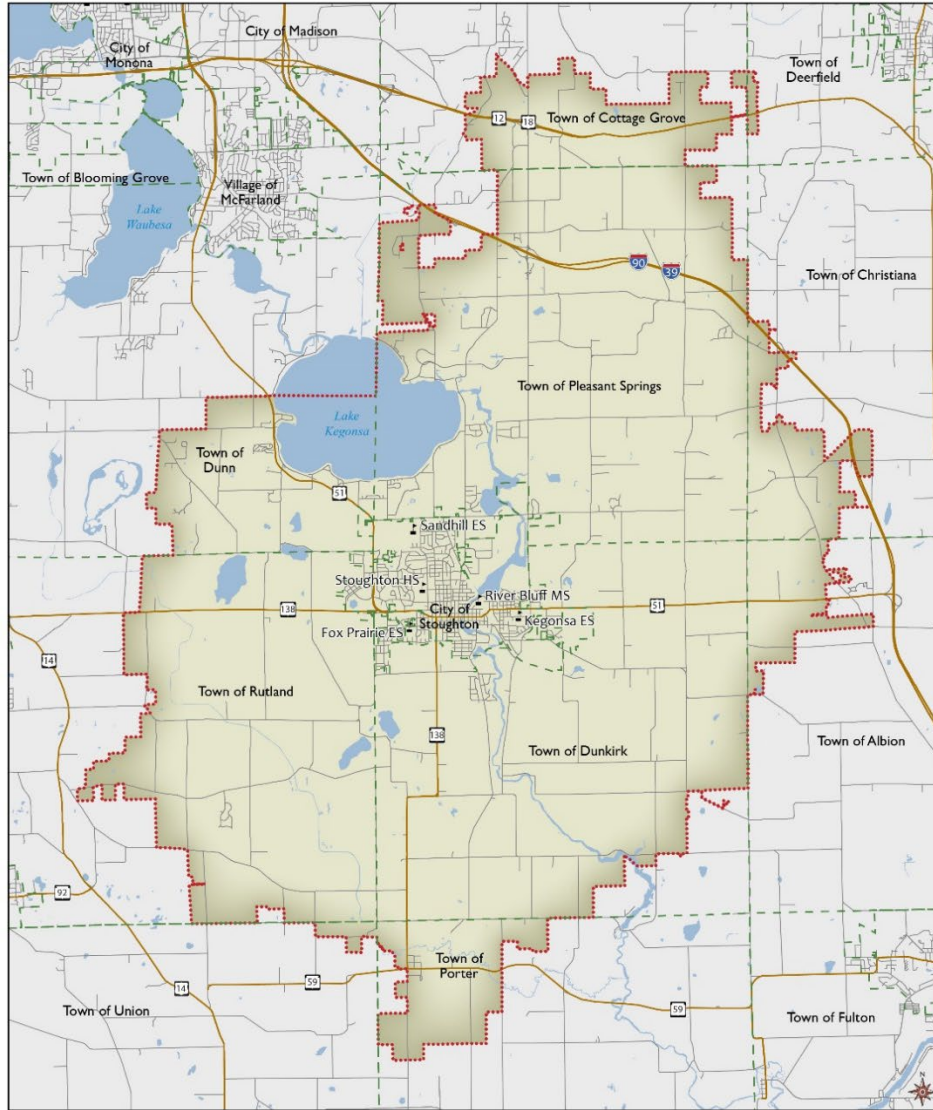


# Planning for the Schools of Tomorrow



Stoughton Area School District

- z Schools
- - - Municipalities
- - - School District
- Water

Prepared by the Applied Population Laboratory  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of Community & Environmental Sociology

## School Enrollment Projections Series Stoughton Area School District

April 2024

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## Executive Summary

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This report provides an enrollment projections analysis for the Stoughton Area School District by the Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The district-wide enrollment (seat count) for the current 2023/24 school year is 2,750 students. The report takes into consideration past enrollment, current and projected births, and overall trends in population and housing to determine future student change.

- In the last ten years, the district enrollment has experienced a decrease of almost 13%. Grades 9-12 decreased by 18%, while grades 6-8 declined by 14%. Grades K-5 decreased the least, declining by almost 8%. The decline has slowed in the latter half of the decade in the lower grades.
- Overall, the long-term trend in kindergarten enrollment has been steady, while the recent kindergarten trend is increasing. The long-term and recent trends in births have been decreasing over time.
- Households in single-family homes, on average, contain more school-aged children than multi-family housing units. Single-family home construction has averaged 44 new homes annually during the last five years.
- In five years, all four models project 4K-12 enrollment show an average decline of 1.2%. The Three-Year Trend model projects increasing enrollment, while the Baseline and Five-Year and Trend models project a decrease in enrollment. The Kindergarten Trend model shows steady enrollment near term followed by increasing enrollment.
- On average, elementary school enrollment is likely to see enrollment remain steady (-0.1%) because of declining births but increasing kindergarten enrollment. As larger cohorts of students progress to middle school the enrollment will grow by 5.6%, while high school enrollment will likely decrease over the next five years, declining by 5.4%.
- District-level projections should be viewed as having high reliability over the next three to five years, but increasingly enrollment will likely deviate from the projections over time. The district should continue to monitor enrollment change and compare it with these projections, to assess the district's trajectory of future growth and the best-fitting projections model.



## Introduction

Enrollment projections for the Stoughton Area School District are presented districtwide, individually for each grade and for grade groupings. The projection process uses a combination of historical enrollment data, birth trends and projections, and housing and population trends to create reasonable assumptions about future scenarios and the likely impact on enrollment in the school district.

## Projections Comparison to Enrollment

The APL completed an enrollment projections analysis for the Stoughton Area School District during the 2020/21 school year, allowing us to compare past projections to the last three years of enrollment. Table A compares the actual enrollment to the projections that were completed in January 2021. Overall, the Baseline model was the most accurate of the four projection models. The projections increasingly under-projected enrollment suggesting that the rate of change of the district's enrollment decline has slowed.

**TABLE A**  
Comparison of Actual Enrollment to Previous Enrollment Projections  
Stoughton Area School District

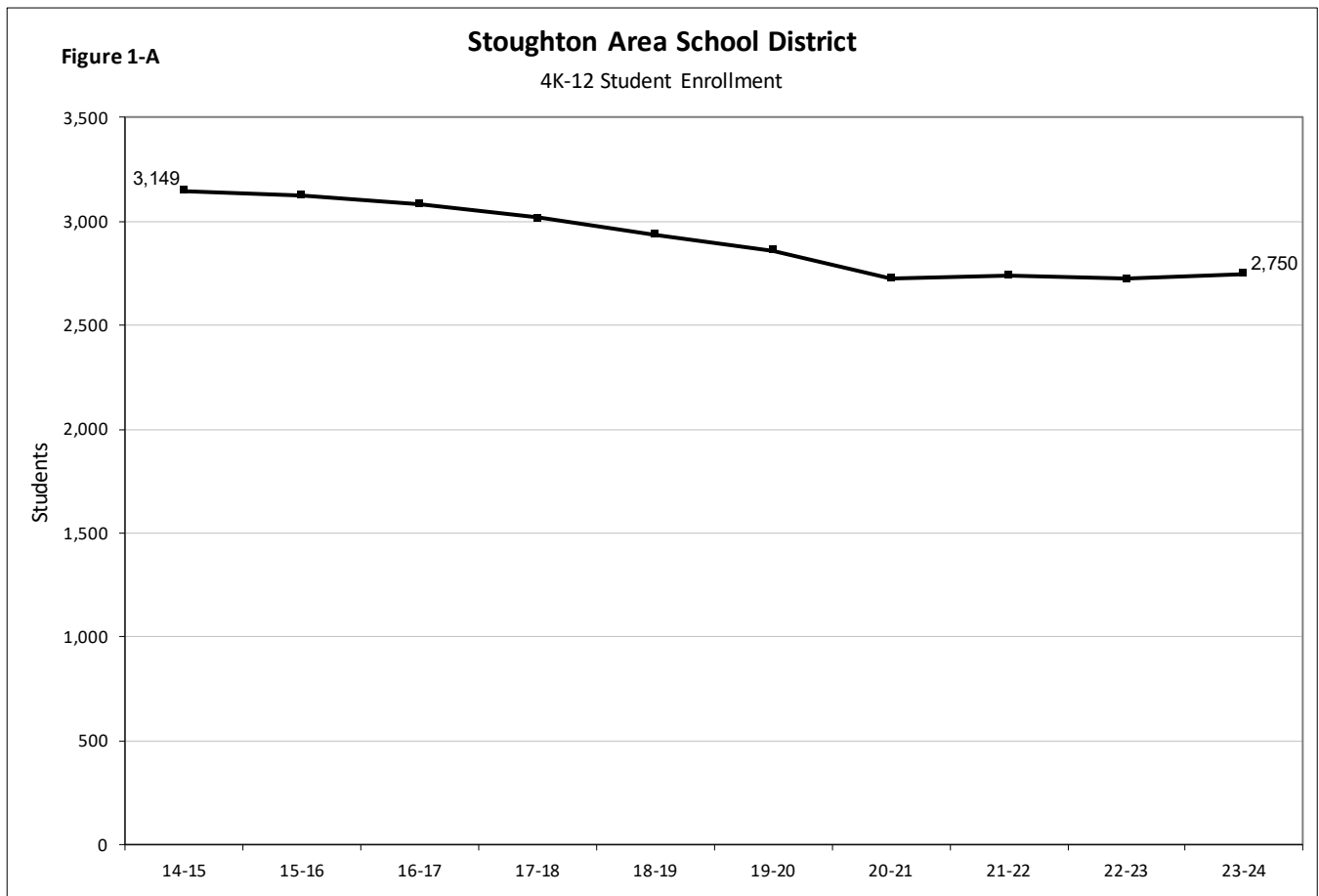
Actual and Projected Enrollments				Percent Error			
4K-12 Enrollment				4K-12 Enrollment			
Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
Actual	2,750	2,723	2,742				
Baseline	2,654	2,713	2,754	Baseline	-3.49%	-0.36%	0.43%
Five-Year Trend	2,623	2,686	2,728	Five-Year Trend	-4.63%	-1.35%	-0.49%
Three-Year Trend	2,553	2,636	2,700	Three-Year Trend	-7.18%	-3.21%	-1.54%
Kindergarten Trend	2,585	2,663	2,714	Kindergarten Trend	-6.01%	-2.22%	-1.04%
K-5 Enrollment				K-5 Enrollment			
Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
Actual	1,147	1,105	1,105				
Baseline	1,133	1,122	1,130	Baseline	-1.2%	1.5%	2.2%
Five-Year Trend	1,116	1,104	1,109	Five-Year Trend	-2.7%	-0.1%	0.4%
Three-Year Trend	1,086	1,080	1,093	Three-Year Trend	-5.3%	-2.3%	-1.0%
Kindergarten Trend	1,078	1,081	1,095	Kindergarten Trend	-6.0%	-2.2%	-0.9%
6-8 Enrollment				6-8 Enrollment			
Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
Actual	570	580	560				
Baseline	556	568	550	Baseline	-2.4%	-2.1%	-1.7%
Five-Year Trend	531	547	538	Five-Year Trend	-6.8%	-5.7%	-3.9%
Three-Year Trend	495	526	531	Three-Year Trend	-13.1%	-9.4%	-5.2%
Kindergarten Trend	531	547	538	Kindergarten Trend	-6.8%	-5.7%	-3.9%
9-12 Enrollment				9-12 Enrollment			
Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	Projection Year	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
Actual	861	869	904				
Baseline	804	854	908	Baseline	-6.7%	-1.7%	0.4%
Five-Year Trend	816	867	916	Five-Year Trend	-5.3%	-0.2%	1.3%
Three-Year Trend	811	862	910	Three-Year Trend	-5.8%	-0.8%	0.7%
Kindergarten Trend	816	867	916	Kindergarten Trend	-5.3%	-0.2%	1.3%



## District Enrollment History

---

Figure 1-A and Tables 1 and 2 display the last ten years of enrollment in the Stoughton Area School District. District students have decreased overall in the past ten years, from 3,149 students in the 2014/15 school year to 2,750 students in 2023/24. This is a decrease of 399 students, or a 12.7% decline in the number of students.



