

Education



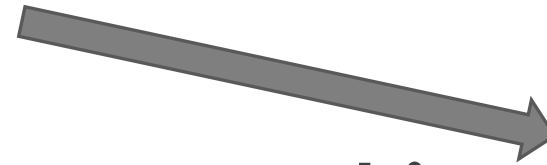
Enrollment Forecasts 2026-27 to 2035-36
March 19, 2026



Overarching Process



**Enrollment
Assessment**



**Demographic
Trends**



**Residential
Development**



**Enrollment
Forecasts**



Enrollment Forecasts Summary

Table 2: Bellingham School District Middle Scenario Enrollment Forecasts by Grade Group

School Year	TK-5	6-8	9-12	TK-12
2020-21 historical	4,943	2,564	3,582	11,089
2025-26 historical	4,723	2,467	3,650	10,840
5-year change	-220	-97	68	-249
2030-31 forecast	4,072	2,249	3,558	9,879
5-year change	-651	-218	-92	-961
2035-36 forecast	4,190	1,921	3,015	9,126
5-year change	118	-328	-543	-753

Sources

Bellingham School District 2020-21 and 2025-26 (October headcount) enrollment.
FLO Analytics 2030-31 and 2035-36 enrollment forecasts.

Demographic and Residential Development Analysis

Student Distribution

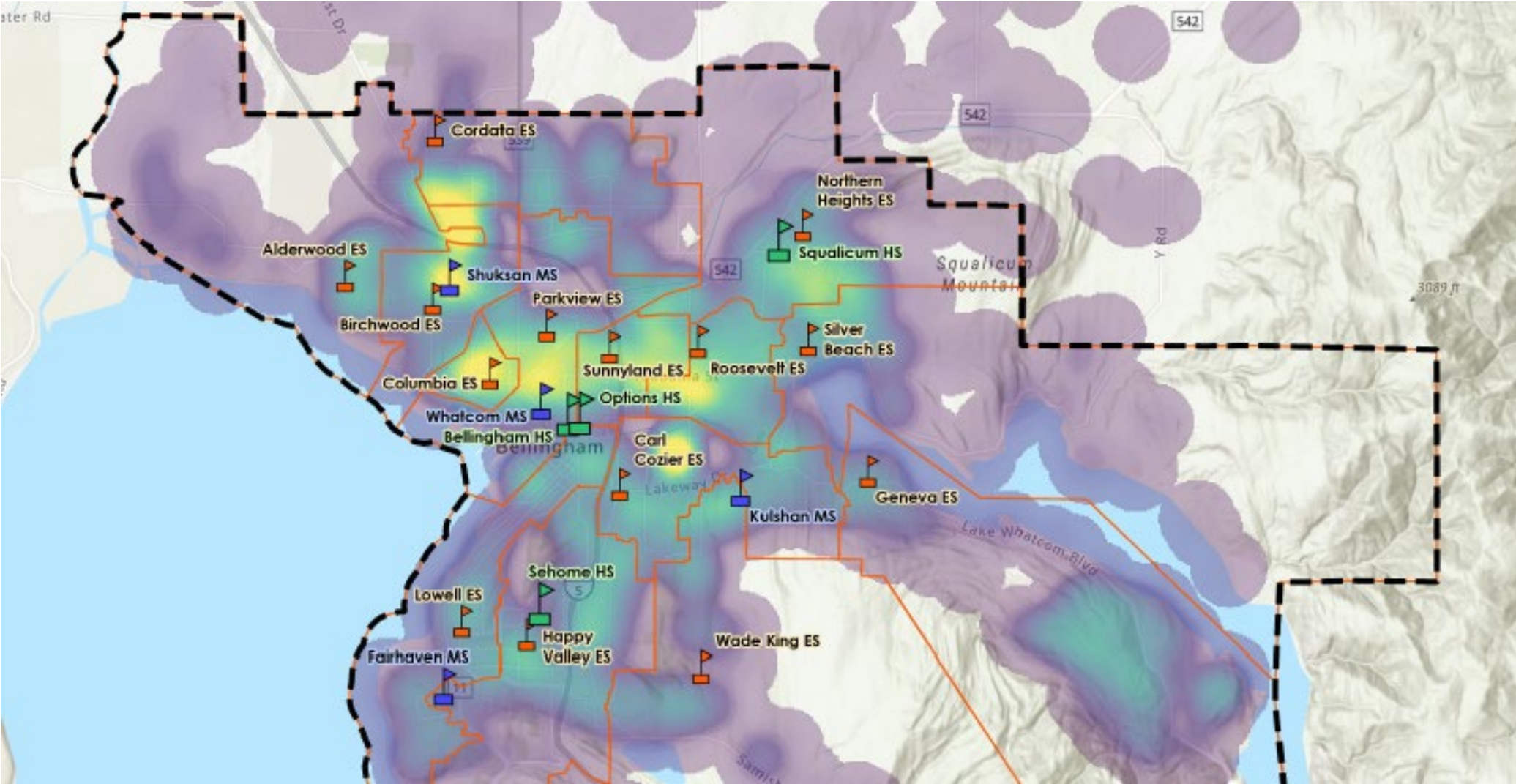


Table 4: District Population by Age Group 2000 to 2020

Age Group	2000	2010	2020	Average Annual Growth	
				2000–10	2010–20
Total Population	85,831	102,105	112,253	1.8%	1.0%
Age 18 and older	69,466	84,668	94,480	2.0%	1.1%
Ages 5 to 17	11,851	12,522	13,229	0.6%	0.6%
<u>Under age 5</u>	4,514	4,915	4,544	0.9%	-0.8%
Under 18 <u>share</u> of total	19.1%	17.1%	15.8%	—	—
<p>Sources U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census. 2001. “P12, Sex by Age,” <i>Summary File 1</i>. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. 2011. “P12, Sex by Age for Selected Age Categories,” <i>Summary File 1</i>. U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census. 2023. “P12, Sex by Age for Selected Age Categories,” <i>Demographic and Housing Characteristics</i>.</p>					

Table 5: County and School District Population Projections

Area/Scenario	2020	2030	2040	Average Annual Growth	
				2020-2030	2030-2040
Whatcom County Medium Series	226,847	254,158	280,275	1.1%	1.0%
Bellingham School District	112,253	125,024	137,714	1.1%	1.0%

Note

BSD Values for 2030 and 2040 derived from 2023-2045 annual growth rate in Technical Report.

Sources

State of Washington, Office of Financial Management, Growth Management Act County Projections, 2022.

Whatcom County, Population and Employment Projections, May 22, 2024.

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/85199/Whatcom-Population-and-Employment-Projections-Final-Report-May-22-2024>

Student Generation Rates, Bellingham School District K-12 Students per Housing Unit Built 2015-2024

Housing Type	K-5	6-8	9-12	K-12
All single-family ^(a)	0.156	0.077	0.108	0.342
All middle housing ^(b)	0.054	0.031	0.046	0.131
All multifamily ^(c)	0.036	0.016	0.019	0.071
Income-restricted multifamily	0.442	0.225	0.268	0.935
Market-rate multifamily	0.021	0.009	0.010	0.039

Note

(a) The single-family category includes the following single-family detached forms: SFR, SFR (attached), SFR with AADU, and DADU.

