



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

TO: District 65 Board of Education

CC: Dr. Angel Turner, Superintendent; Dr. LaTarsha Green, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Reeshemay Bennett, Manager of Student Assignment, Registration and Records; Dr. Stacy Beardsley, Asst. Superintendent

DATE: November 4, 2024

RE: 5-Year Enrollment Projections(2024-25 to 2029-30)

Objective: ___ Information X Discussion ___ Follow-up ___ Decision

Background

Each year, District 65 assesses current-year enrollments and 5-year projections to determine future staffing, transportation, expenditure, revenue, et. al. needs. The 5-year projection is calculated using the average of the number of actual enrolled students from the previous 3 years to develop the projections from kindergarten and sixth grade. Current year students are rolled forward to the next grade. Historical enrollment and projections reports can be found on our [District website](#).

Limiting the enrollment projections to a 5-year window greatly decreases the error rate to the less than 5% we’ve been able to maintain over the years. Of note, kindergarten error rates tend to be higher. One reason for this is a persistent downward trend in birth rates as captured by the [2021 Kofren demography report](#). Kindergarten enrollment was already on a slow decline since the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, with the most significant loss in the COVID-19(2020-21) school year. Additional factors that may be contributing to the decrease in enrollment include the rising cost of living including, but not limited to, rents and home prices which can price families out of the District 65 attendance-area, families opting for private schools or homeschooling and family mobility. The registration department is adding an exit survey for families to complete as part of the withdrawal process in an attempt to learn more about reasons for exiting the District. This is not directly connected to decreasing kindergarten enrollments but can help us learn about family experiences.

The numbers for the 2024-25 school year are based on the actual number of students attending a District 65 school on October 1, 2024. Although the variance between our projected and actual students is about the same as last school year; the data indicates a persistent decline across the majority of grade levels.

The opening of the Foster School and simultaneous closing of the Bessie Rhodes building will shift the enrollment projections across all grade levels. District 65 has contracted to develop a new demography report which is being delivered this month that will give us updated information to inform projections under the boundaries that are scheduled to go into effect for the 2026-27 school year.

Findings

District-wide, the projected enrollment for the 2024-25 school year was 5,857 with an actual enrollment of 5,783 (a difference of -74 students or -1.26% error rate). Most of the grade levels ([Table 2 in the Appendix](#)) showed a variance of less than 1% with the exception of 5th (-2.22%) and kindergarten registering the most significant variance from projections. The kindergarten class was projected at 607 students and as of October 1 the class had an enrollment of 546 (a difference of -61 or -10.05% error rate). There was also a positive variance of 3.1% in first grade.

When reviewing actuals to projections at the school level ([Table 1 in the Appendix](#)), the middle school with the highest negative variance is Haven with the actual enrollment 36 students lower than projections. Other schools with negative variances exceeding 20 are Lincolnwood(-31), Walker(-27), Bessie Rhodes(-28) and Nichols(-22). As the lower grade level enrollments move from our K-5 spaces to middle schools, we expect to see continued negative variances in middle schools in future years. This should create some relief at Nichols which has had the highest utilization rate of our schools.

Even with enrollment trending down over the last several years, a few schools showed increases in enrollment when compared to projections and some schools met projections. We saw slight increases in schools that have either trended down or fluctuated over the last 5 years like Dawes(+6), Kingsley(+9), Washington(+8) and Chute(+11).

The projections and actuals in tables 1-4 do not include students at Rice Children’s Center, Park School, Family Center or our Early Childhood Center. The addition of these schools increases our current year enrollment to just above 6,000 and is reported here.

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Early Childhood and Family Center	313	354	309	309
Park	61	61	57	58
Rice	22	17	20	20
Total	396	432	386	387

Five-Year Enrollment Projections

Unfortunately, our actual enrollments have been less than projected for the past several years and the trend continues. Table 3, “5-Year Enrollment Future Year Projections (by grade)” shows a projected decline of 470 students between the 2024-25 and 2029-30 school year district-wide.