**TABLE 1**  
**Student Enrollment**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	SCHOOL YEAR									
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
4K	189	167	164	169	174	158	155	173	169	172
K	192	196	197	192	203	183	173	181	205	195
1	192	203	196	201	182	198	178	180	181	212
2	214	201	206	199	202	187	188	178	183	186
3	193	222	197	209	186	206	181	181	176	194
4	237	198	227	194	210	186	194	184	177	178
5	216	238	210	223	183	206	175	201	183	182
6	208	226	243	209	211	180	193	179	201	201
7	226	208	224	239	196	207	177	201	175	200
8	227	240	209	224	242	193	208	180	204	169
9	252	235	243	233	241	251	212	218	197	218
10	285	256	229	237	226	239	249	211	215	202
11	260	281	250	235	247	223	234	251	209	220
12	258	256	289	255	235	245	210	224	248	221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>3,127</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>3,019</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>2,862</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>2,750</b>
K-12	2,960	2,960	2,920	2,850	2,764	2,704	2,572	2,569	2,554	2,578
K-5	1,244	1,258	1,233	1,218	1,166	1,166	1,089	1,105	1,105	1,147
6-8	661	674	676	672	649	580	578	560	580	570
9-12	1,055	1,028	1,011	960	949	958	905	904	869	861

**TABLE 2**  
**Student Enrollment Changes**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

GRADE	ABSOLUTE CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE		
	'14 to '23	'14 to '19	'18 to '23	'14 to '23	'14 to '19	'18 to '23	'14 to '23	'14 to '19	'18 to '23
4K	-17	-31	-2	-9.0	-16.4	-1.1	-1.0	-3.3	-0.2
K	3	-9	-8	1.6	-4.7	-3.9	0.2	-0.9	-0.8
1	20	6	30	10.4	3.1	16.5	1.2	0.6	3.3
2	-28	-27	-16	-13.1	-12.6	-7.9	-1.5	-2.5	-1.6
3	1	13	8	0.5	6.7	4.3	0.1	1.3	0.9
4	-59	-51	-32	-24.9	-21.5	-15.2	-2.8	-4.3	-3.0
5	-34	-10	-1	-15.7	-4.6	-0.5	-1.7	-0.9	-0.1
6	-7	-28	-10	-3.4	-13.5	-4.7	-0.4	-2.7	-0.9
7	-26	-19	4	-11.5	-8.4	2.0	-1.3	-1.7	0.4
8	-58	-34	-73	-25.6	-15.0	-30.2	-2.8	-3.0	-6.0
9	-34	-1	-23	-13.5	-0.4	-9.5	-1.5	-0.1	-1.9
10	-83	-46	-24	-29.1	-16.1	-10.6	-3.2	-3.2	-2.1
11	-40	-37	-27	-15.4	-14.2	-10.9	-1.7	-2.8	-2.2
12	-37	-13	-14	-14.3	-5.0	-6.0	-1.6	-1.0	-1.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-399</b>	<b>-287</b>	<b>-188</b>	<b>-12.7</b>	<b>-9.1</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
K-12	-382	-256	-186	-12.9	-8.6	-6.7	-1.4	-1.7	-1.3
K-5	-97	-78	-19	-7.8	-6.3	-1.6	-0.9	-1.3	-0.3
6-8	-91	-81	-79	-13.8	-12.3	-12.2	-1.5	-2.5	-2.4
9-12	-194	-97	-88	-18.4	-9.2	-9.3	-2.0	-1.8	-1.9



Figure 1-B shows enrollment history broken down by grade groupings (4K, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) over the last ten years. 4K declined by 1.0% annually, and elementary school enrollment declined by 0.9% annually. Middle school enrollment decreased by 1.5% annually, and high school enrollment has decreased by 2.0% annually.

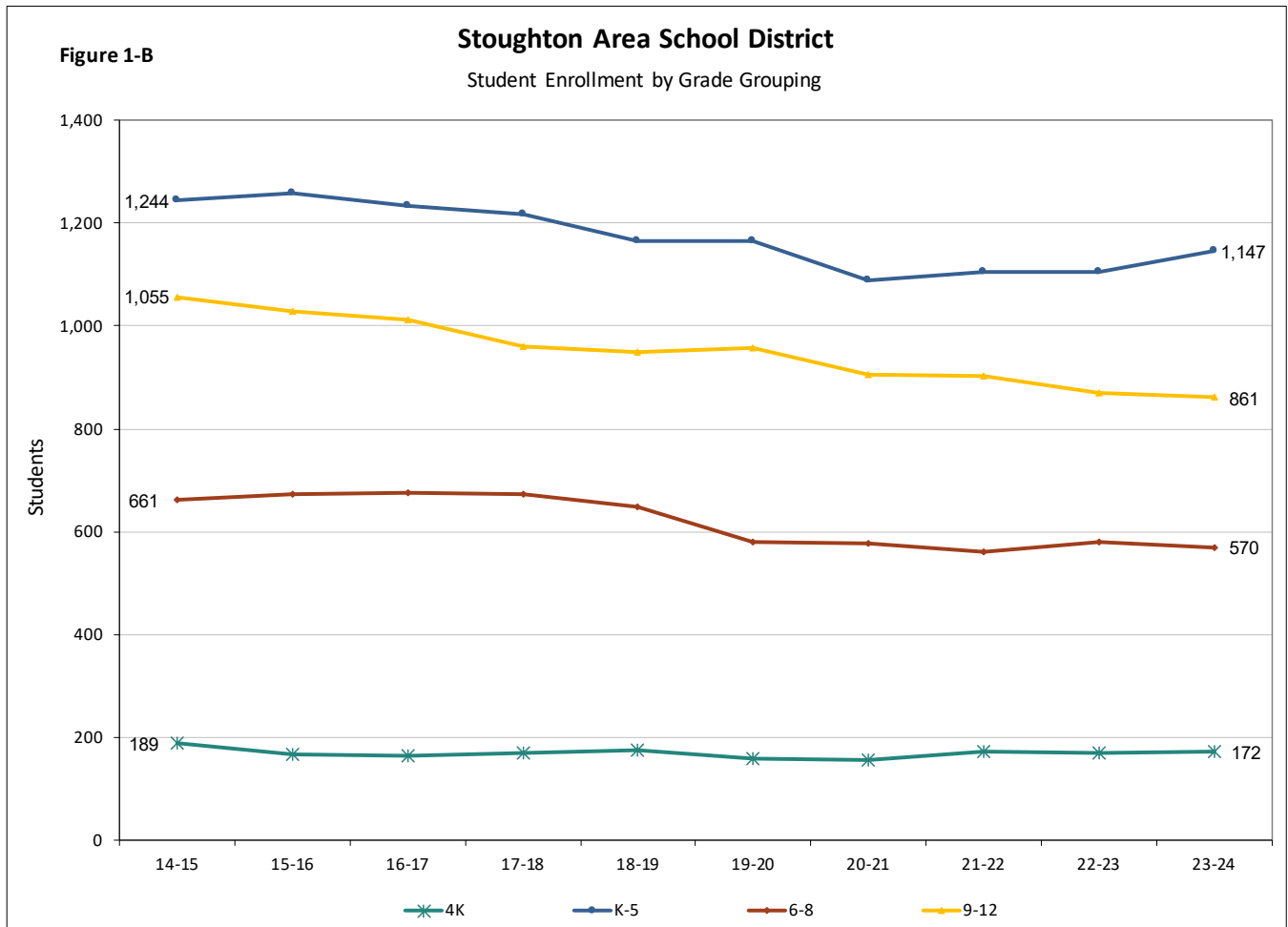
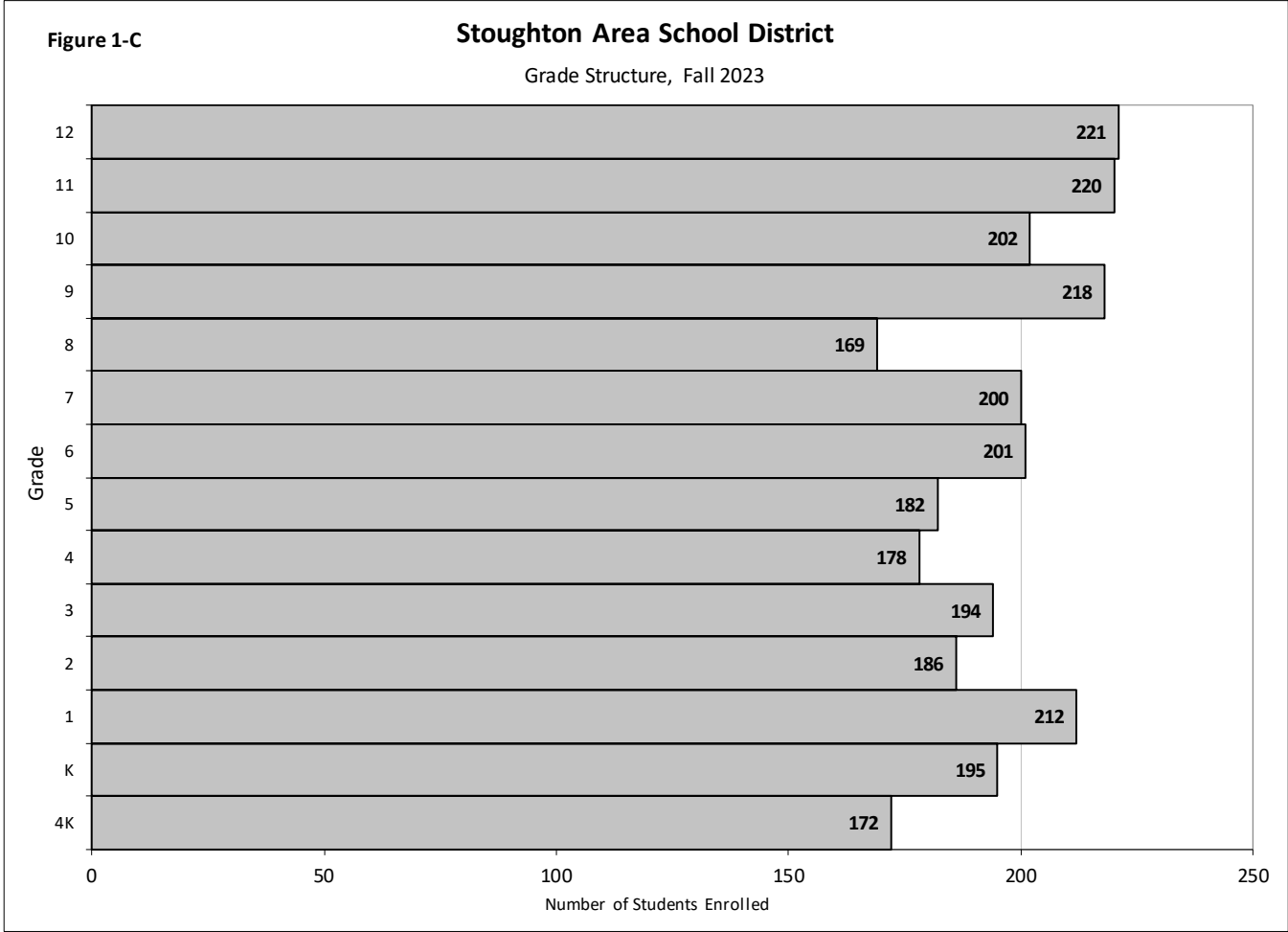
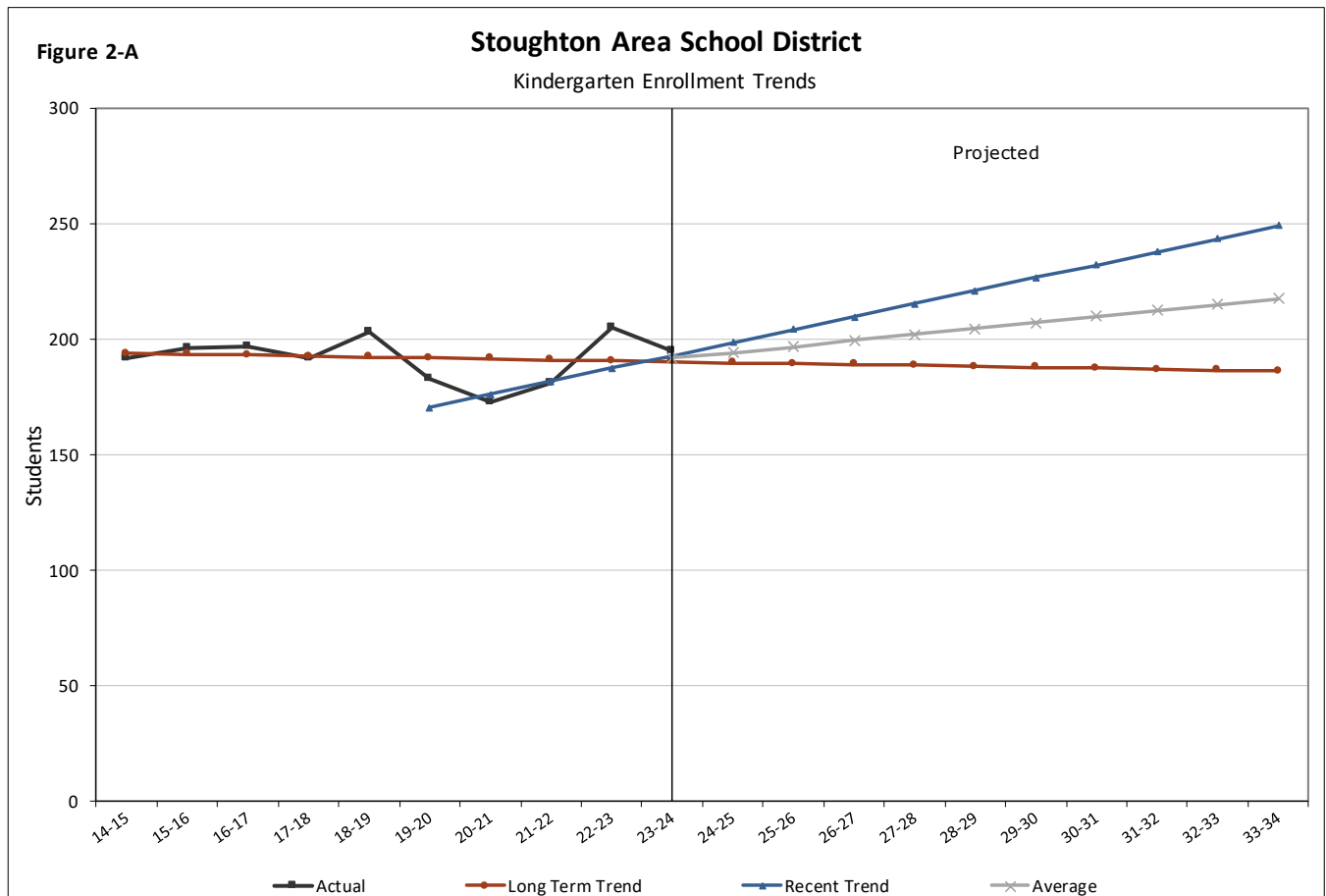


