

Wheat Ridge Articulation Areas Enrollment Forecast 2025-2034

July 2025



**COLORADO
FUTURES CENTER**



Introduction

The Colorado Futures Center partnered with Jeffco Public Schools to provide student enrollment forecasts for the schools in the Wheat Ridge articulation area. The forecasts were prepared in the spring of 2024.

The forecasts reflect historical student enrollment through the academic year 2023-24, incorporating the October count for the academic year. The forecasts also take into account the underlying demographic and development patterns in the Wheat Ridge 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 Wheat Ridge area.



Births reversed their decline but unlikely to grow significantly over the forecast horizon

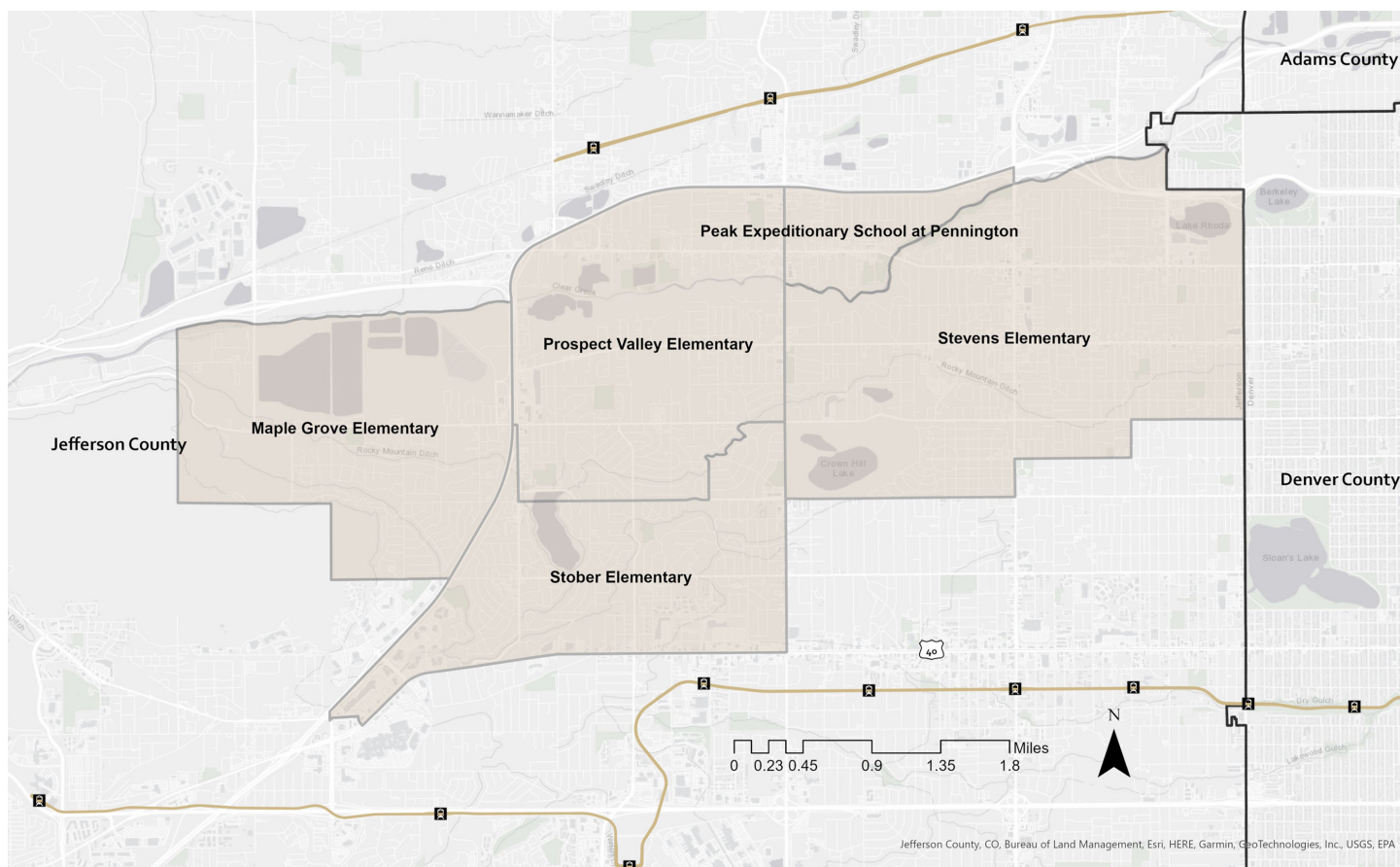


Aging households will turn over but likely to yield fewer school aged children than in the past