This table is developed using the consistent District 65 methodology for developing projections.

Table 3 5-Year Future Year Projections (by grade)										
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2024-25 (actuals)	546	607	642	665	625	662	681	700	655	5783
2025-26	577	546	607	642	665	625	662	681	700	5705
2026-27	571	577	546	607	642	665	625	662	681	5576
2027-28	565	571	577	546	607	642	665	625	662	5460
2028-29	571	565	571	577	546	607	642	665	625	5369
2029-30	569	571	565	571	577	546	607	642	665	5313

Table 4, “5-Year Future Projections by School” further breaks down enrollments by school and by grade level for our existing attendance boundaries by sharing the actual enrollment and 5 year projections by school. At the kindergarten through fifth grade level, all schools with the exception of King Arts (magnet school) are projected to decrease enrollments. Washington elementary has the largest projected decrease over the next five years (-60) due to small incoming kindergarten classes over the past three years. These projections are based on current boundaries. Projections for the attendance boundaries set to go into effect in 2026-27 will be provided upon completion of an updated demography report.

Table 4 5-Year Future Year Projections by School															
Elementary Schools (K-5)															
Dawes								Dewey							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2024-25 (actuals)	41	47	56	48	50	54	296	2024-25 (actuals)	49	54	60	47	60	47	317
2025-26	45	41	47	56	48	50	287	2025-26	51	49	54	60	47	60	321
2026-27	43	45	41	47	56	48	280	2026-27	52	51	49	54	60	47	313
2027-28	43	43	45	41	47	56	275	2027-28	51	52	51	49	54	60	317
2028-29	44	43	43	45	41	47	263	2028-29	51	51	52	51	49	54	308
2029-30	43	44	43	43	45	41	259	2029-30	51	51	51	52	51	49	305
King								Kingsley							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2024-25 (actuals)	41	56	48	40	38	54	277	2024-25 (actuals)	53	59	53	68	49	50	332
2025-26	48	41	56	48	40	38	271	2025-26	53	53	59	53	68	49	335
2026-27	49	48	41	56	48	40	282	2026-27	55	53	53	59	53	68	341
2027-28	46	49	48	41	56	48	288	2027-28	54	55	53	53	59	53	327
2028-29	48	46	49	48	41	56	288	2028-29	54	54	55	53	53	59	328
2029-30	48	48	46	49	48	41	280	2029-30	54	54	54	55	53	53	323

Lincoln								Lincolnwood							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2024-25 (actuals)	47	42	68	61	62	60	340	2024-25 (actuals)	44	42	47	59	47	48	287
2025-26	55	47	42	68	61	62	335	2025-26	43	44	42	47	59	47	282
2026-27	58	55	47	42	68	61	331	2026-27	45	43	44	42	47	59	280
2027-28	53	58	55	47	42	68	323	2027-28	44	45	43	44	42	47	265
2028-29	55	53	58	55	47	42	310	2028-29	44	44	45	43	44	42	262
2029-30	56	55	53	58	55	47	324	2029-30	44	44	44	45	43	44	264

Oakton								Orrington							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2024-25(actuals)	59	56	71	65	55	65	371	2024-25(actuals)	30	40	28	43	32	51	224
2025-26	56	59	56	71	65	55	362	2025-26	32	30	40	28	43	32	205
2026-27	58	56	59	56	71	65	365	2026-27	30	32	30	40	28	43	203
2027-28	58	58	56	59	56	71	358	2027-28	31	30	32	30	40	28	191
2028-29	57	58	58	56	59	56	344	2028-29	31	31	30	32	30	40	194
2029-30	58	57	58	58	56	59	346	2029-30	31	31	31	30	32	30	185

