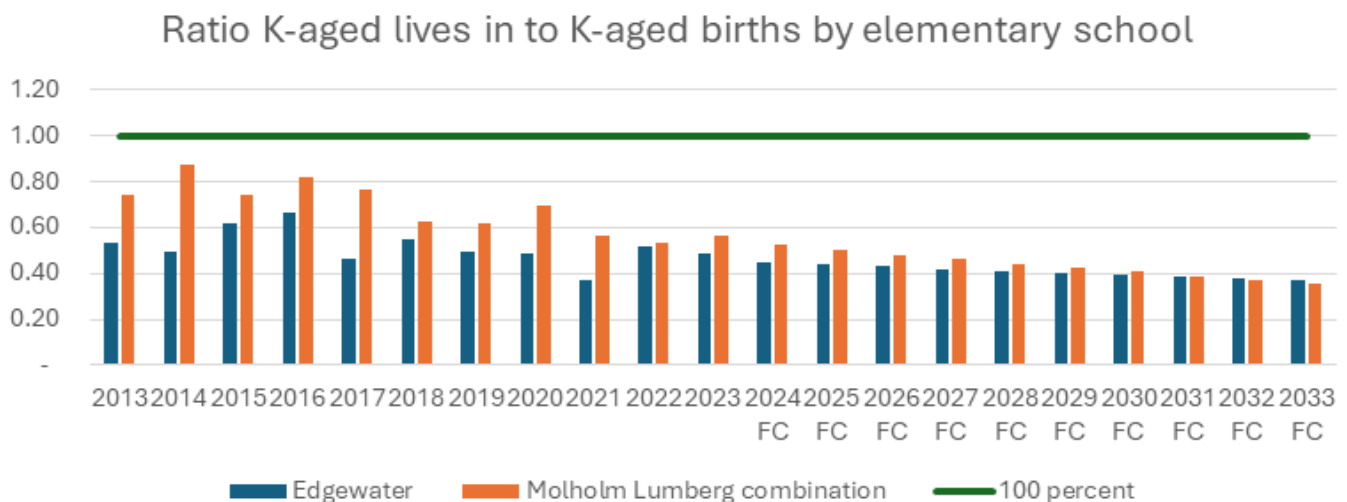


Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 2: While other articulation areas within the district have seen births return to the statewide trend, births in Edgewater continue to decline and lag the state trend.



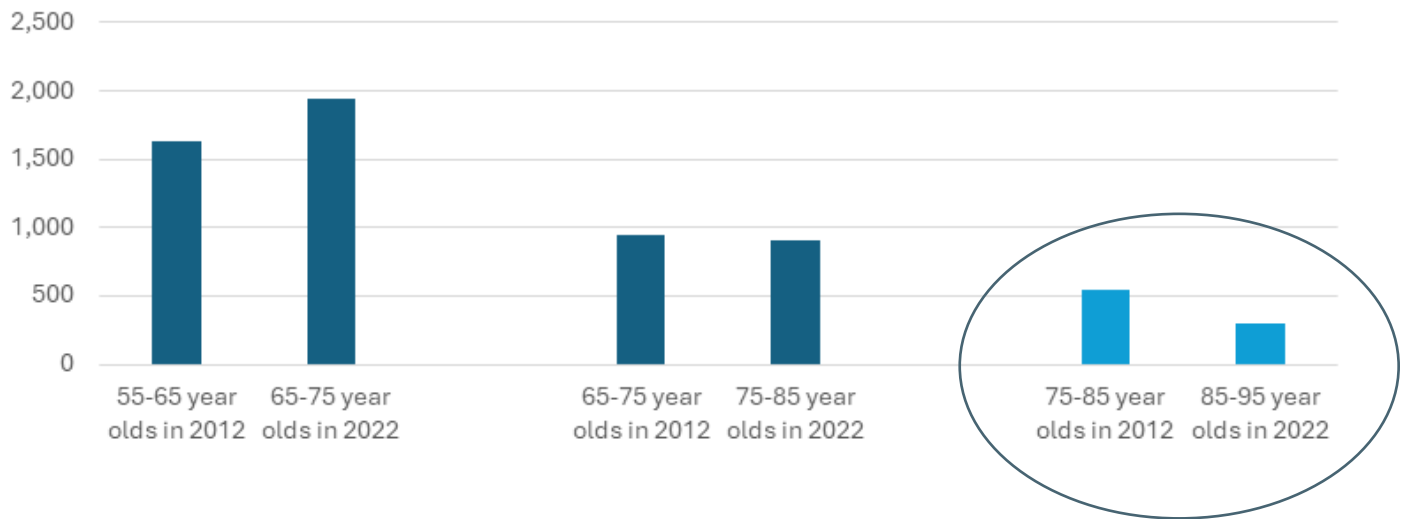
Trend 3: There is a pattern of migration of households with early school aged children out of the elementary school boundaries in the Edgewater articulation area. In all years, the ratio of kindergarten aged children to births five years prior is less than 1, meaning that some share of babies born in the school boundaries no longer reside there when kindergarten aged. This migration out of the Edgewater area is happening at an increasing rate, resulting in lower shares of children born in the elementary school boundaries remaining when at the age to enroll in kindergarten. Under baseline economic assumptions, this phenomenon is expected to continue.



Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 4: Voter data in the Edgewater area show that older households turn over at higher rates once the residents are in their 80s. Data show cohorts aging in place until sometime in their 80s. 2022 data show 909 voters distributed in households throughout the articulation area.

Registered voters by older 10 year cohorts



The following scenario illustrates the potential impact of aging on community evolution. 2022 data showed 909 Edgewater voters between the ages of 75 and 85. This is almost twice as many as a decade earlier. Under one scenario, this suggests that approximately 66 percent more households will turn over in the next decade than turned over in the previous decade.



Scenario:

At a rate of 50% turnover of the 909 voters, approximately 450 voters will leave the community. Assuming an average HH size between 1 and 2 (assume 1.5) that results in approximately 300 housing units potentially available for younger households.

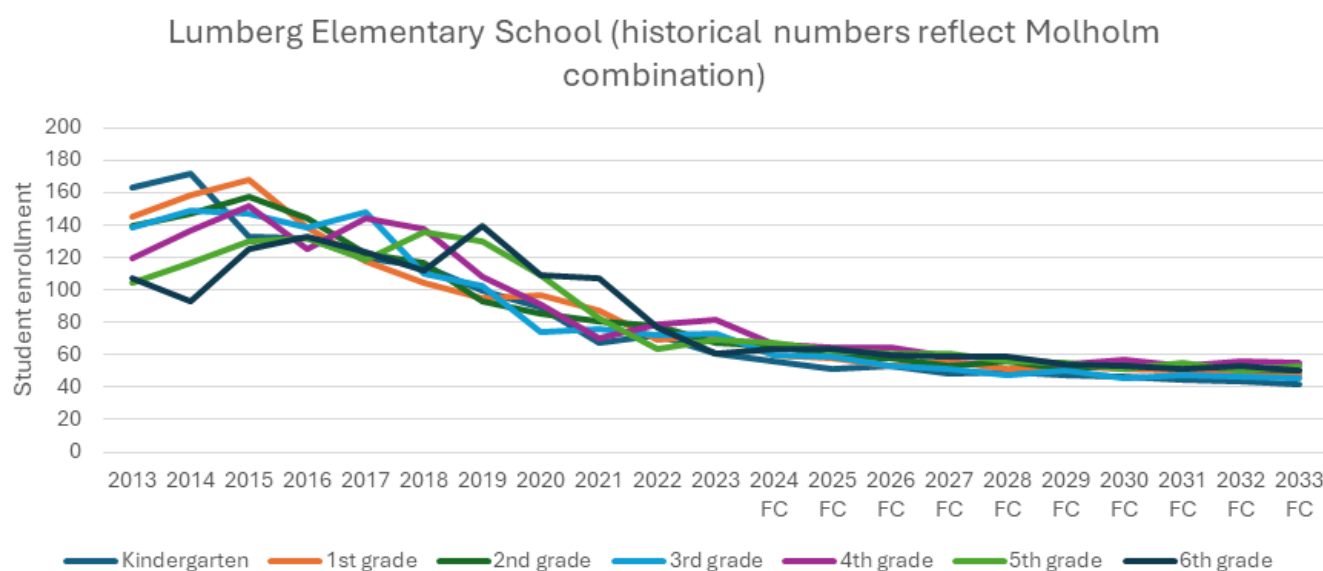
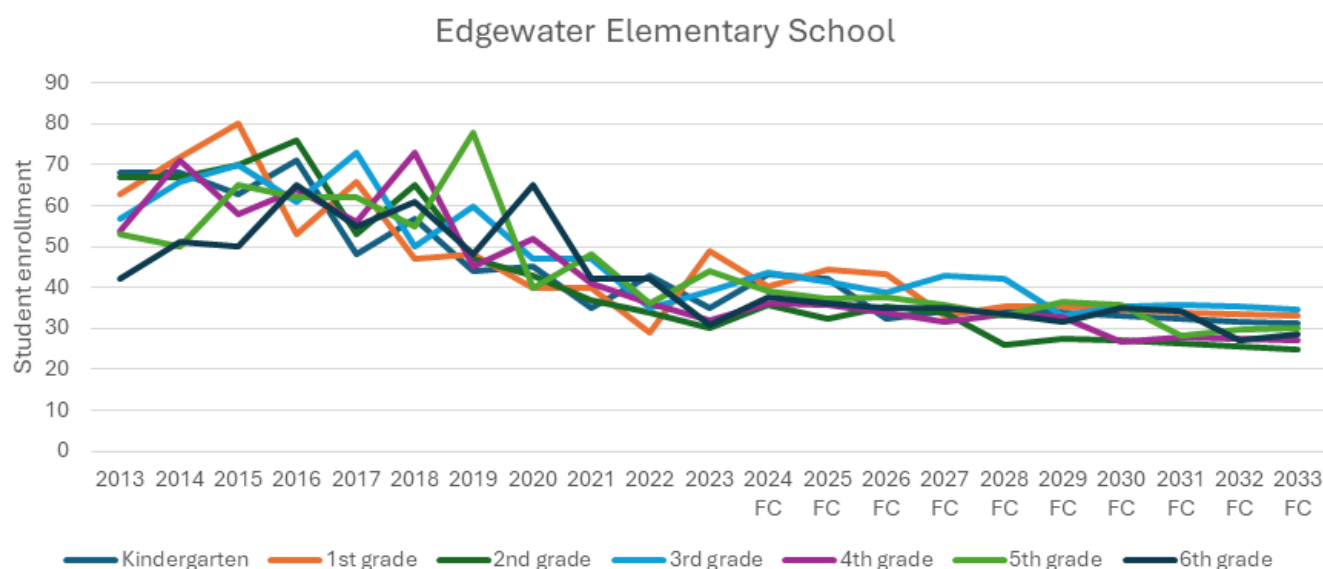
Running the same scenario on 2012 voter data showed 543 voters between 75 and 85. Again if half had turned over at 1.5 average household size, that would have freed up 181 households to potentially younger families.

The aging of the community in the next decade is projected to turn over 66 percent more households than turned over in the decade between 2012 and 2022.

Forecasts by school and grade level

Edgewater area schools

Edgewater area schools have experienced a decline in student enrollment over the past decade. The forecast is for enrollment to continue to decline, but at a slower rate than in the past ten years. In the elementary schools, enrollment stabilizes and remains relatively flat as the forecast hits the later 2020s and the early 2030s. Over time, this stabilization will help maintain enrollment in Jefferson Jr/Sr High School.



Forecasts by school and grade level

Edgewater area schools