Under baseline economic assumptions, Wheat Ridge households with children starting school will continue to migrate to the west of the articulation area

Articulation area overview



The map above and table below show the elementary school boundaries and the associated schools included in the Wheat Ridge articulation area student enrollment forecast to the year 2034.

Wheat Ridge Articulation Area Schools

Kullerstrand Elementary School (in combination with Prospect Valley)
Maple Grove Elementary School
Peak Expeditionary School at Pennington
Stevens Elementary School (in combination with Wilmore-Davis Elementary School)
Stober Elementary School (in combination with New Classical Academy at Vivian)
Everitt Middle School
Wheat Ridge 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

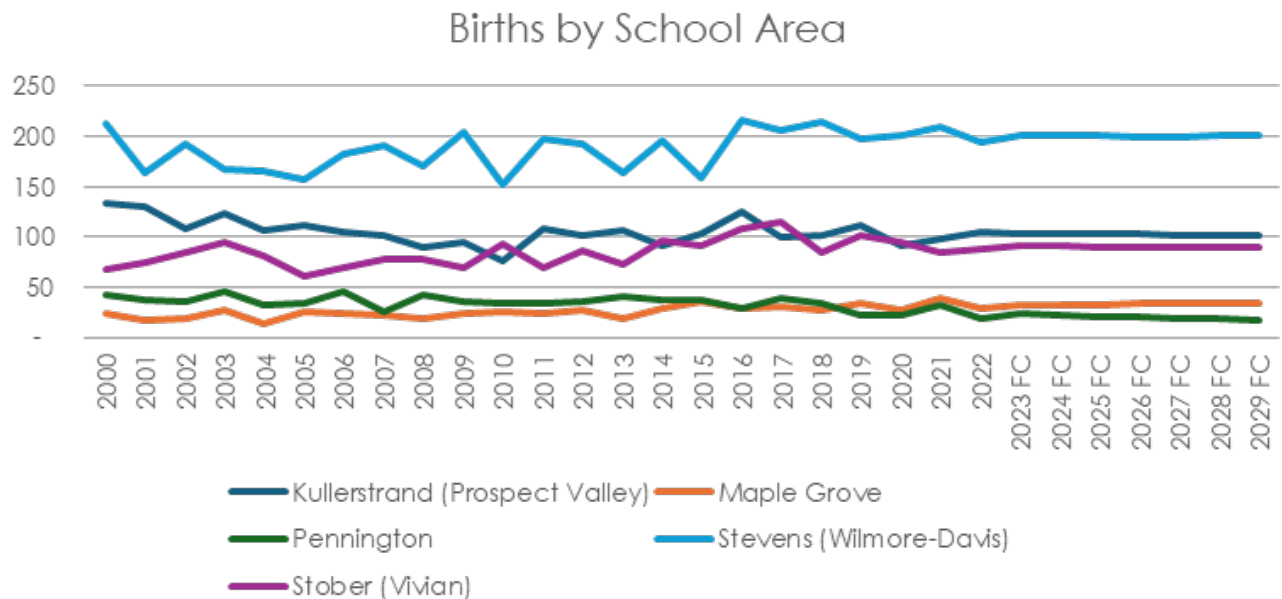
Women of child bearing years (20-44): American Community Survey