Rhodes								Walker							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2024-25(actuals)	30	33	39	35	31	24	192	2024-25(actuals)	40	61	63	49	74	63	350
2025-26	33	30	33	39	35	31	201	2025-26	52	40	61	63	49	74	339
2026-27	32	33	30	33	39	35	202	2026-27	54	52	40	61	63	49	319
2027-28	32	32	33	30	33	39	199	2027-28	49	54	52	40	61	63	319
2028-29	32	32	32	33	30	33	192	2028-29	52	49	54	52	40	61	308
2029-30	32	32	32	32	33	30	191	2029-30	51	52	49	54	52	40	298

Washington								Willard							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2024-25(actuals)	59	59	58	82	74	76	408	2024-25(actuals)	53	58	51	68	53	70	353
2025-26	56	59	59	58	82	74	388	2025-26	52	53	58	51	68	53	335
2026-27	59	56	59	59	58	82	373	2026-27	52	52	53	58	51	68	334
2027-28	58	59	56	59	59	58	349	2027-28	52	52	52	53	58	51	318
2028-29	58	58	59	56	59	59	349	2028-29	52	52	52	52	53	58	319
2029-30	58	58	58	59	56	59	348	2029-30	52	52	52	52	52	53	313

As the enrollment declines in the elementary schools, the middle school projections remain

mixed. When comparing 2024-25 actual enrollment to the projection five years out, Nichols, King Arts and Bessie Rhodes show a slight positive trend. It should be noted that King Arts and Bessie Rhodes enrollment are based on lottery applications and possible overflow. The most significant projected decrease at the middle school level over the next five years is Chute middle school (-34). Despite missing projected enrollment this year by 22 students, Nichols is projected to maintain a fairly consistent enrollment over the next five years.

Middle School										
Chute						Haven				
Year	6	7	8	Total		Year	6	7	8	Total
2024-25(actuals)	180	220	172	572		2024-25(actuals)	213	218	214	645
2025-26	187	180	220	587		2025-26	212	213	218	643
2026-27	174	187	180	541		2026-27	211	212	213	636
2027-28	180	174	187	541		2027-28	212	211	212	635
2028-29	180	180	174	534		2028-29	212	212	211	635
2029-30	178	180	180	538		2029-30	212	212	212	636
King						Rhodes				
Year	6	7	8	Total		Year	6	7	8	Total
2024-25(actuals)	64	41	39	144		2024-25(actuals)	21	19	23	63
2025-26	52	64	41	157		2025-26	27	21	19	67
2026-27	58	52	64	174		2026-27	24	27	21	72
2027-28	58	58	52	168		2027-28	24	24	27	75
2028-29	56	58	58	172		2028-29	25	24	24	73
2029-30	57	56	58	171		2029-30	24	25	24	73

Nichols				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2024-25(actuals)	203	202	207	612
2025-26	205	203	202	610
2026-27	206	205	203	614
2027-28	205	206	205	616
2028-29	205	205	203	613
2029-30	205	205	205	615

Summary

It has become increasingly evident that some elementary schools have experienced significant and consistent enrollment losses. Projections show that the schools are not likely to regain their numbers in the next five years. This decline necessitates a reassessment of our building, staffing, and section numbers, leading to potential adjustments in our operating costs. The team is currently reviewing the enrollments and making initial section recommendations for next year. This leads to difficult decisions and conversations but without proactive measures, we risk further erosion of our educational programs and support services with our students being most impacted.

Appendix:

Table 1: 5 Year Enrollments (by School)