(b) The middle housing category includes the following housing types: AADU, COTTAGE (ITK), DUPLEX, DUPLEX (ITK), FIVEPLEX, FOURPLEX, GARDEN COURT (ITK), MIDDLE HOUSING, SFR or AADU, SHARED COURT (ITK), SIXPLEX, SMALL LOT (ITK), SMALL LOT (ITK) W/ AADU, TOWNHOUSE, TOWNHOUSE (ITK), TOWNHOUSE W/AADU (ITK), TRIPLEX, TRIPLEX (ITK).

(c) The multifamily category includes all structures with five or more housing units and structures with 3-4 housing units that are stacked.

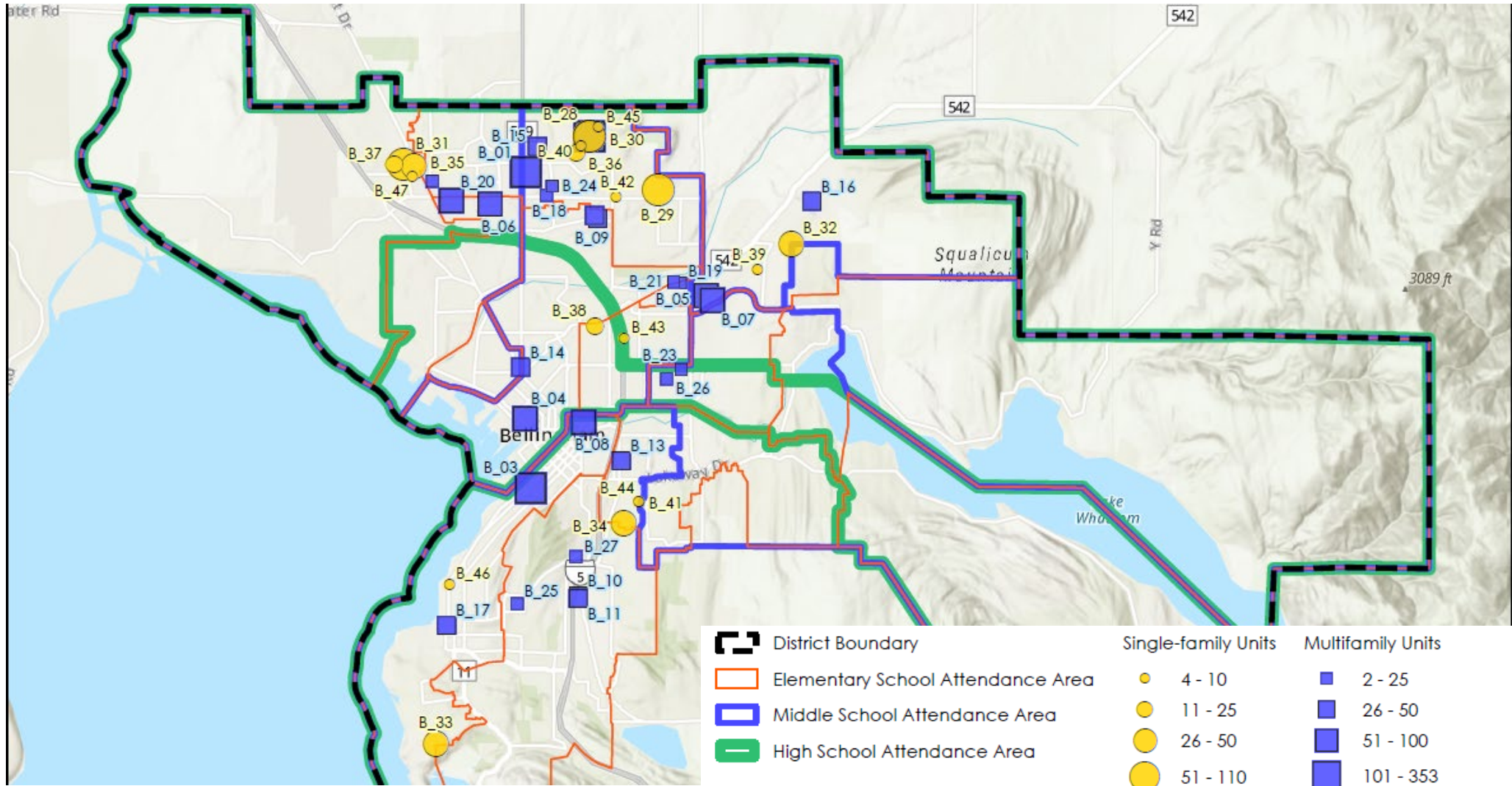
Mobile home parks are excluded from analysis.

Sources

Bellingham School District 2025-26 (October headcount) student locations.

Whatcom County Assessor parcel data.