Figure 1-C shows the grade structure in Fall 2023 with the number of 4K at the bottom and the number of 12<sup>th</sup> graders at the top. The average grade size for grades 9-12 is 215 with 12<sup>th</sup> grade being the largest among high school grades. Grades 6-8 average grade size is smaller at 190 with 6<sup>th</sup> grade being the largest among middle school grades. Grades K-5 average grade size is 191 with 1<sup>st</sup> grade being the largest among elementary school grades.

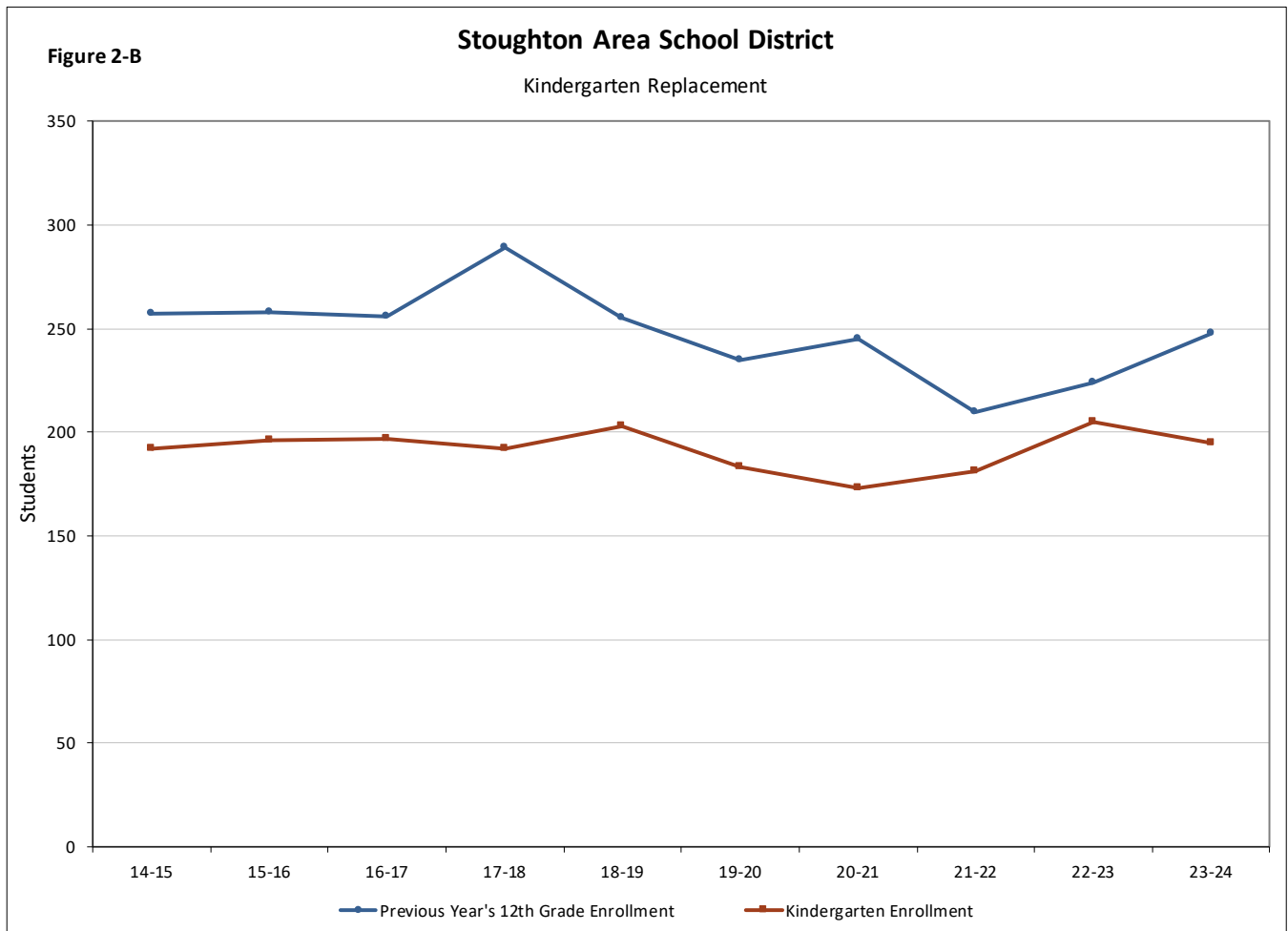


## Kindergarten Enrollment Trends

Examining trends in kindergarten enrollment is particularly informative for gaining perspective on future district enrollment, as today's kindergarteners will gradually make up tomorrow's students at the higher grade levels as they age and move through the school system. When kindergarten enrollment is decreasing, elementary and middle school enrollment might be expected to decrease in the future, while high school enrollment may decrease farther in the future. Figure 2-A shows kindergarten enrollment history in black, and trend lines depicting kindergarten enrollment in red and blue. The "Long Term Trend" line (shown in red) averages kindergarten enrollment changes between 2014/15 and 2023/24. The "Recent Trend" (shown in blue) line emphasizes kindergarten enrollment changes over the last five years. In the Stoughton Area School District, the long-term kindergarten trend indicates steady enrollment while the recent trend indicates growth. An average of the two kindergarten trends will be used for the Kindergarten Trend model found later in the report.