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

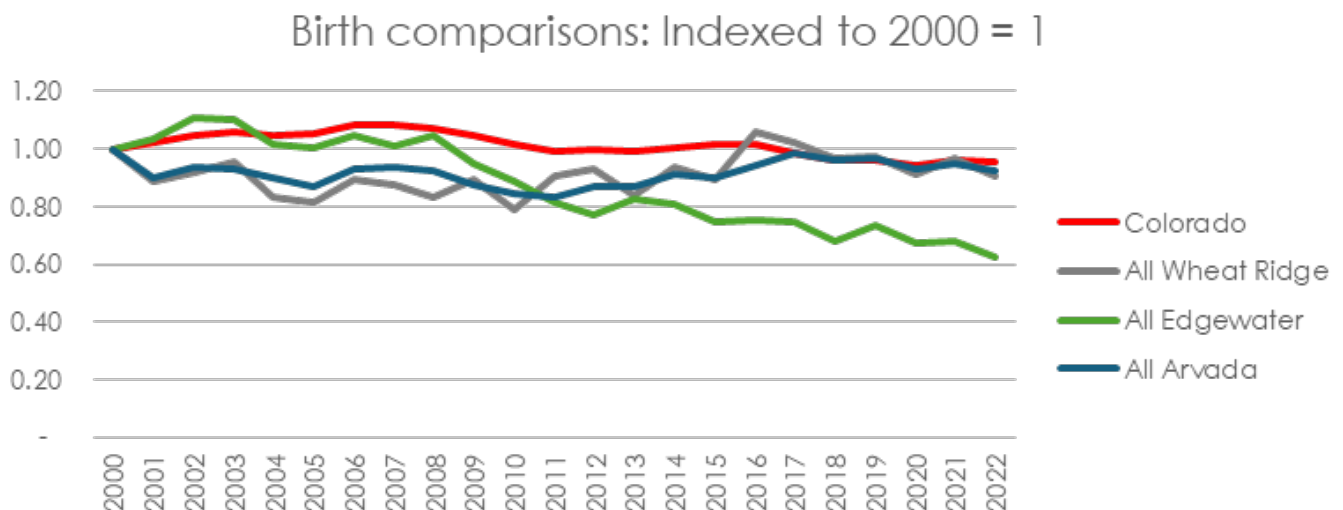
Single year of age: Colorado State Demography Office (SDO)

Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 1: Births in the Wheat Ridge elementary school boundaries have stabilized from their declines that began in early part of the 2000s. They are projected to remain largely stable over the forecast horizon.