Residential Development

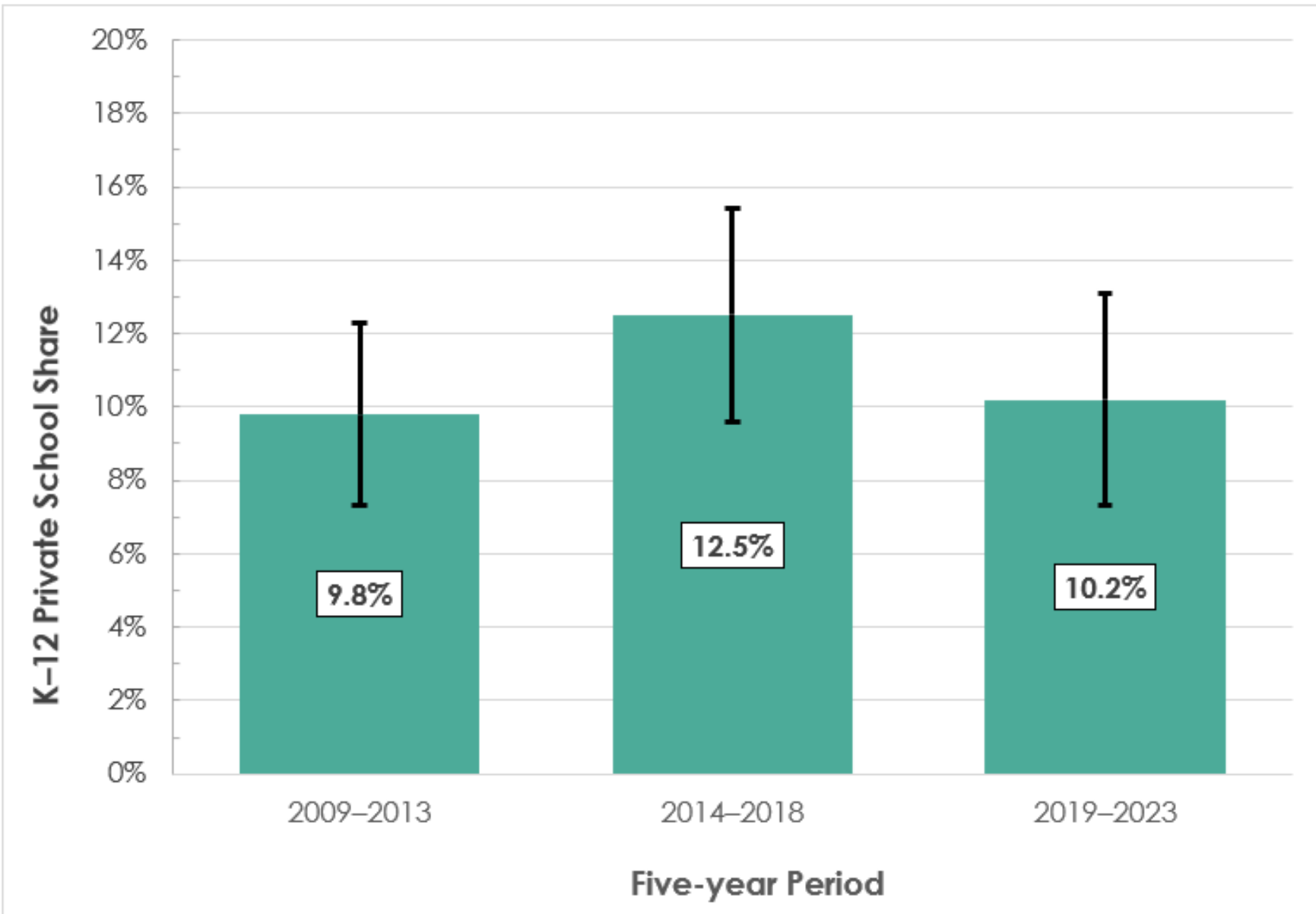


Enrollment Assessment

Historical Enrollment by Grade

Grade	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2019–20 to 2025–26
TK	–	–	–	253	251	234	219	-34
K	813	748	774	731	700	638	622	-191
1	911	786	815	829	766	742	663	-248
2	870	867	789	813	825	787	761	-109
3	875	839	860	787	810	864	798	-77
4	869	844	837	851	780	826	848	-21
5	909	859	824	828	841	772	812	-97
6	914	858	856	819	829	850	779	-135
7	801	902	856	839	813	828	859	58
8	918	804	879	835	846	831	829	-89
9	984	973	896	972	916	918	937	-47
10	907	972	959	885	981	938	930	23
11	908	805	930	888	781	912	873	-35
12	818	832	855	936	913	757	910	92
District-Wide Total	11,497	11,089	11,130	11,266	11,052	10,897	10,840	-657

BSD K-12 Private School Share, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Note

I-beam bars show margin of error at the 90 percent confidence level.

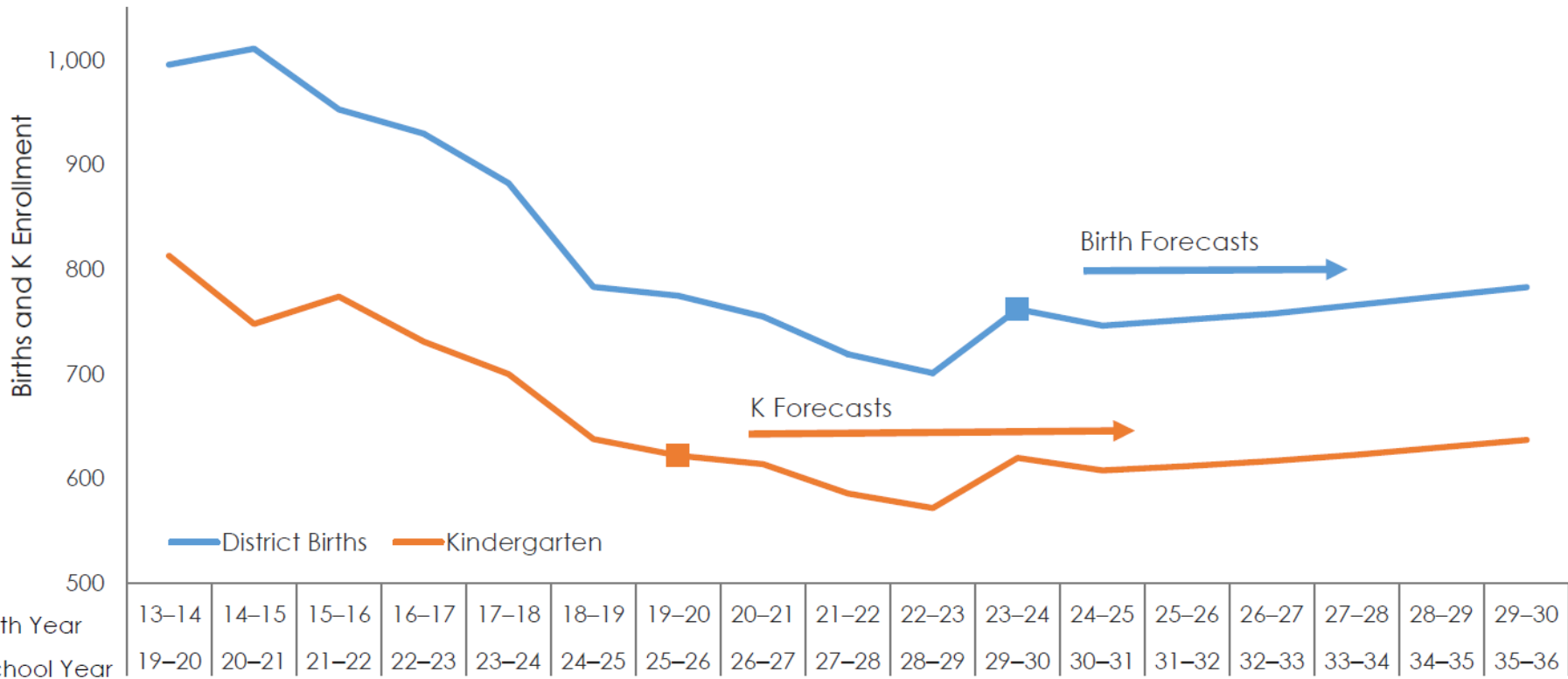


Enrollment Forecasts

District Births and Kindergarten Enrollment

Birth Year	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Forecasts					
Births	996	1,011	953	930	882	783	775	755	719	701	762	746	752	758	766	775	783

School Year	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	Forecasts									
Kindergarten	813	748	774	731	700	638	622	614	586	572	620	608	612	617	623	630	637
Ratio to Births	0.82	0.74	0.81	0.79	0.79	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81