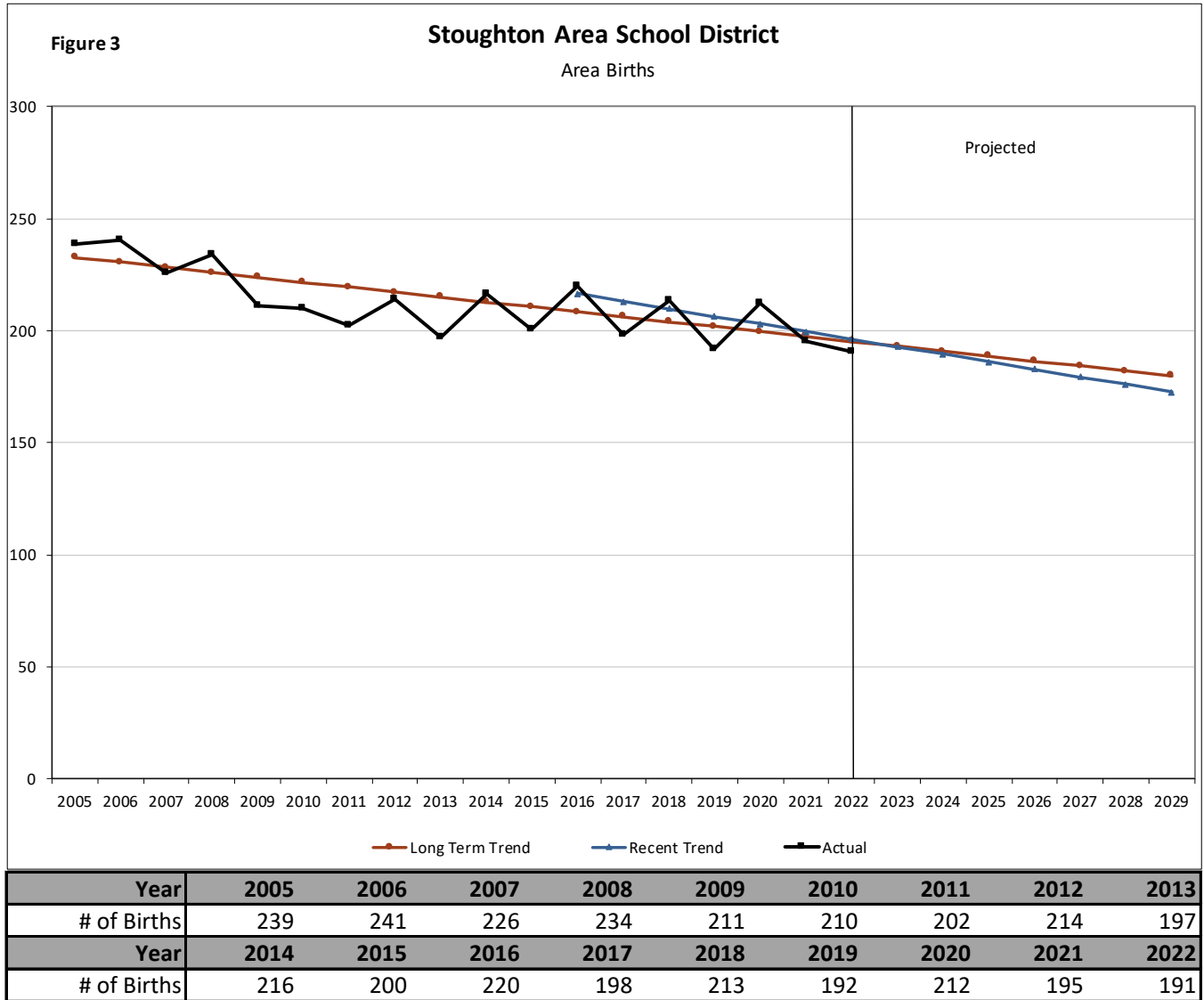


In addition to examining kindergarten enrollment on its own, comparing incoming kindergarteners to the previous year's outgoing 12<sup>th</sup> graders offers a snapshot of how the age structure of district enrollment is shifting either from older to younger, or younger to older. Districts tend to experience overall growth when kindergarten enrollment outpaces outgoing 12<sup>th</sup> graders, and they tend to experience decline when kindergarteners do not fully replace the number of graduates. As illustrated in Figure 2-B, kindergarteners did not replace outgoing 12<sup>th</sup> graders the last ten years. Some students may attend private school through eighth grade and move to public school for their high school years.



## Birth Trends and Projections

We use historical and projected birth data to forecast the number of 4K and 5K students who will enroll in the Stoughton Area School District in future years. Birth data, as collected and summarized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, is available at the municipal level. Figure 3 shows the number of births in the district area, by year, from 2005 through 2022.



Source: WI Department of Health Services

We extrapolate long- and short-range birth trends into the future to correspond with our baseline and recent trend models. Long-term and recent birth trends indicate decreasing births. The red line represents the birth trends over the past eighteen years and is utilized in the Baseline model. The blue line denotes birth patterns for the last seven years and is applied in the Five-Year and Three-Year trend models.



## Population Estimates

This section examines population trends of the recent past for the municipalities within the district. Changes in the total population of the district area, particularly when examined by age, provide clues into how the school-age population may be changing. Table 3 provides the U.S. Census population count for 2020 and Wisconsin Department of Administration's estimates for 2014, 2017, and 2023. From 2020 to 2023, the district area population has decreased slightly, while Dane County and the state population has increased.

**Table 3**  
**Total Population by Municipality: 2014-2023**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

Municipality	est. 2014	est. 2017	Census 2020	est. 2023
C. Stoughton	12,736	12,981	13,173	13,172
T. Dunkirk	1,932	1,915	1,881	1,856
T. Dunn	4,960	4,953	4,880	4,828
T. Pleasant Springs	3,140	3,139	3,078	3,092
T. Rutland	1,974	1,977	1,977	1,980
<b>District Area</b>	<b>24,742</b>	<b>24,965</b>	<b>24,989</b>	<b>24,928</b>
Dane County	510,316	537,655	561,504	590,056
State of Wisconsin	5,751,534	5,815,120	5,893,718	5,951,400

Municipality	2014 to 2017	2017 to 2020	2020 to 2023
C. Stoughton	1.9%	1.5%	0.0%
T. Dunkirk	-0.9%	-1.8%	-1.3%
T. Dunn	-0.1%	-1.5%	-1.1%
T. Pleasant Springs	0.0%	-1.9%	0.5%
T. Rutland	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
<b>District Area</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
Dane County	5.4%	4.4%	5.1%
State of Wisconsin	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau & Demographic Services Center, WIDOA



Figure 4 compares the population by age for the Stoughton Area School District for the 2010 Census and 2022 estimates from the American Community Survey. The number of school age children has decreased in all age categories, except children under the age of five years old has remained relatively steady.

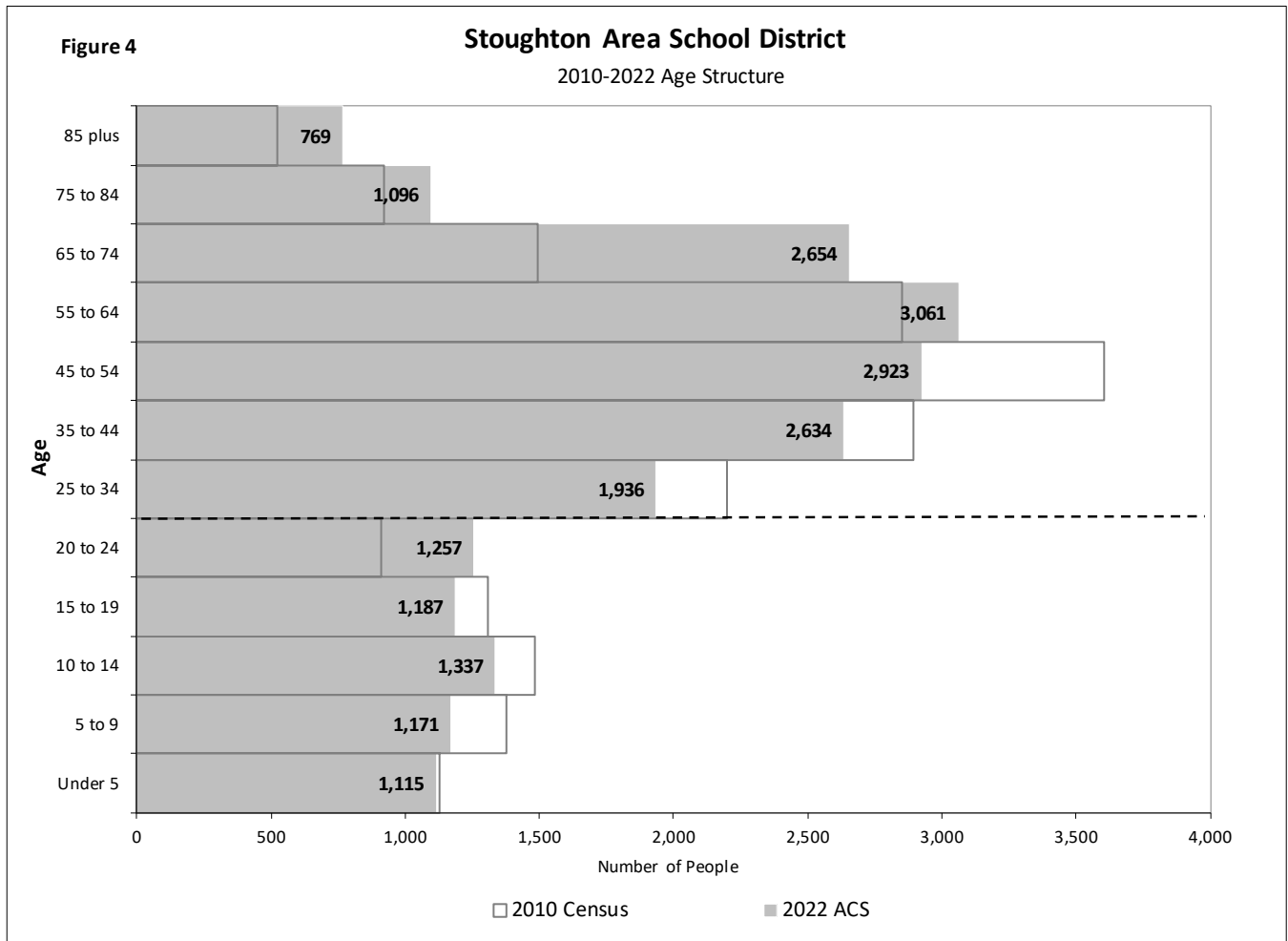


Table 4 also provides the population as enumerated in 2010 by the decennial Census and estimated over the 2018-22 period by the American Community Survey, showing the change in age structure. In specific age groups:

- The number of young people, ages 0-19, decreased by an estimated 486 residents.
- Young adults, ages 20-34, in the district area has increased by 80 residents.
- Adults, ages 35-64, have decreased by 733 residents.
- Older adults, age 65 and over, have increased by 1,583 residents.

**TABLE 4**  
**Population by Age, 2010-2022**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

Age	2010	2022	Difference
Under 5	1,130	1,115	-15
5 to 9	1,375	1,171	-204
10 to 14	1,481	1,337	-144
15 to 19	1,310	1,187	-123
20 to 24	912	1,257	345
25 to 34	2,201	1,936	-265
35 to 44	2,896	2,634	-262
45 to 54	3,606	2,923	-683
55 to 64	2,849	3,061	212
65 to 74	1,492	2,654	1,162
75 to 84	921	1,096	175
85 plus	523	769	246
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,696</b>	<b>21,140</b>	<b>444</b>

Source: U. S. Census Bureau



## Residential Development

Table 5-A shows the number of new housing starts in the Stoughton Area School District over the past ten years. The table shows new housing for the entire municipality although only a portion of the towns are in the school district.

**TABLE 5-A**  
**School District Area Housing Starts**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>District Area</b>										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>
Single Family	34	29	39	41	50	39	46	38	44	53
Two Family	2	2	2	0	2	4	8	4	10	2
Multi-family	0	10	47	14	0	40	37	9	8	10
<b>C. Stoughton</b>										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>
Single Family	17	16	18	20	29	21	14	16	13	26
Two Family	2	2	2	0	2	4	8	4	10	2
Multi-family	0	10	47	14	0	40	37	9	8	10
<b>T. Dunkirk</b>										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Single Family	0	0	1	4	1	1	2	0	0	2
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>T. Dunn</b>										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>
Single Family	4	2	12	7	10	4	16	7	18	10
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>T. Pleasant Springs</b>										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Single Family	11	10	6	5	6	7	10	11	9	9
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>T. Rutland</b>										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Single Family	2	1	2	5	4	6	4	4	4	6
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Demographic Services Center, WIDOA

Housing development in the area has consisted of single-family homes with multi-family construction in the City of Stoughton throughout this time period. Households in single-family homes, on average, contain more school-aged children than in two-family and multi-family complexes. Single-family housing development saw a low of 29 homes in 2014 and a high of 53 homes in 2022.

Figure 5-A shows the number of residential building permits issued by municipality for communities that fall within the Stoughton Area School District. Figure 5-B shows housing starts in the area by type of housing unit: single-family home, two-family, and multi-family housing units.