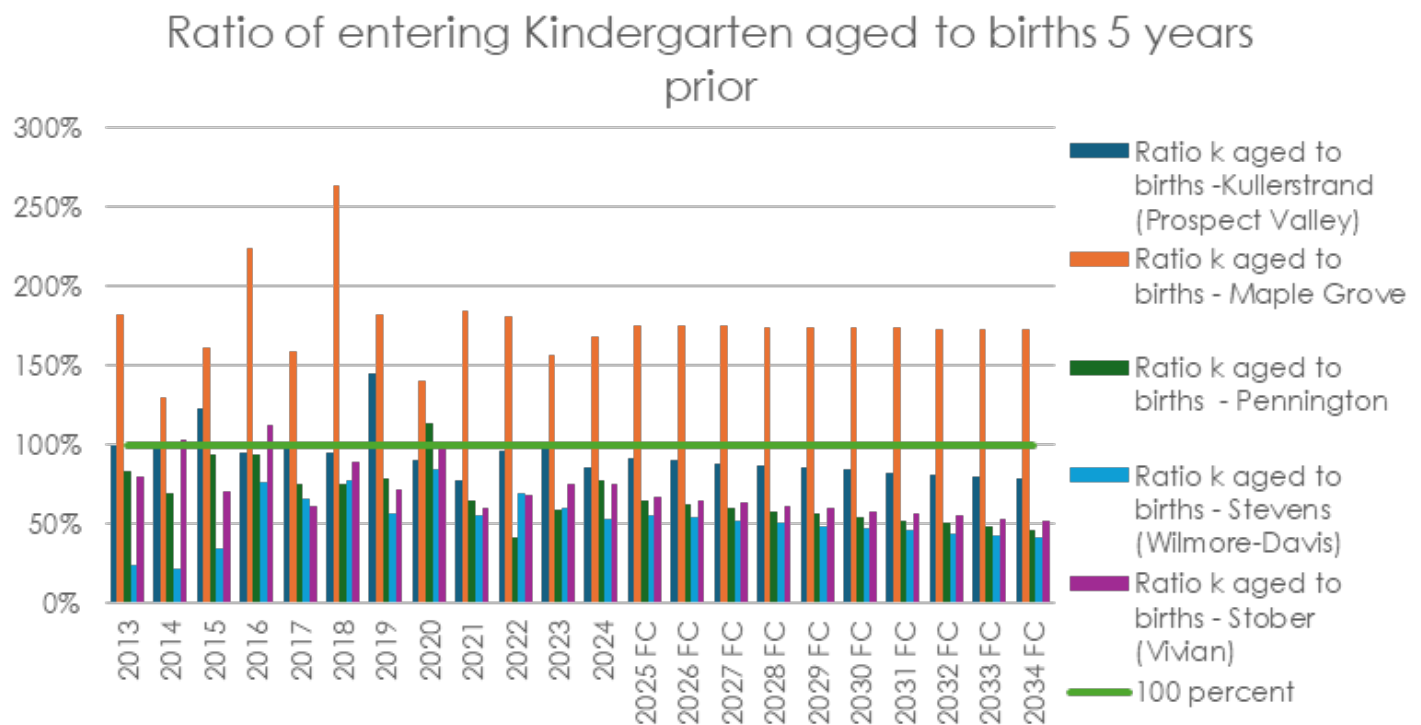


Trend 2: After lagging the state trend in total births for most of the early part of the 2000s, births in Wheat Ridge are returning to the statewide trend. The statewide trend, however, is at a lower level than it was in 2000.



Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 3: There is a pattern in Wheat Ridge of migration of households with early school aged children toward the western end of the articulation area. In most elementary school boundaries for 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. The exception to this pattern is the Maple Grove boundary for which the ratio is greater than 100 suggesting a migration to this school boundary once there are school aged children in the household. Under baseline economic assumptions, this pattern is expected to continue.



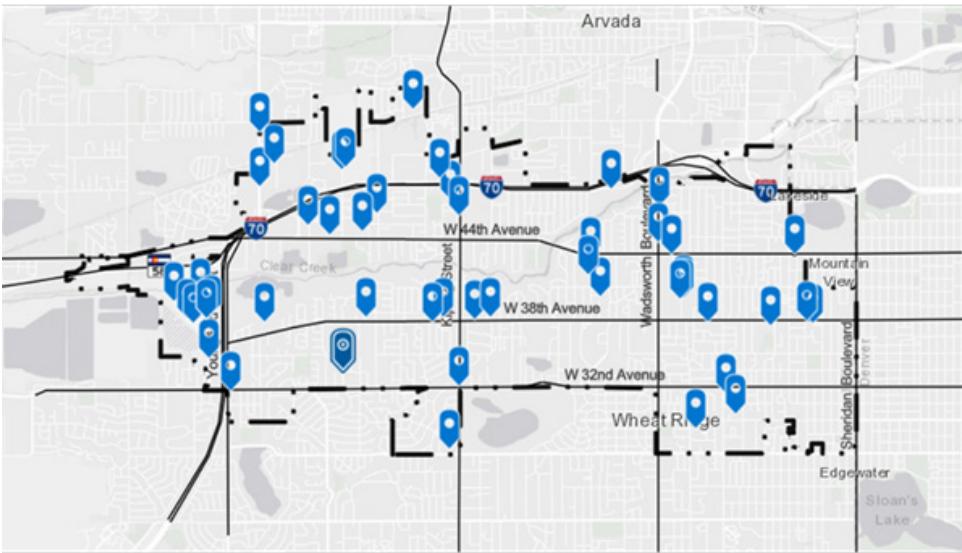
Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 4: As of 2022, voter records showed that approximately 38 percent of households in the Wheat Ridge articulation area were occupied by voters over the age of 65 (identified as “older voter households” in the table) without younger generation household members – there are not multi-generational households but rather households where the members are aging in place. The highest share – more than four in ten households – is in the Stevens Elementary School boundary. These homes are likely to turn over in the next ten years, but also likely to yield fewer school aged children per household than when those households contained school age children.

Elementary School	Older Voter HH	Housing Units	Older Voter HH Share of Total Units
Maple Grove Elementary	533	1,789	29.8%
Peak Expeditionary School at Pennington	304	958	31.7%
Prospect Valley Elementary	1,944	4,872	39.9%
Stevens Elementary	3,276	7,564	43.3%
Stober Elementary	1,541	4,657	33.1%

Trends affecting the forecast

Trend 5: As of 2024, there was development activity in Wheat Ridge. However, the large majority of the housing units in development are apartments and are unlikely to yield significant numbers of school aged children.