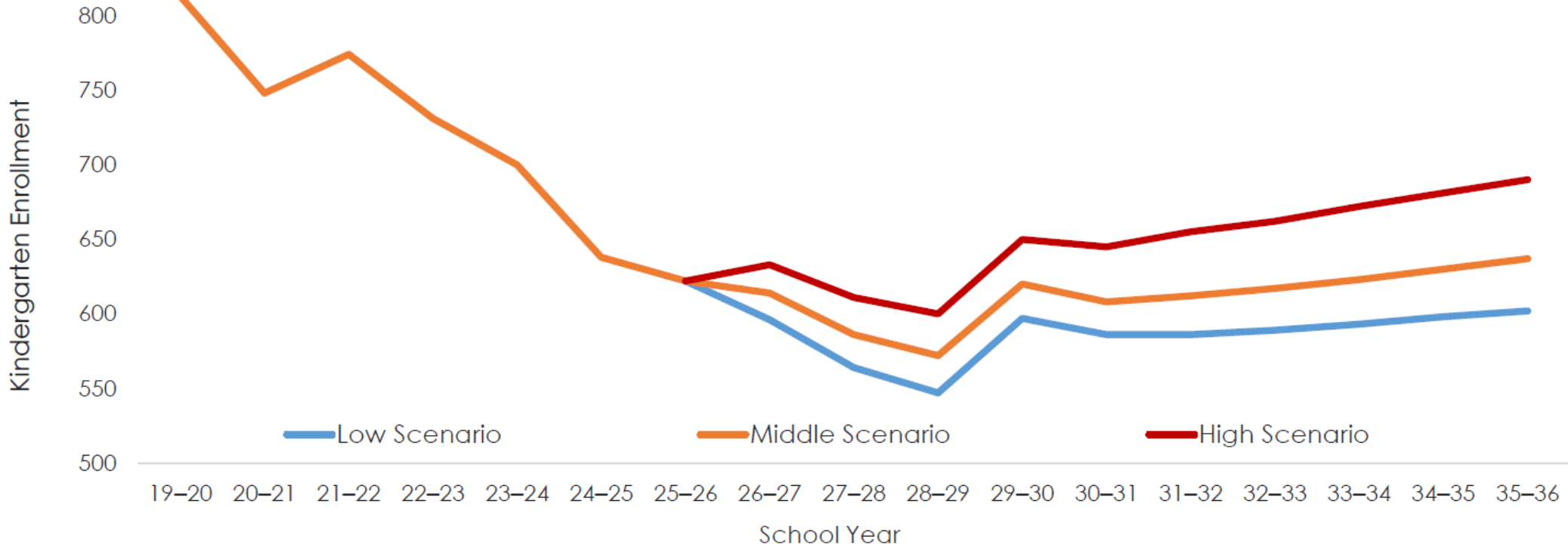
“Comparing 2025–26 K enrollment with 2019–20 births, FLO derived a K-to-birth ratio of 0.80, meaning that, for every 100 children born to district residents, there were 80 children enrolled in BSD K five years later.”

Notes
 Enrollment includes students residing outside of the district boundary. Birth cohorts are aligned with K cohorts (e.g., the 19–20 birth year includes births from September 2019 to August 2020, which is the 25–26 K year). The ratio is calculated by dividing K enrollment by the births five years earlier (e.g., 25–26 K divided by 19–20 births). Births from 2025 to 2030, which inform K classes beginning with the 30–31 school year, were forecasted based on projections of women of childbearing age and estimated age-specific birth rates. Darker shading represents higher values and lighter shading represents lower values.



Kindergarten Enrollment and Ratio to Births

Scenario	K Enrollment							Forecasts									
	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36
Low							622	596	564	547	597	586	586	589	593	598	602
Ratio to Births							0.80	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79
Middle	813	748	774	731	700	638	622	614	586	572	620	608	612	617	623	630	637
Ratio to Births	0.82	0.74	0.81	0.79	0.79	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81
High							622	633	611	600	650	645	655	662	672	681	690
Ratio to Births							0.80	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85