Figure 5-A

### Stoughton Area School District Area Housing Starts by Municipality

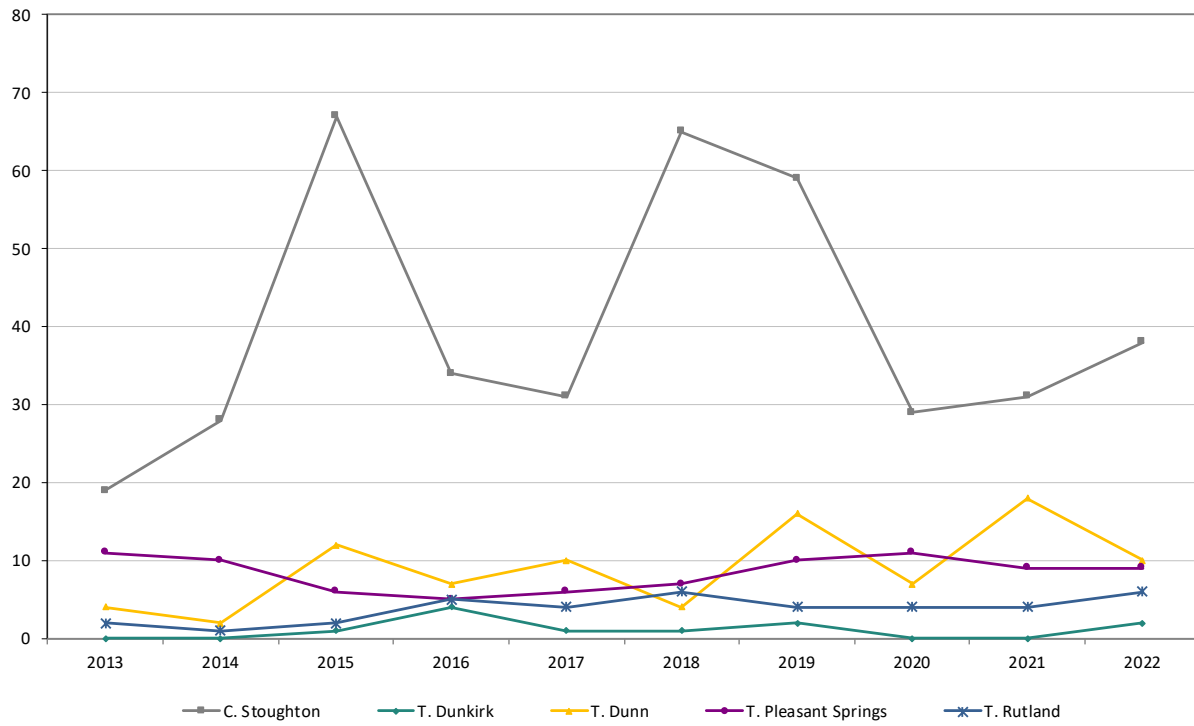
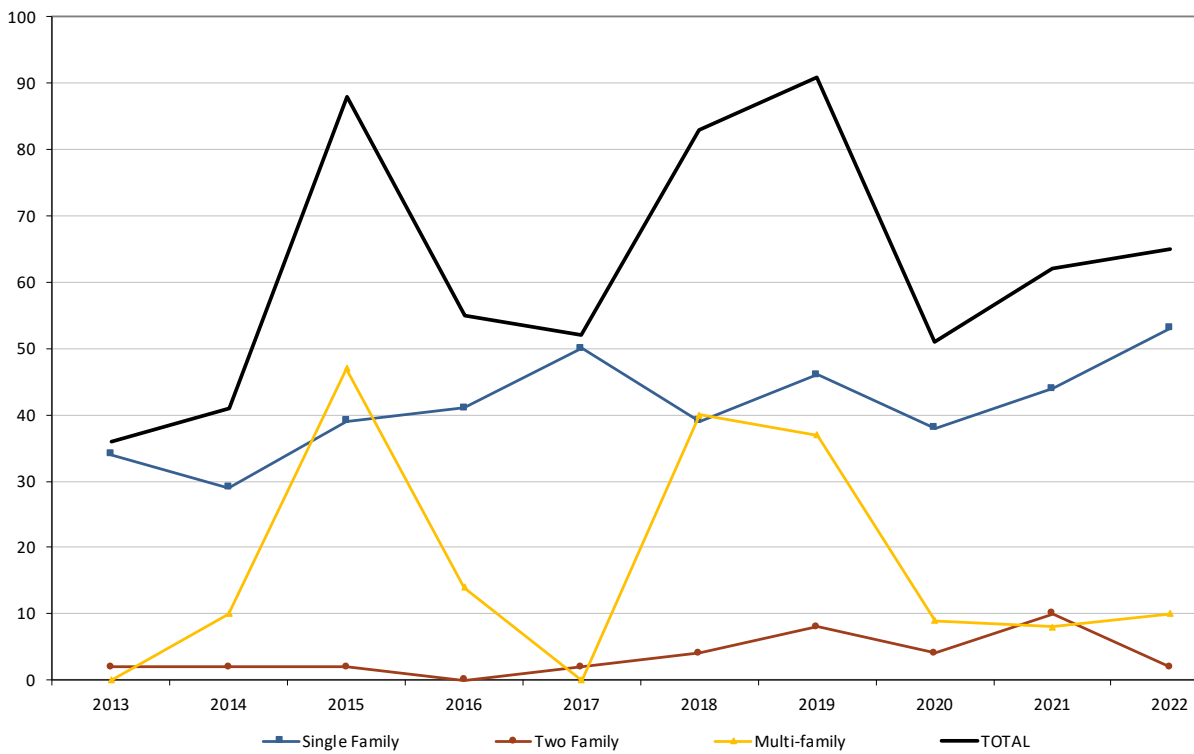


Figure 5-B

### Stoughton Area School District Area Housing Starts by Type



Examining trends in recent housing development can help to explain how in-migration into the Stoughton Area School District area might be affecting school enrollment. If the number of housing starts in the district area is expected to be reasonably consistent for the next several years, then we assume that in-migration of school-age children will also remain relatively consistent.

It is also important to consider that turnover in ownership of existing housing stock also contributes to changes in enrollment. Enrollment may increase or decrease depending upon the cycle of resident homeowners. For instance, a younger community will have a higher child-per-household ratio, whereas an older community will have a lower child-per-household ratio. Several factors make predicting housing turnover difficult. These include variables like attractiveness to young families (demand), as well as suitable and available rental and owner-occupied housing (supply). In addition, housing turnover depends on even more elusive variables determined by housing market conditions, the economy, and individual choices of homeowners.

Turnover in ownership in an older community may result in an increase in the child-per-household number. As younger families move into the area, the school district will tend to see new students enrolling into the district’s schools. A change in home ownership may happen over the course of several years at varying rates and may differ between neighborhoods. Absent new housing development or housing turnover, householders age in place and the number of school-aged children ultimately declines.

Table 5-B shows the in-migration for the Stoughton Area School District estimated over the 2018-2022 period by American Community Survey. 87% of district residents live in the home they lived in one year ago. This percentage is higher for owner-occupied homes at 93%, while predictably a smaller percentage of renters at 62% lived at their residence one year ago.

**TABLE 5-B**  
**In-migration, one year ago (2022)**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	<b>% Living in the Same House</b>	<b>% Moved within Same County</b>	<b>% Moved in from Different County</b>	<b>% Moved in from Different State or Country</b>
Total	87.2	6.9	3.7	2.2
Owner-occupied	93.4	3.9	2.1	0.6
Renter-occupied	62.3	19.3	10.0	8.4
Median age (years)	45.2	28.0	21.7	45.3
Median income (dollars)	\$47,611	\$40,114	\$32,794	\$46,250

Source: ACS 2018-2022



## Projection Method

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To generate school enrollment projections, we rely on a commonly used demographic technique called the “cohort survival” method or the “grade progression ratio” method. This method advances current students through the school system over time and applies rates of transfer (or “survival”) as the students who are now in school age from year-to-year and grade-to-grade. It is through these rates of transfer that we make assumptions about how migration into and out of the district and transfers to and from different school districts will impact future enrollment.

### Grade Progression Ratios

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Grade progression ratios are used to measure district enrollment changes that have occurred within the school district. By examining these ratios, we can better understand recent changes in enrollment. We then use these ratios as the rates of transfer to inform student projections.

Table 6 and Figure 6, on the following page, show the grade progression ratios for the Stoughton Area School District. The ratios measure the effects of in- and out-migration and the transfer of students between private and public schools. The ratios are calculated for several pairs of years and then averages of these based on different time frames are calculated for each grade.

To predict future enrollment under different assumptions, three sets of grade progression ratios are calculated:

- Baseline averages ten years of progression ratios with outlying ratios excluded (those outside of one standard deviation of the mean).
- Five-Year Trend averages the past five years of progression ratios.
- Three-Year Trend averages the past three years of progression ratios.

When the ratio is above 1.0 this indicates that enrollment tends to increase from year to year as each cohort of students advances. When the ratio is below 1.0 this indicates that enrollment tends to decrease from year to year.

The grade progression ratios can be interpreted in the following manner. The Baseline ratio for 5:6 is 1.012. This means that on average, the sixth-grade class is 1.2% larger than the five-grade class from the previous year. The B:K Three-Year Trend ratio of .930 indicates that, on average, 93% of births enter kindergarten five years later.



**TABLE 6**  
**Grade Progression Ratios**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

YEAR CHANGES	B:K	K:1	1:2	2:3	3:4	4:5	5:6	6:7	7:8	8:9	9:10	10:11	11:12
14-15/15-16	0.896	1.057	1.047	1.037	1.026	1.004	1.046	1.000	1.062	1.035	1.016	0.986	0.985
15-16/16-17	0.937	1.000	1.015	0.980	1.023	1.061	1.021	0.991	1.005	1.013	0.974	0.977	1.028
16-17/17-18	0.937	1.020	1.015	1.015	0.985	0.982	0.995	0.984	1.000	1.115	0.975	1.026	1.020
17-18/18-19	0.966	0.948	1.005	0.935	1.005	0.943	0.946	0.938	1.013	1.076	0.970	1.042	1.000
18-19/19-20	0.902	0.975	1.027	1.020	1.000	0.981	0.984	0.981	0.985	1.037	0.992	0.987	0.992
19-20/20-21	0.824	0.973	0.949	0.968	0.942	0.941	0.937	0.983	1.005	1.098	0.992	0.979	0.942
20-21/21-22	0.880	1.040	1.000	0.963	1.017	1.036	1.023	1.041	1.017	1.048	0.995	1.008	0.957
21-22/22-23	0.961	1.000	1.017	0.989	0.978	0.995	1.000	0.978	1.015	1.094	0.986	0.991	0.988
22-23/23-24	0.950	1.034	1.028	1.060	1.011	1.028	1.098	0.995	0.966	1.069	1.025	1.023	1.057
<b>Baseline</b>	<b>0.923</b>	<b>1.006</b>	<b>1.015</b>	<b>0.989</b>	<b>1.003</b>	<b>1.004</b>	<b>1.012</b>	<b>0.987</b>	<b>1.006</b>	<b>1.065</b>	<b>0.986</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>1.002</b>
<b>Five-Year Trend</b>	<b>0.923</b>	<b>1.005</b>	<b>1.004</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.990</b>	<b>0.996</b>	<b>1.008</b>	<b>0.996</b>	<b>0.997</b>	<b>1.069</b>	<b>0.998</b>	<b>0.998</b>	<b>0.987</b>
<b>Three-Year Trend</b>	<b>0.930</b>	<b>1.025</b>	<b>1.015</b>	<b>1.004</b>	<b>1.002</b>	<b>1.020</b>	<b>1.040</b>	<b>1.005</b>	<b>0.999</b>	<b>1.070</b>	<b>1.002</b>	<b>1.007</b>	<b>1.001</b>