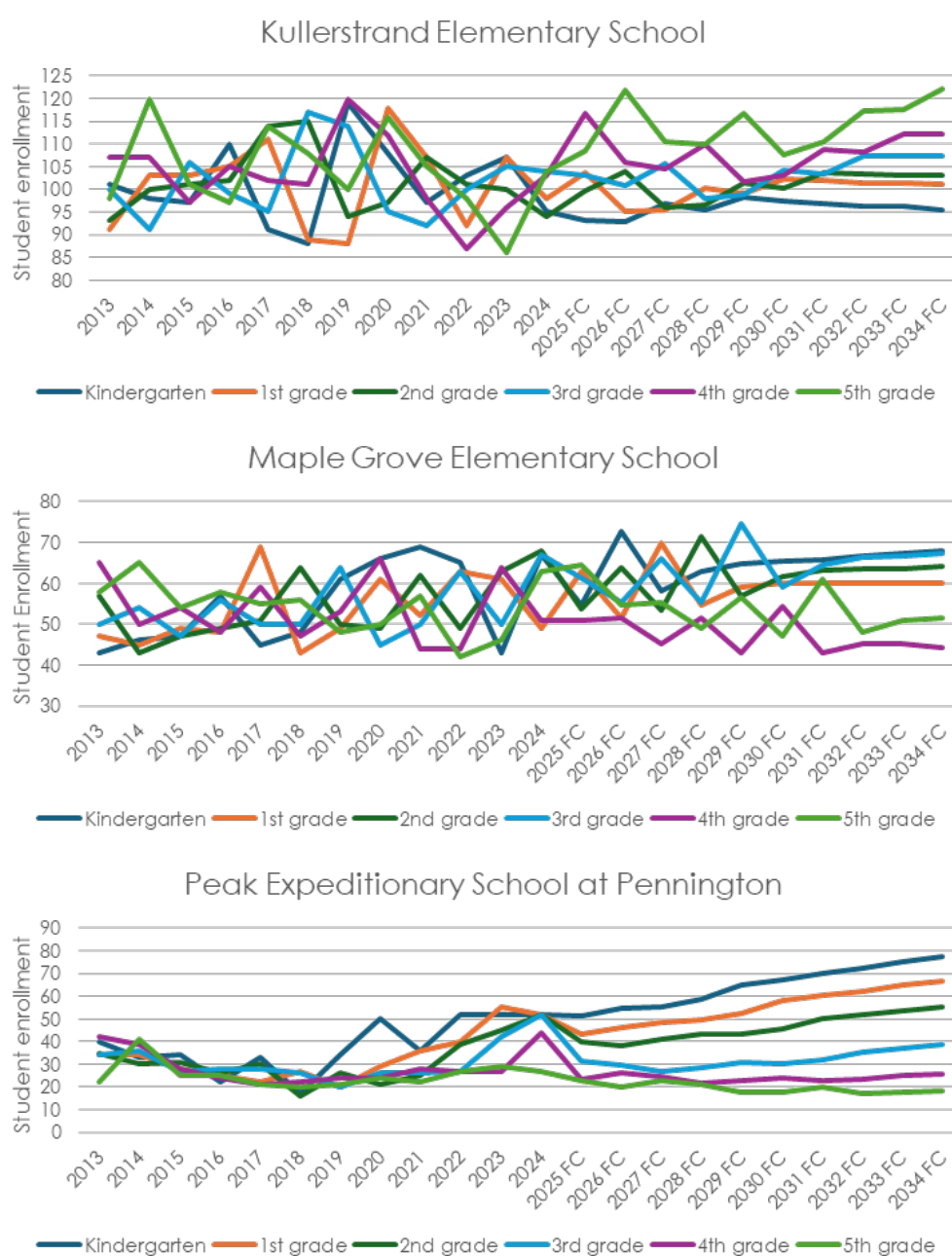
Wheat Ridge Housing Units Pipeline

Apartments: 1,154
Townhomes: 395
Single Family: 34
Total: 1,583

Forecasts by school and grade level

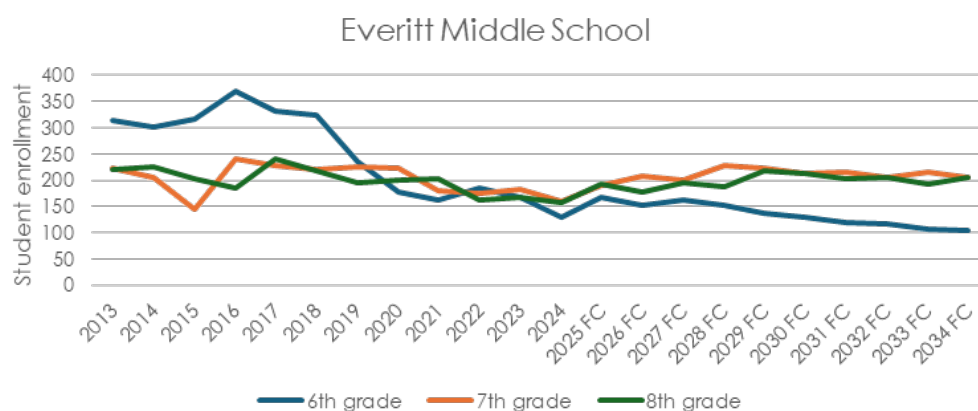
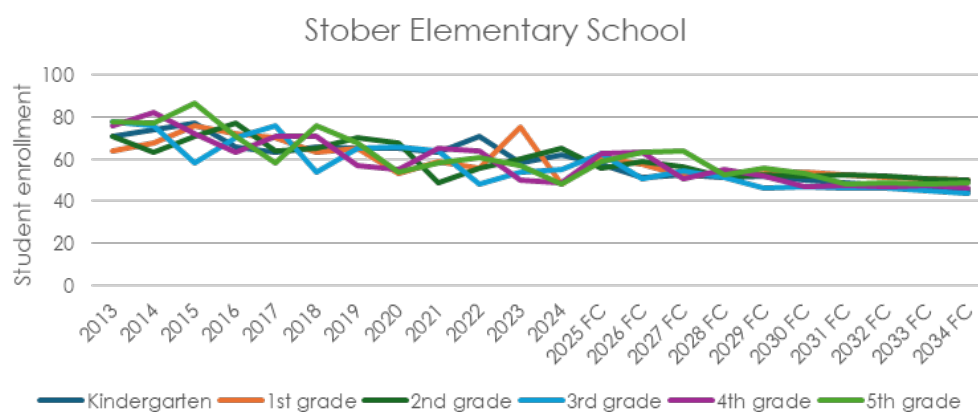
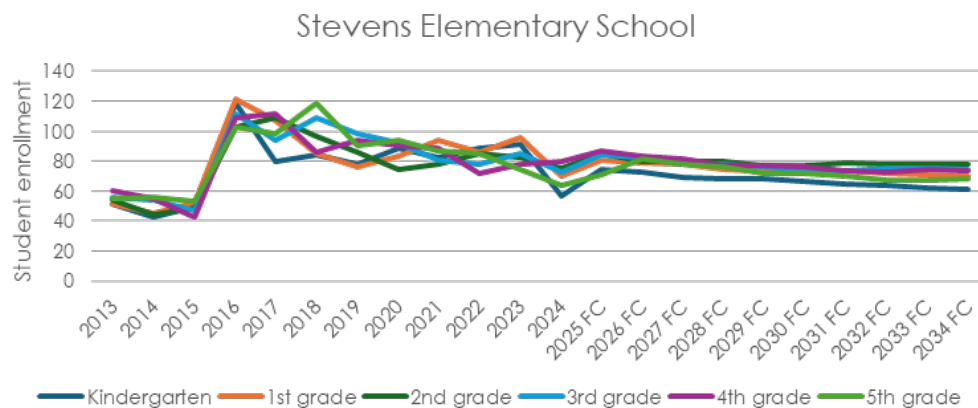
Wheat Ridge area schools

Wheat Ridge area schools have experienced a decline in student enrollment at the elementary school level since 2016. However, the declines have largely stabilized, and the outlook is for enrollment to stabilize over the forecast horizon – to 2034. Aging households will turn over and likely will house new school aged children at all grade levels as new residents move in. That turnover is helping to stabilize the forecast at the lower levels and will translate into more stable enrollment at the middle and high school levels as both those younger students age through and as residents with slightly older children move in.