Table 1 5-Year Enrollments (by school)																				
	2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				2023-24				2024-25			
Location	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate
District	7,339	6,977	-362	-4.9%	6,829	6,497	-332	-4.9%	6,437	6,200	-237	-3.7%	6,047	5,974	-73	-1.2%	5,857	5,783	-74	-1.3%
Dawes	357	333	-24	-6.7%	331	321	-10	-3.0%	311	314	3	1.0%	302	299	-3	-1.0%	290	296	6	2.1%
Dewey	469	418	-51	-10.9%	416	393	-23	-5.5%	379	349	-30	-7.9%	336	329	-7	-2.1%	335	317	-18	-5.4%
Kingsley	370	354	-16	-4.3%	338	349	11	3.3%	342	324	-18	-5.3%	326	321	-5	-1.5%	323	332	9	2.8%
Lincoln	504	459	-45	-8.9%	446	413	-33	-7.4%	407	414	7	1.7%	398	378	-20	-5.0%	371	340	-31	-8.4%
Lincolnwood	365	356	-9	-2.5%	353	330	-23	-6.5%	321	310	-11	-3.4%	303	309	6	2.0%	299	287	-12	-4.0%
Oakton	388	385	-3	-0.8%	388	375	-13	-3.4%	376	373	-3	-0.8%	370	351	-19	-5.1%	370	371	1	0.3%
Orrington	374	332	-42	-11.2%	329	277	-52	-15.8%	267	257	-10	-3.7%	240	246	6	2.5%	229	224	-5	-2.2%
Walker	369	378	9	2.4%	371	376	5	1.3%	372	378	6	1.6%	368	386	18	4.9%	377	350	-27	-7.2%
Washington	545	519	-26	-4.8%	489	482	-7	-1.4%	464	458	-6	-1.3%	434	423	-11	-2.5%	400	408	8	2.0%
Willard	484	449	-35	-7.2%	428	412	-16	-3.7%	408	372	-36	-8.8%	376	373	-3	-0.8%	363	353	-10	-2.8%
Chute	672	641	-31	-4.6%	632	575	-57	-9.0%	559	546	-13	-2.3%	529	571	42	7.9%	561	572	11	2.0%
Haven	861	843	-18	-2.1%	816	783	-33	-4.0%	806	683	-123	-15.3%	710	679	-31	-4.4%	681	645	-36	-5.3%
Nichols	771	743	-28	-3.6%	728	686	-42	-5.8%	688	656	-32	-4.7%	662	623	-39	-5.9%	634	612	-22	-3.5%
Rhodes	288	268	-20	-6.9%	275	282	7	2.5%	296	278	-18	-6.1%	287	273	-14	-4.9%	283	255	-28	-9.9%
King	534	498	-36	-6.7%	489	443	-46	-9.4%	441	404	-37	-8.4%	406	413	7	1.7%	415	421	6	1.4%

Table 2: 5 Year Enrollments (By Grade)

Table 2 5-Year Enrollments (by grade)																				
Grade	2020-21*				2021-22*				2022-23				2023-24				2024-25			
	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate
K	777	636	-141	-18.1%	722	634	-88	-12.2%	678	597	-81	-11.9%	622	589	-33	-5.3%	607	546	-61	-10.0%
1	768	748	-20	-2.6%	636	636	0	0.0%	635	664	29	4.6%	597	638	41	6.9%	589	607	18	3.1%
2	775	727	-48	-6.2%	748	696	-52	-7.0%	636	624	-12	-1.9%	664	671	7	1.1%	638	642	4	0.6%
3	796	772	-24	-3.0%	727	706	-21	-2.9%	697	690	-7	-1.0%	624	631	7	1.1%	671	665	-6	-0.9%
4	805	757	-48	-6.0%	772	754	-18	-2.3%	706	695	-11	-1.6%	690	677	-13	-1.9%	631	625	-6	-1.0%
5	834	826	-8	-1.0%	757	751	-6	-0.8%	754	718	-36	-4.8%	695	687	-8	-1.2%	677	662	-15	-2.2%
6	840	780	-60	-7.1%	826	773	-53	-6.4%	795	661	-134	-16.9%	718	700	-18	-2.5%	687	681	-6	-0.9%
7	830	824	-6	-0.7%	780	763	-17	-2.2%	773	748	-25	-3.2%	661	657	-4	-0.6%	700	700	0	0.0%
8	914	907	-7	-0.8%	824	784	-40	-4.9%	763	719	-44	-5.8%	748	724	-24	-3.2%	657	655	-2	-0.3%