\*Shaded progression ratios are excluded from the Baseline Average

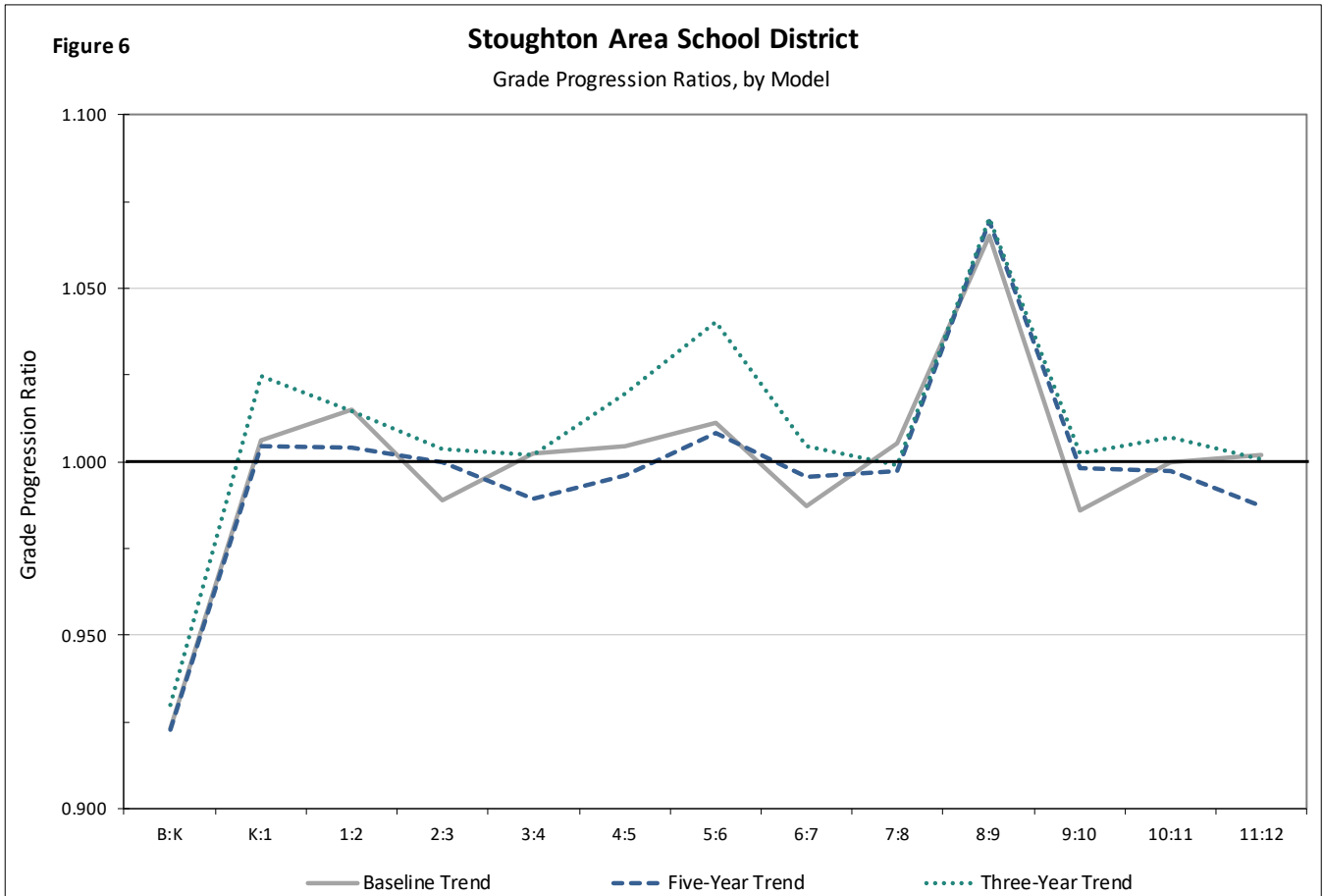


Table 7 shows the observed grade progression ratios between births and 4K and between 4K and kindergarten. The 4K:K ratios are not used in the projection calculations, but they provide an indication that kindergarten classes range from 13% to 17% larger than the prior year’s four-year old kindergarten classes.

To generate 4K enrollment projections, the ten-year grade progression ratio average will be used to project 4K enrollment in the Baseline model. The five-year grade progression ratio average will be used to project 4K enrollment in the Five-Year Trend model. The three-year grade progression ratio average will be used to project 4K enrollment in the Three-Year Trend and Kindergarten Trend models.

**TABLE 7**  
**4K Grade Progression Ratios**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	<b>B:4K</b>	<b>4K:K</b>
<b>14-15/15-16</b>	0.794	1.037
<b>15-16/16-17</b>	0.800	1.180
<b>16-17/17-18</b>	0.804	1.171
<b>17-18/18-19</b>	0.858	1.201
<b>18-19/19-20</b>	0.752	1.052
<b>19-20/20-21</b>	0.754	1.095
<b>20-21/21-22</b>	0.811	1.168
<b>21-22/22-23</b>	0.823	1.185
<b>22-23/23-24</b>	0.826	1.154
<b>Baseline</b>	<b>0.810</b>	<b>1.159</b>
<b>Five-Year Trend</b>	<b>0.803</b>	<b>1.131</b>
<b>Three-Year Trend</b>	<b>0.820</b>	<b>1.169</b>

\*Shaded progression ratios are excluded from the Baseline Average



## School Enrollment Projections

When considering all the projections provided in this report for decision-making, it is important to recognize that population projections of all types, including school enrollment projections, are more accurate in the immediate future than they are farther into the future. This is especially true for the elementary grades, because the students who will enter four-year-old kindergarten and kindergarten after 2028 have not yet been born. Overall, our projections are more reliable over the next five years (up to the 2028/29 school year) than they are in the latter half of the next decade.

### Baseline Projections

The Baseline model (Table 8) projects enrollment using the assumption that long-term average trends year-to-year, grade-to-grade, will continue. This model assumes that the ten-year trend in enrollment, migration, and long-term birth trends will be representative of future trends in the district. This model projects that 4K-12 enrollment will decrease from 2,750 students in 2023/24 to 2,679 students in 2028/29, or a decline of 2.6%.

**TABLE 8**  
**Baseline Projection Model**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	SCHOOL YEAR									
	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
4K	166	163	156	156	155	153	152	150	148	146
K	184	190	186	177	177	177	175	173	171	169
1	196	185	191	187	179	179	178	176	174	172
2	215	199	188	194	190	181	181	181	179	176
3	184	213	197	186	192	187	179	179	179	177
4	194	184	213	198	186	192	188	180	180	179
5	179	195	185	214	198	187	193	189	181	181
6	184	181	198	187	217	201	189	195	191	183
7	198	182	179	195	185	214	198	187	193	189
8	201	200	183	180	196	186	215	199	188	194
9	180	214	213	195	191	209	198	229	212	200
10	215	178	211	210	192	189	206	195	226	209
11	202	215	178	211	210	192	189	206	195	226
12	220	202	215	178	212	210	192	189	207	196
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>2,679</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>2,595</b>
K-12	2,553	2,537	2,535	2,511	2,524	2,503	2,482	2,478	2,474	2,449
K-5	1,152	1,166	1,160	1,155	1,121	1,103	1,094	1,077	1,062	1,053
6-8	584	562	559	562	598	601	602	581	571	565
9-12	817	809	817	793	805	800	785	820	840	831



Five-Year Trend Projections

The Five-Year Trend model (Table 9) uses the grade progression ratios from the last five years and recent trends in the number of births in the district area to project what future enrollment would look like if more recent patterns were representative of future trends.

With recent migration rates and birth trends weighted more heavily, enrollment in the school district is projected to decrease over time, decreasing from 2,750 students in 2023/24 to 2,658 students in 2028/29, or a 3.3% decline.

**TABLE 9**  
**Five-Year Trend Projection Model**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

GRADE	SCHOOL YEAR									
	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
4K	165	161	154	154	153	150	148	145	142	140
K	184	190	186	177	177	176	173	170	167	164
1	196	184	190	186	178	178	177	174	171	167
2	213	197	185	191	187	179	179	178	174	171
3	186	213	197	185	191	187	179	179	178	174
4	192	184	211	195	183	189	185	177	177	176
5	177	191	183	210	194	183	189	184	176	176
6	184	179	193	185	212	195	184	190	186	178
7	200	183	178	192	184	211	195	183	189	185
8	199	200	182	178	191	184	210	194	183	189
9	181	213	213	195	190	205	196	225	208	195
10	218	180	213	213	195	190	204	196	224	207
11	201	217	180	212	213	194	189	204	195	224
12	217	199	214	178	210	210	192	187	201	193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>2,540</b>
K-12	2,548	2,530	2,526	2,497	2,505	2,480	2,452	2,440	2,429	2,400
K-5	1,148	1,159	1,152	1,145	1,111	1,092	1,081	1,062	1,043	1,029
6-8	583	561	553	554	587	590	589	568	558	552
9-12	817	810	821	798	807	798	781	811	829	819



### Three-Year Trend Projections

The Three-Year Trend model (Table 10) uses the grade progression ratios from the last three years to project what future enrollment would look like if even more recent patterns were representative of future trends. For the Three-Year Trend model, enrollment is projected to increase from 2,750 students in 2023/24 to 2,791 students in 2028/29, or a 1.5% increase.

**TABLE 10**  
**Three-Year Trend Projection Model**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

GRADE	SCHOOL YEAR									
	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
4K	168	165	158	158	156	154	151	148	145	143
K	185	191	187	179	179	177	174	171	168	165
1	200	190	196	192	183	183	182	179	175	172
2	215	203	192	199	194	186	186	184	181	178
3	187	216	204	193	199	195	187	187	185	182
4	194	187	216	204	194	200	196	187	187	186
5	181	198	191	221	208	197	204	199	191	191
6	189	189	206	198	230	216	205	212	207	198
7	202	190	190	207	199	231	217	206	213	208
8	200	202	190	190	207	199	230	217	206	213
9	181	214	216	203	203	222	213	247	233	221
10	219	181	214	216	204	203	222	214	247	233
11	203	220	183	216	218	205	205	224	215	249
12	220	204	220	183	216	218	206	205	224	216
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,745</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>2,758</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>2,753</b>
K-12	2,577	2,585	2,605	2,601	2,634	2,634	2,627	2,632	2,633	2,611
K-5	1,163	1,185	1,186	1,187	1,157	1,139	1,128	1,107	1,087	1,073
6-8	591	581	586	595	636	646	653	635	627	620
9-12	823	819	833	819	841	849	846	889	919	918



## Kindergarten Trend Projections

For this method we perform a trend analysis to project the number of future kindergarten students, rather than relying upon the traditional birth to kindergarten (B:K) progression ratio. Then, the five-year grade progression ratios are used for projecting the other grades (1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) in the district. In other words, this model assumes that the number of new kindergarteners each year over the next decade will be similar to the average of the ten-year and five-year trends, regardless of the number of observed births in the school district area.

According to this hybrid method (Table 11), the Kindergarten Trend model projects enrollment will decrease by only five students, declining from 2,750 students in 2023/24 to 2,745 students in 2028/29.