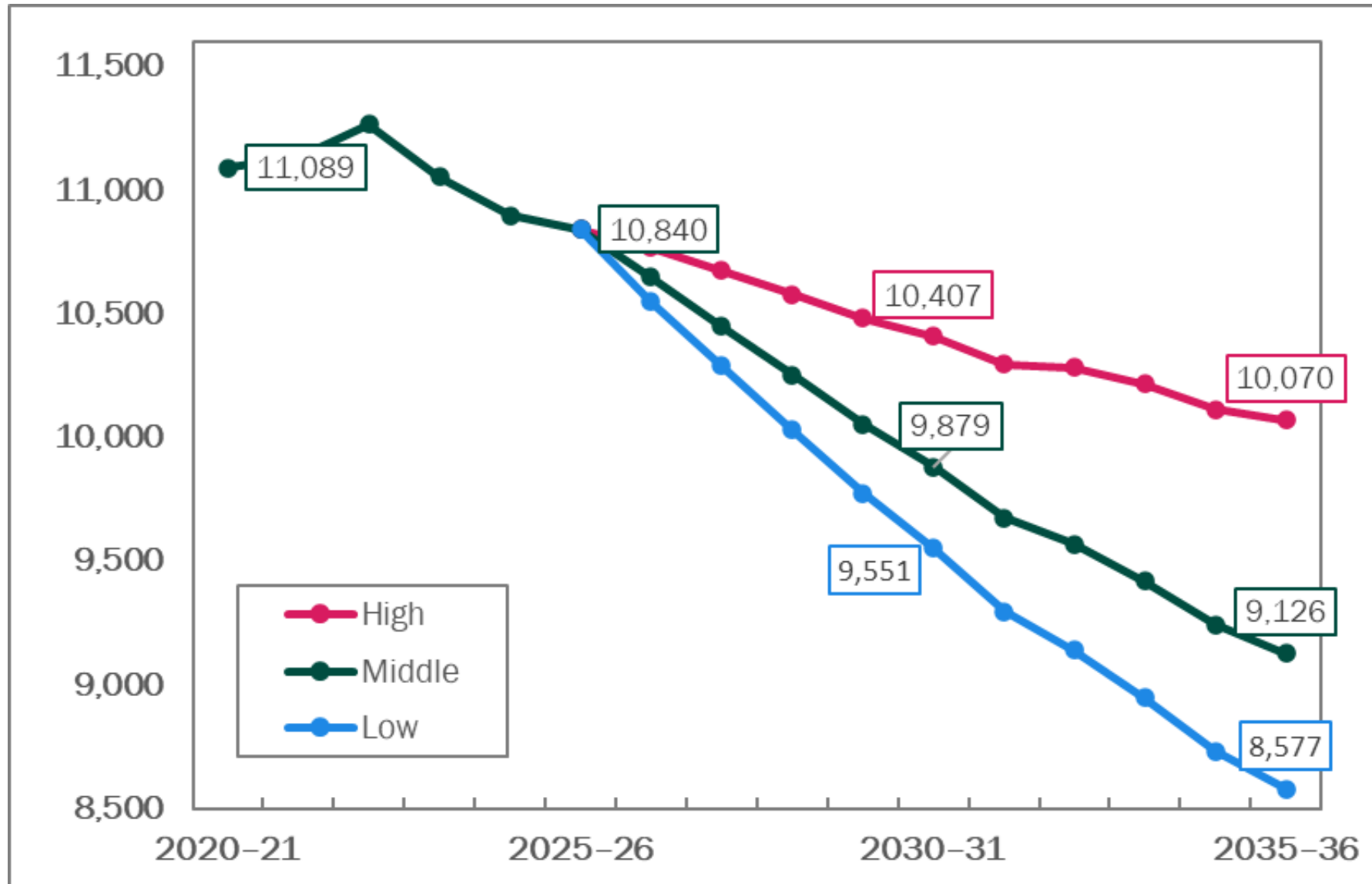
Grade Progression Ratios

Grade Progression Ratios	2020–21 to 2021–22	2021–22 to 2022–23	2022–23 to 2023–24	2023–24 to 2024–25	2024–25 to 2025–26	Forecast		
						2025–26 to 2026–27	2026–27 to 2027–28	2027–28 to 2035–36
K–1	1.09	1.07	1.05	1.06	1.04	1.05	1.05	1.05
1–2	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.03	1.03	1.01	1.01	1.01
2–3	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.05	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01
3–4	1.00	0.99	0.99	1.02	0.98	1.00	1.00	1.00
4–5	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.99
5–6	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01
6–7	1.00	0.98	0.99	1.00	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.00
7–8	0.97	0.98	1.01	1.02	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.01
8–9	1.11	1.11	1.10	1.09	1.13	1.10	1.09	1.09
9–10	0.99	0.99	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.02	1.02	1.01
10–11	0.96	0.93	0.88	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93
11–12	1.06	1.01	1.03	0.97	1.00	1.02	1.02	1.02

Sources

FLO Analytics analysis of Bellingham School District 2020–21 to 2025–26 (October headcount) enrollment and FLO 2026–27 to 2035–36 enrollment forecasts (middle scenario).

Districtwide K-12 Enrollment Forecasts: Low, Middle, and High Scenarios



Sources

Bellingham School District 2020-21 to 2025-26 (October headcount) enrollment.

FLO Analytics October 2026-27 to 2035-36 enrollment forecasts (low, middle, and high scenarios).