Forecasts by school and grade level

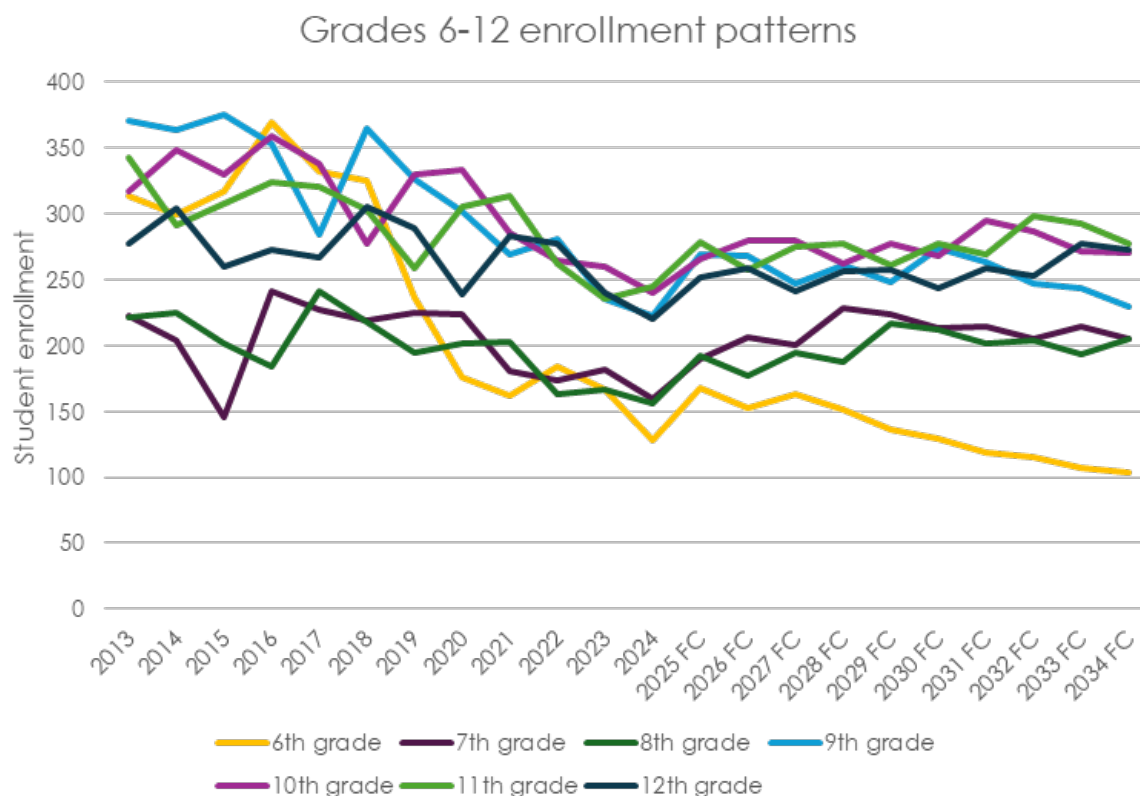
Wheat Ridge area schools



Forecasts by school and grade level

Wheat Ridge area schools

A note about sixth grade enrollment: The model identified an interesting dynamic in the 6th and 7th grade enrollment with 6th grade enrollment trending downward inconsistently with all other middle and high school grades.



There are multiple potential explanations for this disparity in the pattern of enrollment including:

- The option school impact of Manning/D'Evelyn
- Transfers into Everitt from other middle schools after 6th grade (Arvada K-8, Creighton)
- 6th grade currently has about 30 students less than 7th and 8th grades
- There are Jefferson/Alameda area entries at 7th grade
- There are only 7% of students that live in this area that attend charter school for middle school
- School specific policies – start/end hours – contributed to family decisions regarding 6th grade attendance. School officials expect some of the decline to reverse with changes to policy.

Forecasts by school and grade level

Wheat Ridge area schools