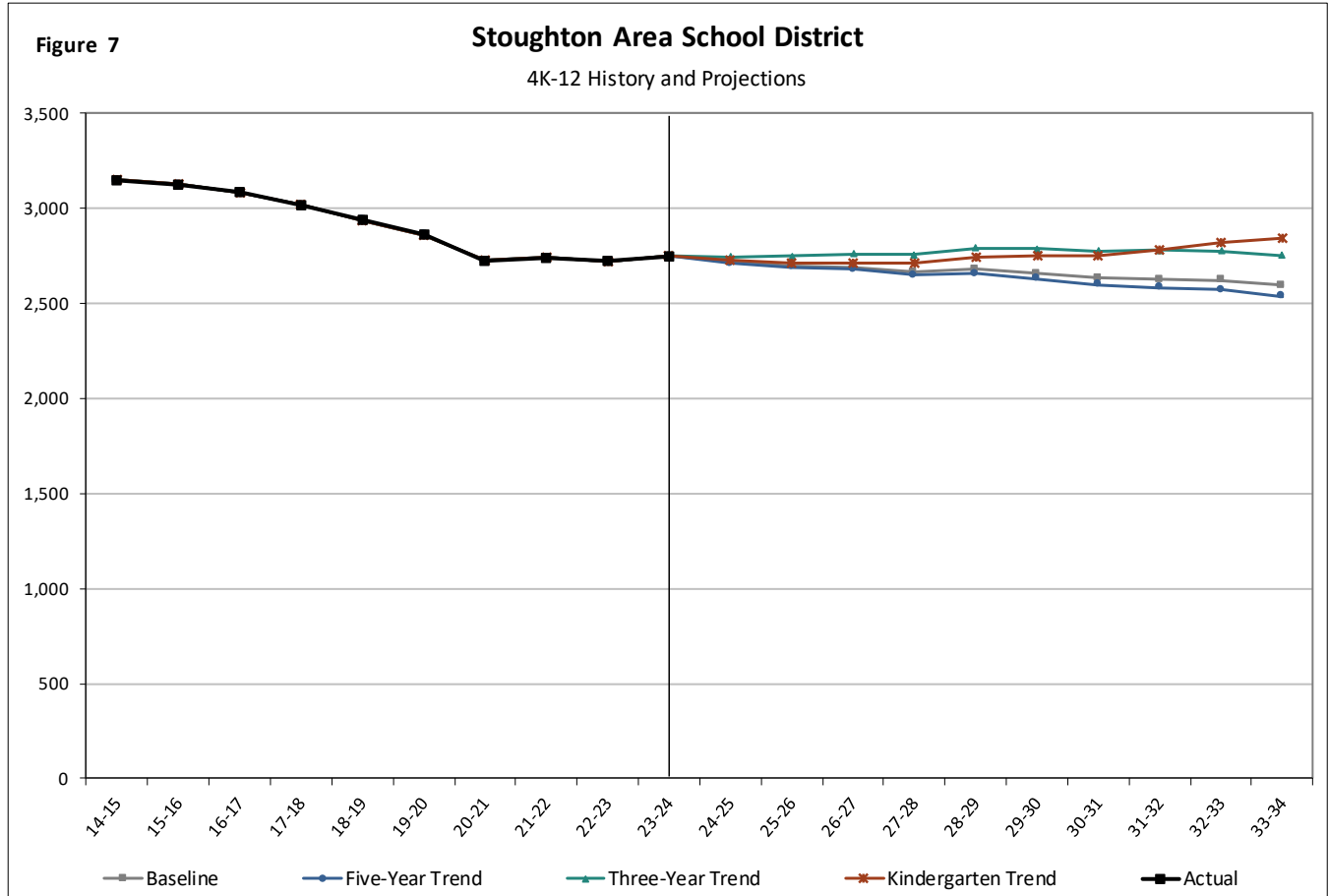
**TABLE 11**  
**Kindergarten Trend Projection Model**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

GRADE	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
4K	168	165	158	158	156	154	151	148	145	143
K	194	197	199	202	205	207	210	212	215	218
1	196	195	198	200	203	206	208	211	213	216
2	213	197	196	199	201	204	206	209	212	214
3	186	213	197	196	199	201	204	206	209	212
4	192	184	211	195	194	196	199	202	204	207
5	177	191	183	210	194	193	196	198	201	203
6	184	179	193	185	212	195	195	197	200	203
7	200	183	178	192	184	211	195	194	196	199
8	199	200	182	178	191	184	210	194	193	196
9	181	213	213	195	190	205	196	225	208	207
10	218	180	213	213	195	190	204	196	224	207
11	201	217	180	212	213	194	189	204	195	224
12	217	199	214	178	210	210	192	187	201	193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>2,745</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>2,818</b>	<b>2,841</b>
K-12	2,558	2,548	2,557	2,554	2,589	2,595	2,604	2,635	2,673	2,698
K-5	1,158	1,177	1,184	1,201	1,195	1,207	1,223	1,239	1,254	1,270
6-8	583	561	553	554	587	590	600	585	590	598
9-12	817	810	821	798	807	798	781	811	829	831



## Comparison of Projection Models

Figures 7-11 and Tables 12-16 compare the student projections broken down by 4K-12 and K-12 enrollment and by grade groupings (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12).

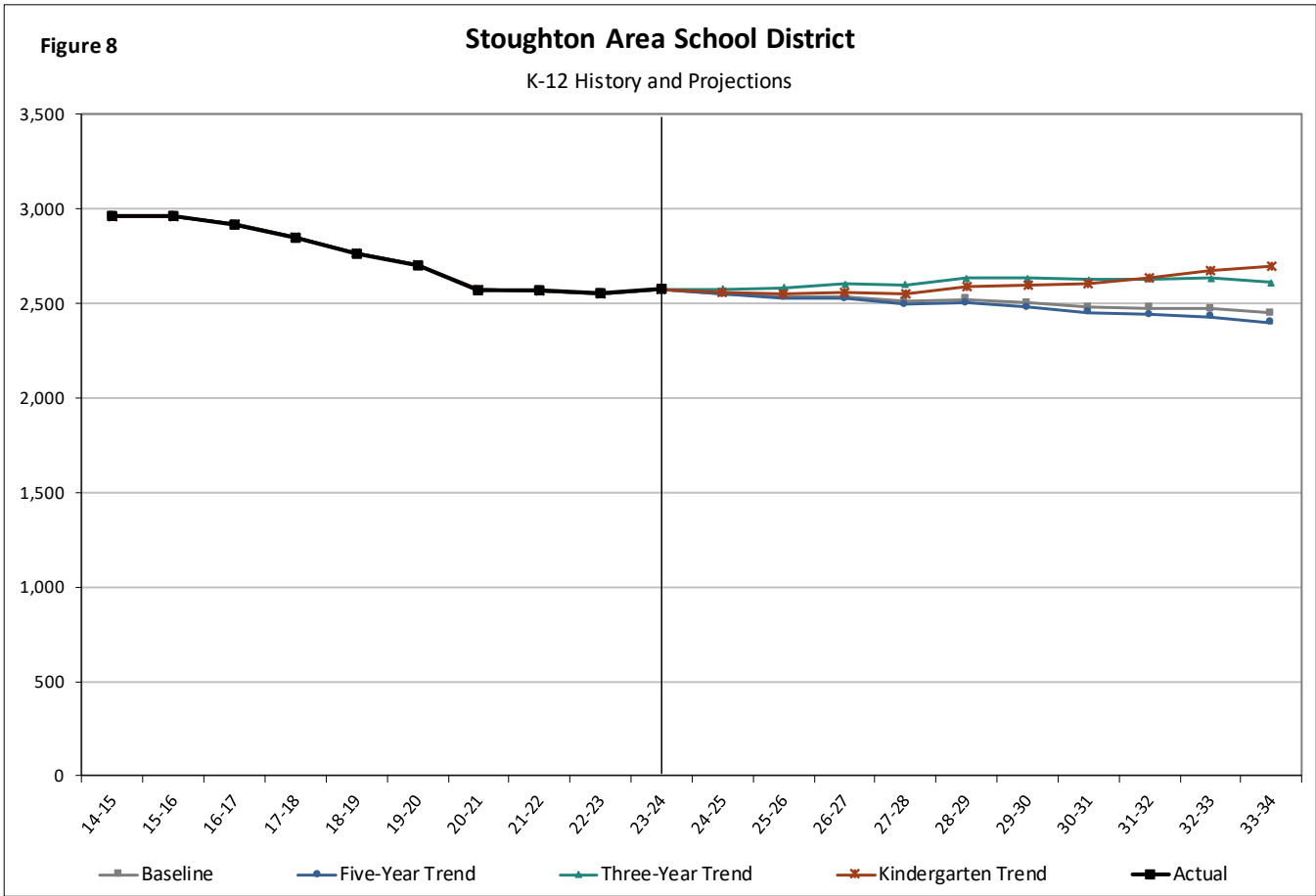


**TABLE 12**  
**Summary of 4K-12 Projections**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
Baseline	2,720	2,700	2,691	2,666	2,679	2,657	2,633	2,628	2,622	2,595
Five-Year Trend	2,713	2,691	2,680	2,652	2,658	2,631	2,599	2,585	2,572	2,540
Three-Year Trend	2,745	2,749	2,763	2,758	2,791	2,787	2,778	2,780	2,778	2,753
Kindergarten Trend	2,727	2,712	2,715	2,711	2,745	2,749	2,755	2,783	2,818	2,841

From the 2023/24 enrollment of 2,750, the projection models show decline over the next five years and beyond. The Five-Year Trend model projects the greatest enrollment decrease, while the Three-Year Trend model projects an enrollment increase. The projections five years from now (2028/29) range from 2,658 to 2,791 students.



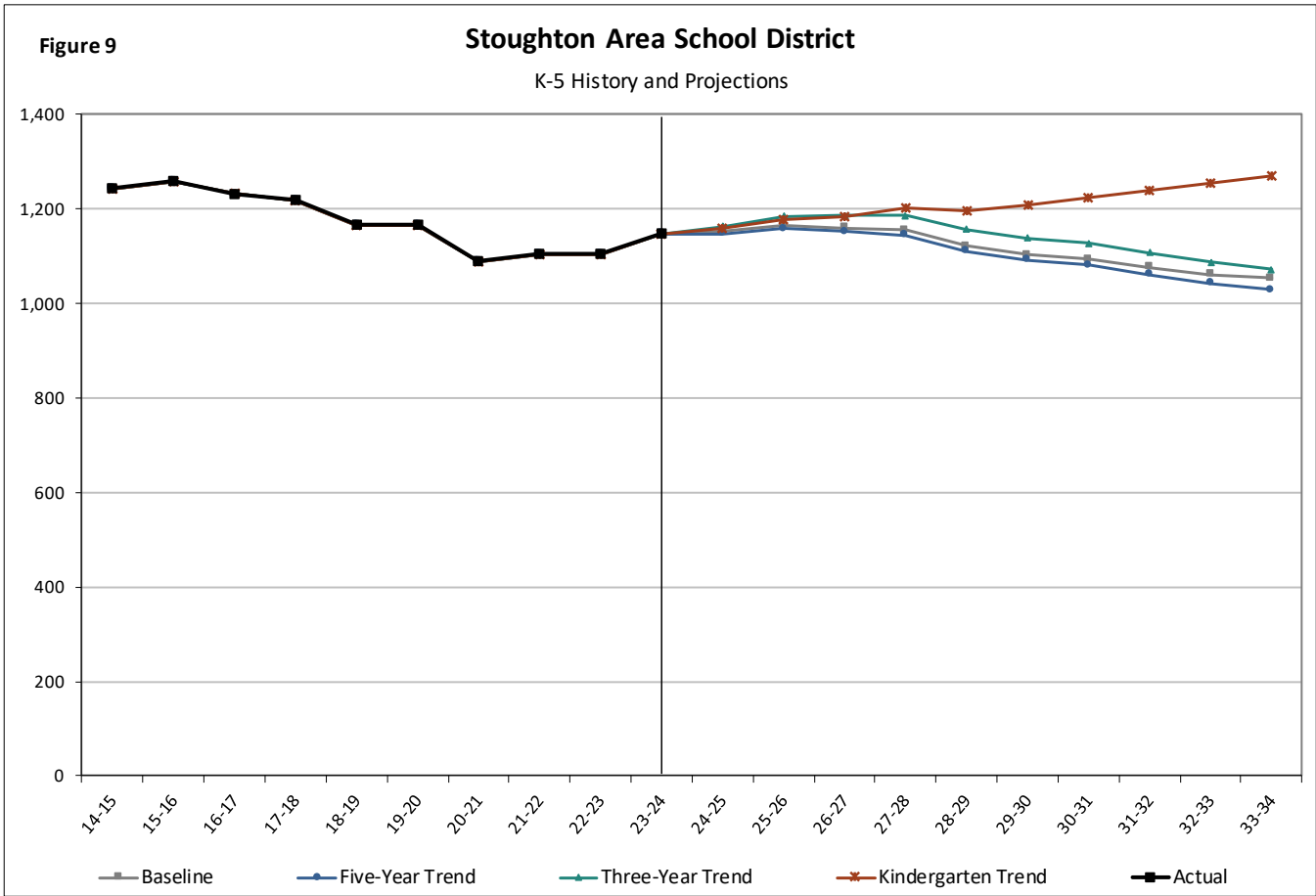


**TABLE 13**  
**Summary of K-12 Projections**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
Baseline	2,553	2,537	2,535	2,511	2,524	2,503	2,482	2,478	2,474	2,449
Five-Year Trend	2,548	2,530	2,526	2,497	2,505	2,480	2,452	2,440	2,429	2,400
Three-Year Trend	2,577	2,585	2,605	2,601	2,634	2,634	2,627	2,632	2,633	2,611
Kindergarten Trend	2,558	2,548	2,557	2,554	2,589	2,595	2,604	2,635	2,673	2,698

From the 2023/24 K-12 enrollment of 2,578, the models show declining enrollment trends similar to the 4K-12 projections. K-12 projections forecast five years from now (2028/29) a range of enrollment from 2,505 to 2,634.