Figure 6: District-Wide Enrollment Forecasts by Grade Group: Middle Scenario

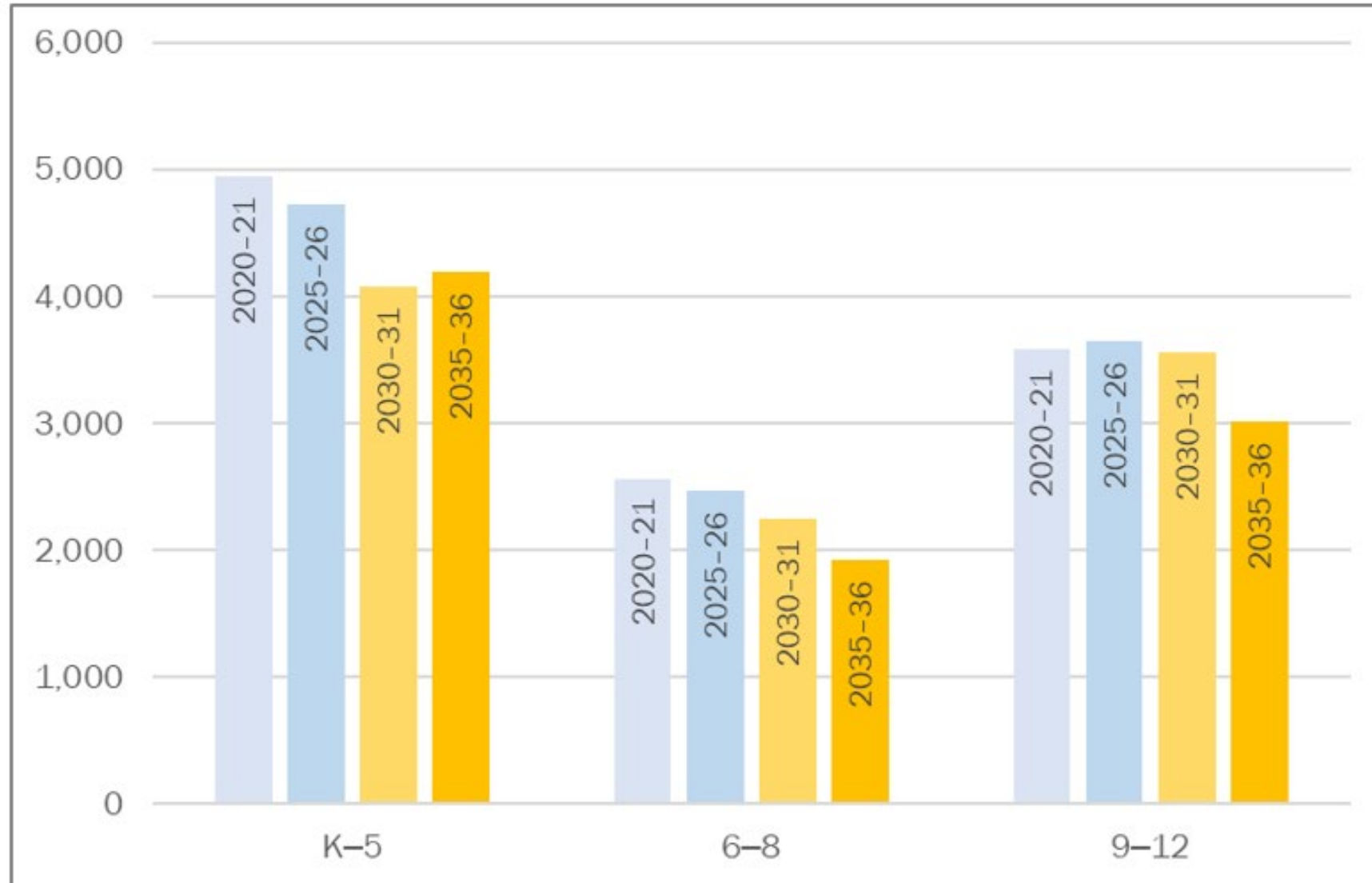


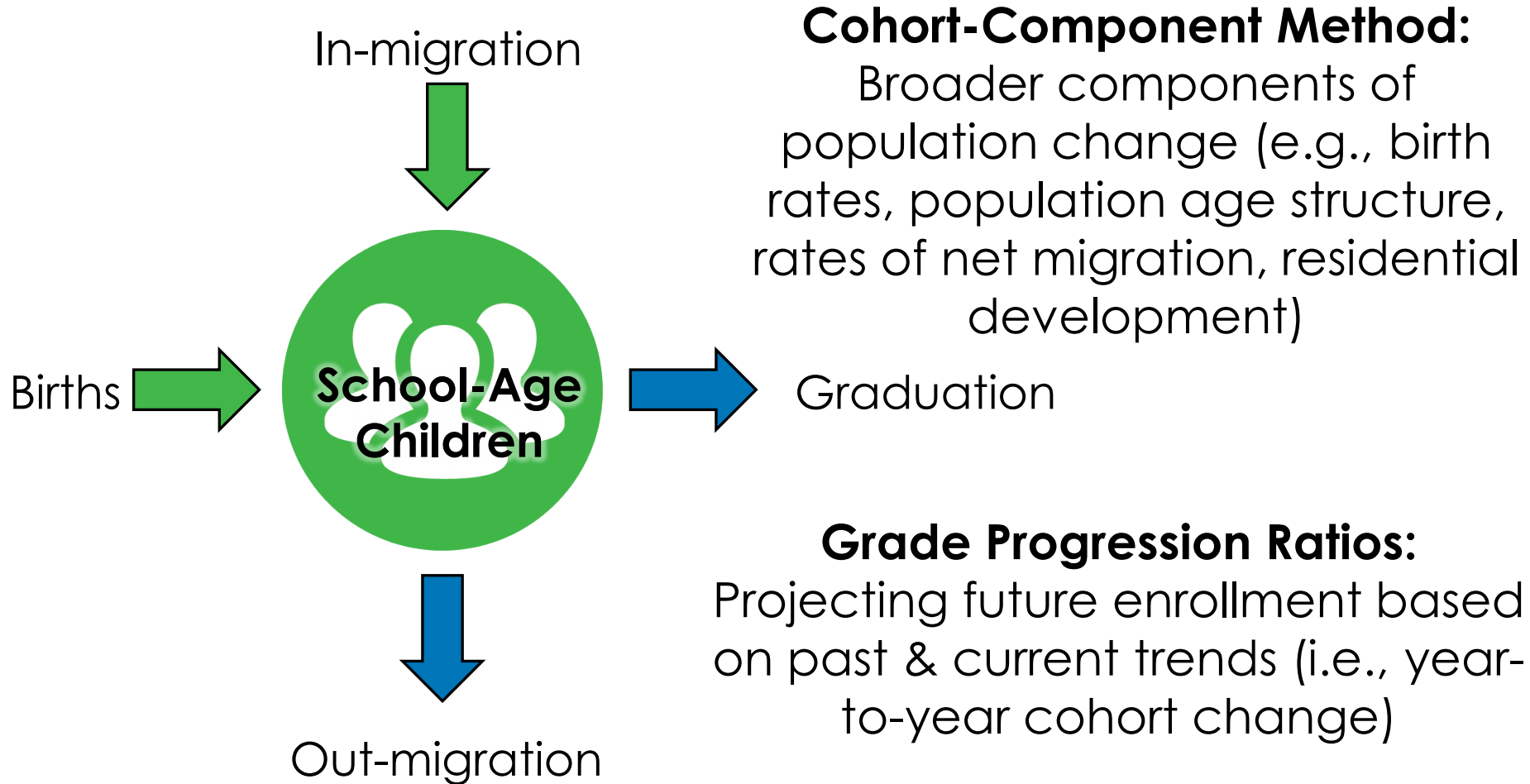
Figure 6: District-Wide Enrollment Forecasts by Grade Group: Middle Scenario...cont.

Grade Group	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2025-26	Forecast 2030-31	Forecast 2035-36
K-5	4,943	4,723	4,072	4,190
6-8	2,564	2,467	2,249	1,921
9-12	3,582	3,650	3,558	3,015
Total	11,089	10,840	9,879	9,126

Sources

Bellingham School District 2019-20 to 2025-26 (October headcount) enrollment.
FLO Analytics October 2030-31 and 2035-36 enrollment forecasts (middle scenario).

Methodology / Models



Residential Development

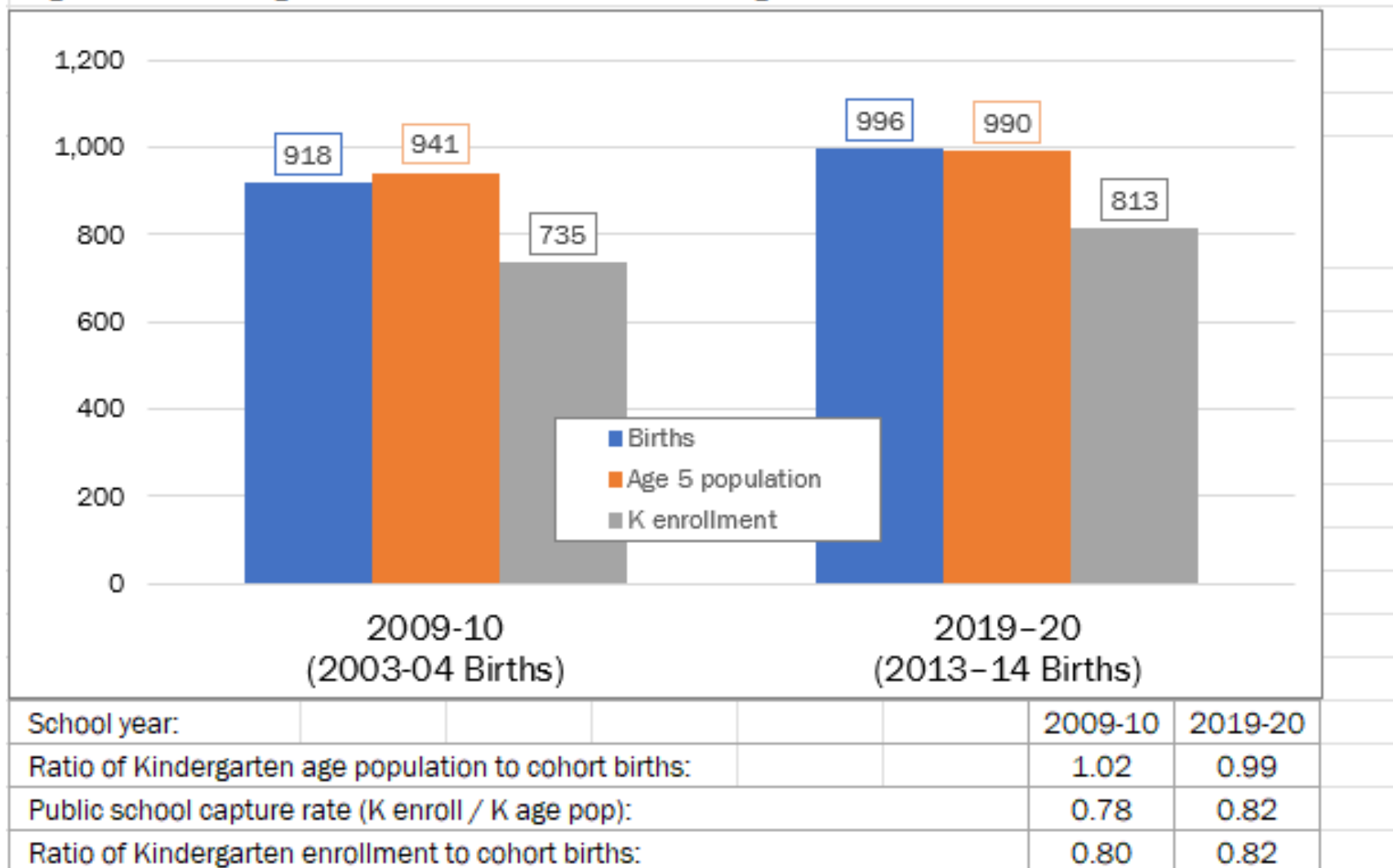
Map ID	Jurisdiction	Elementary School Attendance Area	Middle School Attendance Area	High School Attendance Area	Development Name	Type	Future Units	Notes
B_01	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	4200 Meridian SP (Bellingham Business Park)	MF	353	Short plat approved; studios; pre-app in 2020, no application yet.
B_02	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	King Mountain Phase 2	MF	131	Preliminary plat approved; 1 and 2BR units; market-rate.
B_03	City of Bellingham	Lowell ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	State Street Creamery	MF	111	Under construction; 33 studio, 54 1BR, 24 2BR.
B_04	City of Bellingham	Parkview ES	Whatcom MS	Bellingham HS	Old Town Heights	MF	84	Under construction; 11 studio, 63 1BR, 10 2BR.
B_05	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	3320 Manning St	MF	77	Permit under review; 10 studio, 54 1BR, 13 2BR.
B_06	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	2405 Rimland Dr	MF	65	Permit under review; 1 studio, 45 1BR, 19 2BR.
B_07	City of Bellingham	Birchwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Bellis Fair Family Housing	MF	65	Under construction; affordable housing units.
B_08	City of Bellingham	Lowell ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Kansas St	MF	60	Permit under review; 40 studio, 20 1BR.
B_09	City of Bellingham	Parkview ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Serena Apartments	MF	48	Permit under review; 16 studio, 15 1BR, 17 2BR.
B_10	City of Bellingham	Happy Valley ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Samish View Apts #1	MF	48	Permit under review; 38 studio, 6 1 BR, 4 2BR.
B_11	City of Bellingham	Happy Valley ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Samish View Apts #2	MF	48	Permit under review; 38 studio, 6 1 BR, 4 2BR.
B_12	City of Bellingham	Parkview ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Telegraph Townhomes	MF	38	Permit under review; affordable housing units.
B_13	City of Bellingham	Carl Cozier ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Lincoln St Studio Apts	MF	38	Permit under review; 38 studio.
B_14	City of Bellingham	Columbia ES	Shuksan MS	Bellingham HS	Rouvali Apartments	MF	36	Permit under review; 27 studio, 9 2BR.
B_15	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	TULL ROAD SHORT PLAT	MF	34	Permits issued/under construction.
B_16	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Unnamed Short Plat	MF	31	Plat approved; 16 townhouse units with 1 15 unit multifamily bldg.
B_17	City of Bellingham	Lowell ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Fairhaven Court West	MF	27	Permit under review; 24 1BR, 3 2BR.
B_18	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	City Apartments	MF	24	Permit under review; all 3BR units.
B_19	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	2000 Sunset	MF	20	Permit under review; 18 studio, 2 1BR.
B_20	City of Bellingham	Birchwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Unknown	MF	100	Pre-application; market-rate apartments.
B_21	City of Bellingham	Parkview ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Sunset Apartments	MF	19	Under construction; 11 1BR, 5 2BR, 3 3BR.
B_22	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Lina Flats	MF	14	Permit under review; all 1BR units.
B_23	City of Bellingham	Roosevelt ES	Kulshan MS	Bellingham HS	Verona Apartments	MF	14	Permit under review; 3 1BR, 4 2BR, 7 3RB.
B_24	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Prince Ave 2.0	MF	12	Permit under review.
B_25	City of Bellingham	Happy Valley ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Taylor Avenue	MF	11	permit under review; 7 2BR, 4 3BR.
B_26	City of Bellingham	Roosevelt ES	Kulshan MS	Bellingham HS	Texas Street Apts	MF	8	Under constructon; all 2 BR units.
B_27	City of Bellingham	Happy Valley ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Gateway Apts	MF	2	Permit under review; 2 1BR.
B_28	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	King Mountain Phase 2 (Income-restricted)	SF	110	Affordable housing units.
B_29	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Queen Mountain	SF	94	Preliminary plat approved.
B_30	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	King Mountain Phase 2	SF	90	Preliminary plat approved.
B_31	City of Bellingham	Alderwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Aurora Court Phase 3	SF	54	Plat approved; 2 and 3 BR townhomes (mainly 3).
B_32	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Squalicum Heights	SF	45	Preliminary plat approved.
B_33	City of Bellingham	Lowell ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	The Woods at Viewcrest	SF	38	Preliminary plat approved.
B_34	City of Bellingham	Carl Cozier ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Foxglove	SF	35	Under construction; 4 and 6 unit townhomes.
B_35	City of Bellingham	Alderwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Unknown (34 ITK Townhomes)	SF	34	Preliminary plat approved.
B_36	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Crossridge, Phase 2	SF	22	Permit under review.
B_37	City of Bellingham	Alderwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Cornerstone at Aurora Court	SF	19	Permit under review; land cleared.
B_38	City of Bellingham	Sunnyland ES	Whatcom MS	Bellingham HS	Sunset Commons	SF	41	Under construction; 23 SF, 6 duplexes, 6 ADUs.
B_39	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Barkley Heights Townhomes	SF	78	Preliminary plat approved; 24 SF, 40 townhomes, 14 ADUs.
B_40	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	KINGSWAY LONG PH 2	SF	10	Permits issued/under construction.
B_41	City of Bellingham	Carl Cozier ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Edward St SP#2662	SF	10	Under construction.
B_42	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Park Slope	SF	10	Permit under review.
B_43	City of Bellingham	Sunnyland ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	E Maryland St	SF	8	Permit under review; 4-unit buildings.
B_44	City of Bellingham	Carl Cozier ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Puget Living	SF	8	Permit under review.
B_45	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Unknown	SF	5	Permits issued/under construction.
B_46	City of Bellingham	Lowell ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	The Residence at Fairhaven	SF	5	Permit under review.