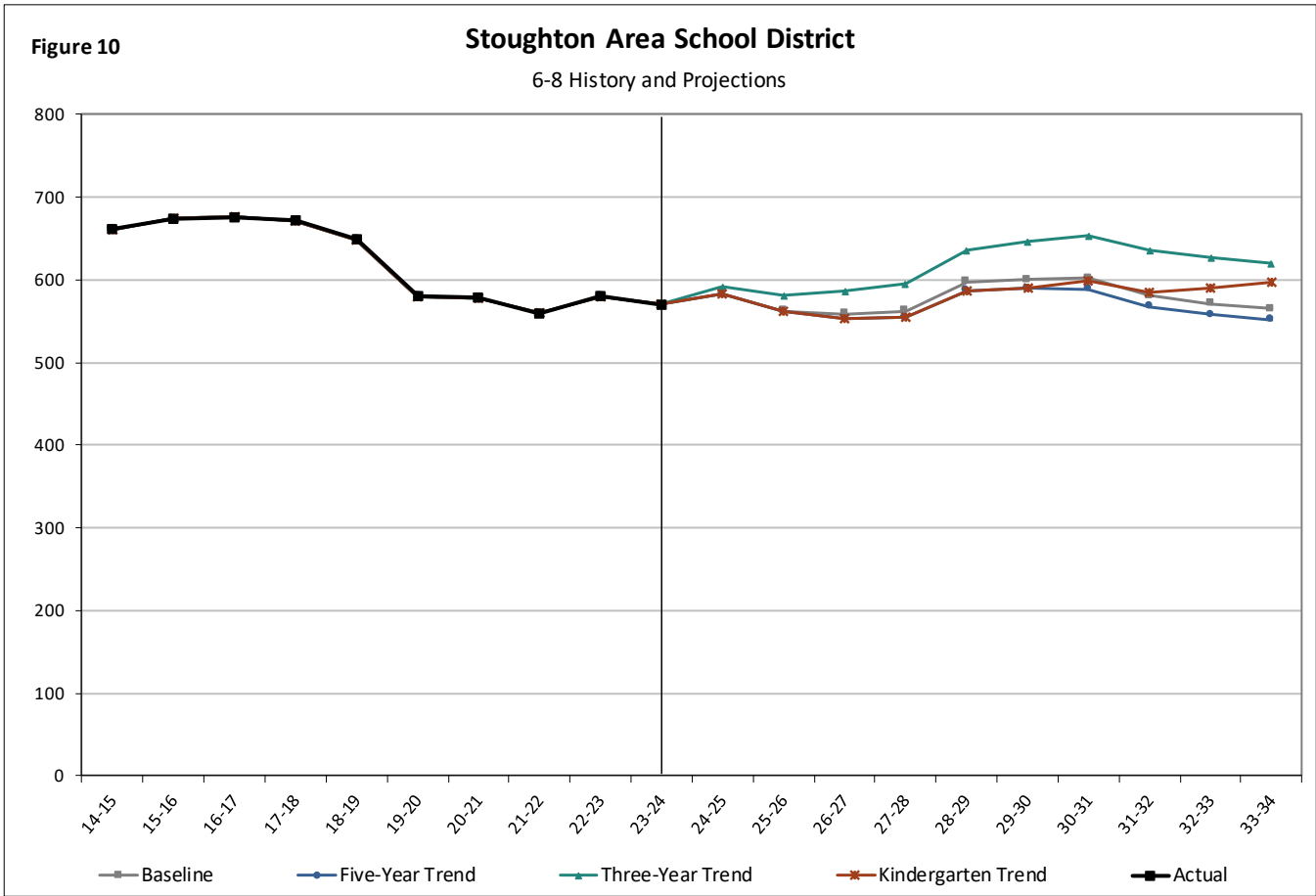


**TABLE 14**  
**Summary of K-5 Projections**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
Baseline	1,152	1,166	1,160	1,155	1,121	1,103	1,094	1,077	1,062	1,053
Five-Year Trend	1,148	1,159	1,152	1,145	1,111	1,092	1,081	1,062	1,043	1,029
Three-Year Trend	1,163	1,185	1,186	1,187	1,157	1,139	1,128	1,107	1,087	1,073
Kindergarten Trend	1,158	1,177	1,184	1,201	1,195	1,207	1,223	1,239	1,254	1,270

K-5 enrollment in 2023/24 is 1,147. For elementary school grades, the projection models show enrollment increasing for the next four years. By the fifth year of the projections the Kindergarten Trend model projects enrollment will continue to increase over time, while the other three models indicate decline. Grades K-5 projections in five years (2028/29) project a range of enrollment from 1,111 to 1,195.



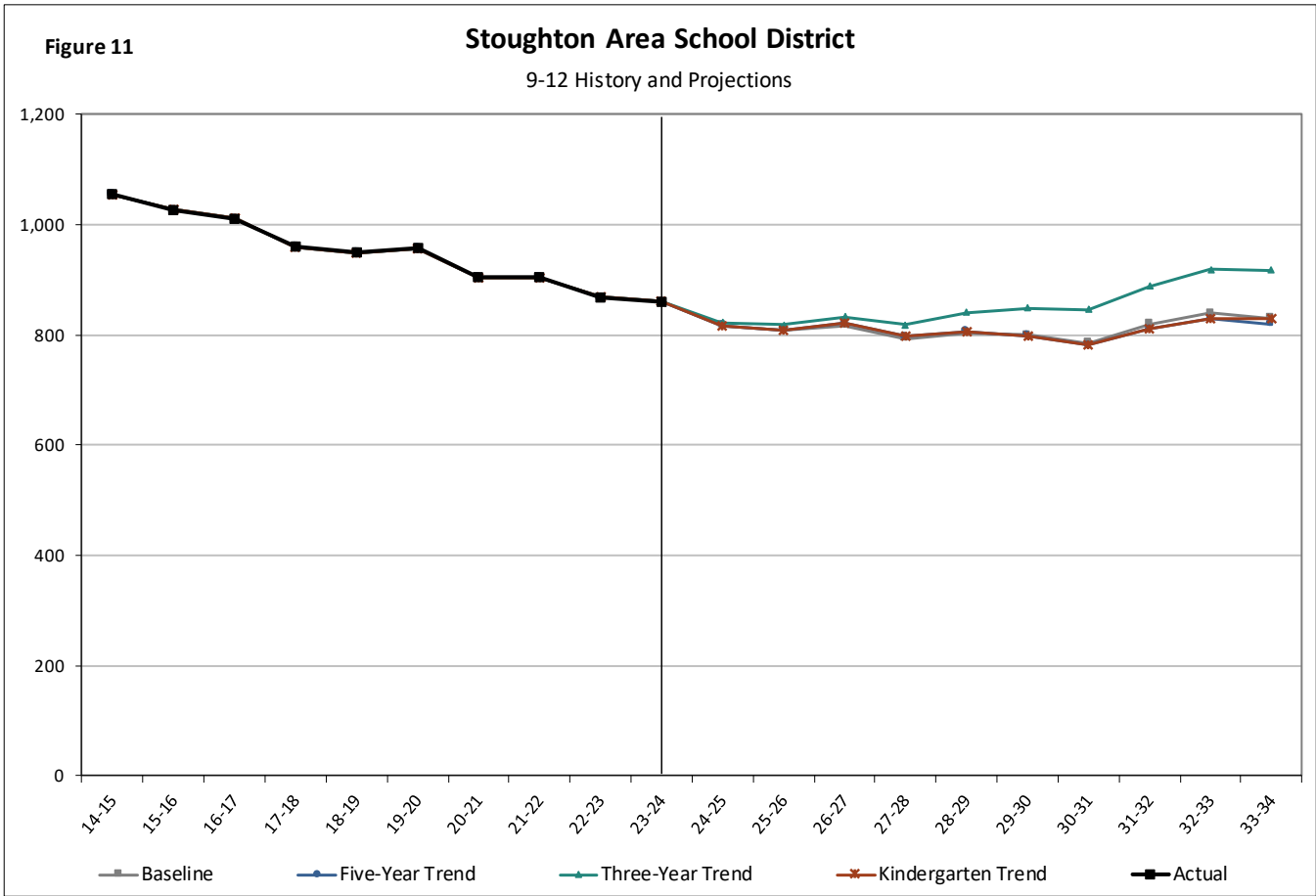


**TABLE 15**  
**Summary of 6-8 Projections**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
Baseline	584	562	559	562	598	601	602	581	571	565
Five-Year Trend	583	561	553	554	587	590	589	568	558	552
Three-Year Trend	591	581	586	595	636	646	653	635	627	620
Kindergarten Trend	583	561	553	554	587	590	600	585	590	598

6-8 enrollment in 2023/24 is 570. For the middle school grades, all models project enrollment increases next year followed by steady to slightly increasing enrollment in the near term. Grades 6-8 projections in five years (2028/29) project a range of enrollment from 587 to 636.





**TABLE 16**  
**Summary of 9-12 Projections**  
**Stoughton Area School District**

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
Baseline	817	809	817	793	805	800	785	820	840	831
Five-Year Trend	817	810	821	798	807	798	781	811	829	819
Three-Year Trend	823	819	833	819	841	849	846	889	919	918
Kindergarten Trend	817	810	821	798	807	798	781	811	829	831

From the 2023/24 enrollment of 861, high school projection models project slightly decreasing enrollment in the near term. The 9-12 projections five years from now (2028/29) project a range of enrollment from 805 to 841.



## Conclusion

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These district-level enrollment projections are based on models that incorporate past and current demographic information and the district's own enrollment. Because most of the students in the district's schools over the next few years have already been born or are already in school, and because their grade progression from one year to another is reasonably predictable, the total district-level projections should be viewed as dependable over the next few years.

After several years, and increasingly for the lower elementary grades, actual enrollment figures will likely deviate from these projections by ever-increasing amounts. The reason for this divergence is that birth trends and in-migration of pre-school age children are more difficult to predict. As with nearly all types of forecasts, accuracy in these enrollment projections decreases over time.

Over the last four years the district has experienced steady enrollment with growing kindergarten classes. District-wide student projections point to the Stoughton Area School District experiencing enrollment (seat count) change in the near term. In the next five years, the district might expect:

- District enrollment to increase by as much as 41 or decline by as much as 92 students, or a decrease averaging 1.2%.
- Elementary school enrollment to increase by as much as 48 students or decline by as much as 36 students, indicating a steady enrollment (0.1% decrease).
- Middle school enrollment to increase by 17 to 66 students or averaging a 5.6% growth.
- High school enrollment to lose from 20 to 56 students, or a decline of 5.4%.

Because the projections found in this report incorporate the consequences of migration to and from the district, any significant and sustained interruption of current or recent migration patterns will erode these models' accuracy from the initiation point of the new pattern. The district should continue to monitor enrollment change and compare it with these projections, to assess the district's trajectory of future growth and the best-fitting projections model.