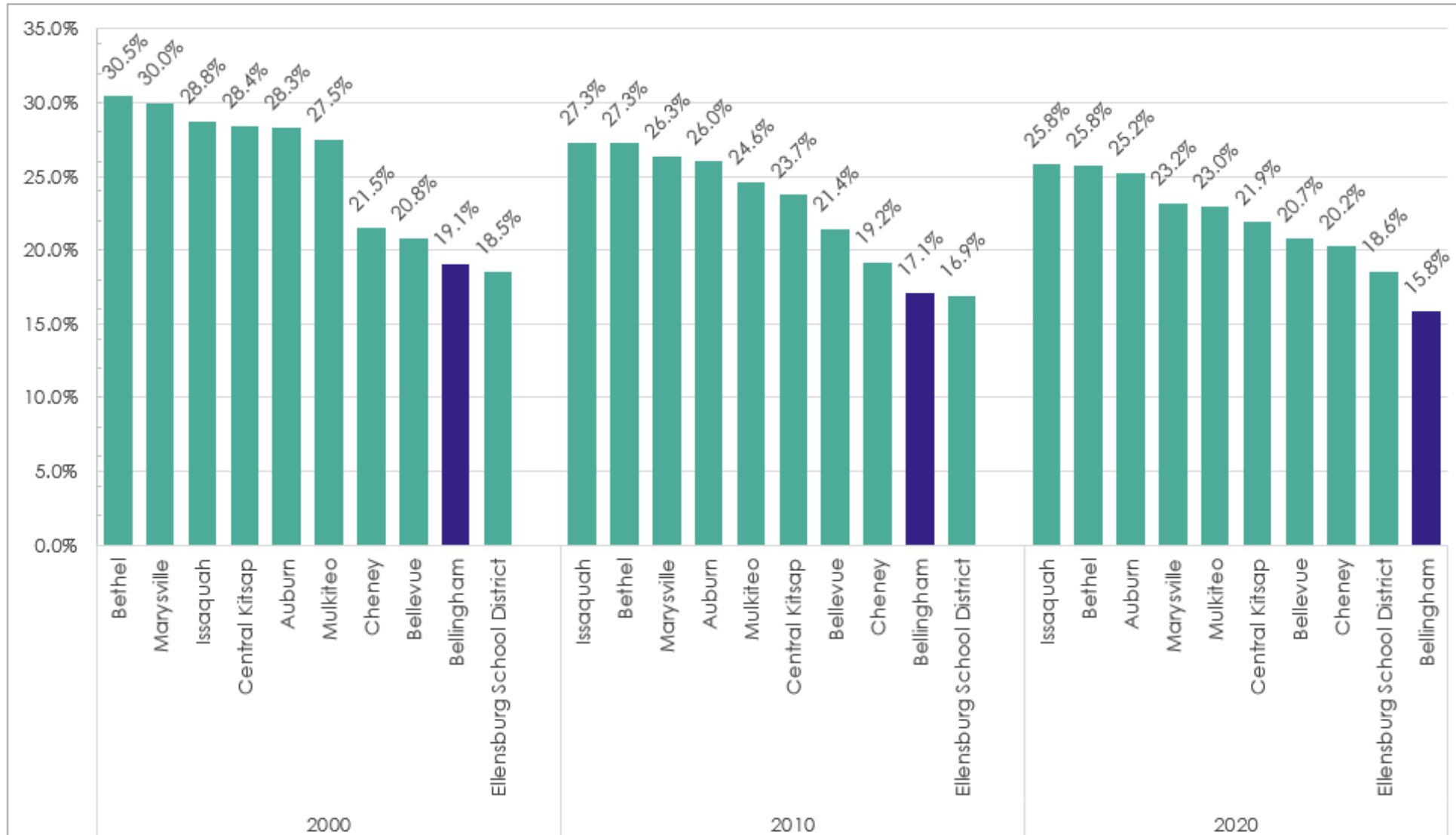
Residential Development

Map ID	Jurisdiction	Elementary School Attendance Area	Middle School Attendance Area	High School Attendance Area	Development Name	Type	Future Units	Notes
B_47	City of Bellingham	Alderwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	1239 Mahogany Ave	SF	4	Permit under review; 3 BR units.
B_48	City of Bellingham	Parkview ES	Whatcom MS	Bellingham HS	110 W Laurel St	MF	109	Income Restricted workforce units (50%/50% 1 and 2 bed units).
	City of Bellingham	Alderwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Various Undefined	SF	52	Small projects (4 SF, 40 townhomes, 8 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Birchwood ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Various Undefined	SF	55	Small projects (15 SF, 12 townhomes, 28 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Carl Cozier ES	Kulshan/Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Various Undefined	SF	109	Small projects (18 SF, 79 townhomes, 12 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Columbia ES	Shuksan MS	Bellingham HS	Various Undefined	SF	16	Small projects (5 SF, 11 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Cordata ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum HS	Various Undefined	SF	89	Small projects (13 SF, 72 townhomes, 4 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Happy Valley ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Various Undefined	SF	104	Small projects (31 SF, 12 townhomes, 61 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Lowell ES	Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Various Undefined	SF	115	Small projects (28 SF, 35 townhomes, 52 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Northern Heights ES	Shuksan MS	Squalicum HS	Various Undefined	SF	52	Small projects (25 SF, 13 townhomes, 14 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Parkview ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum/Bellingham HS	Various Undefined	SF	95	Small projects (20 SF, 29 townhomes, 46 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Roosevelt ES	Kulshan MS	Squalicum/Bellingham HS	Various Undefined	SF	64	Small projects (26 SF, 10 townhomes, 28 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Silver Beach ES	Kulshan MS	Squalicum/Bellingham HS	Various Undefined	SF	12	Small projects (7 SF, 5 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Sunnyland ES	Whatcom MS	Squalicum/Bellingham HS	Various Undefined	SF	62	Small projects (5 SF, 28 townhomes, 29 ADUs; in various stages).
	City of Bellingham	Wade King ES	Kulshan/Fairhaven MS	Sehome HS	Various Undefined	SF	24	Small projects (19 SF, 1 townhome, 4 ADUs; in various stages).
Total SF						SF	1,569	
Total MF						MF	1,627	
Total Units							3,196	

Figure 4. Bellingham School District Kindergarten Enrollment and Birth Cohorts



School District Percent of Population Under Age 18: 2000 to 2020



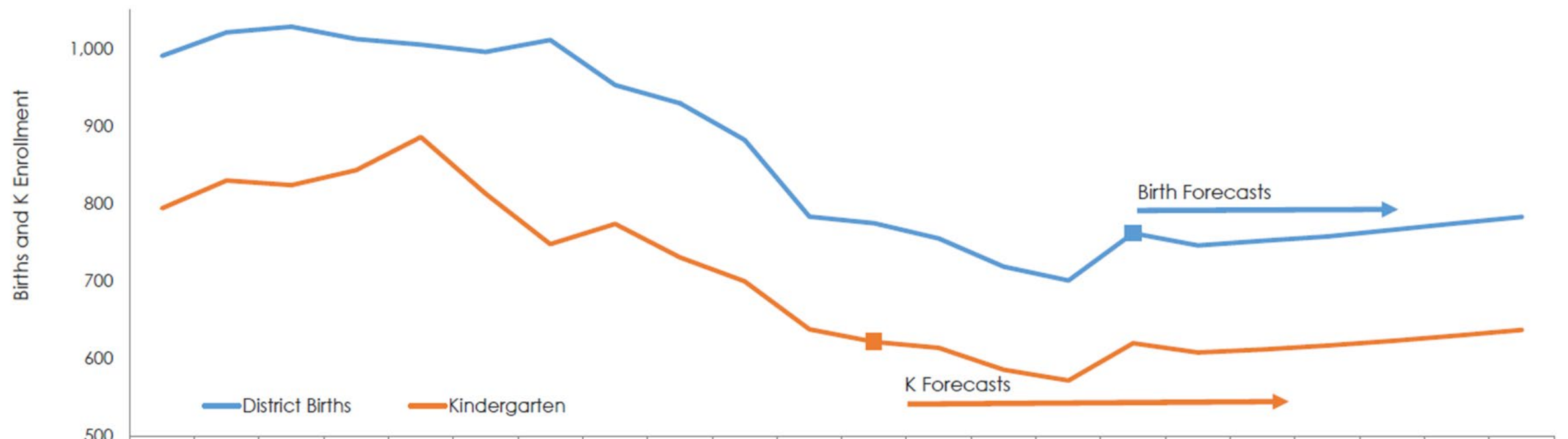
Sources

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Censuses.

District Births and Kindergarten Enrollment (Extended Historical Detail)

Birth Year	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Forecasts					
Births	991	1,021	1,028	1,013	1,005	996	1,011	953	930	882	783	775	755	719	701	762	746	752	758	766	775	783

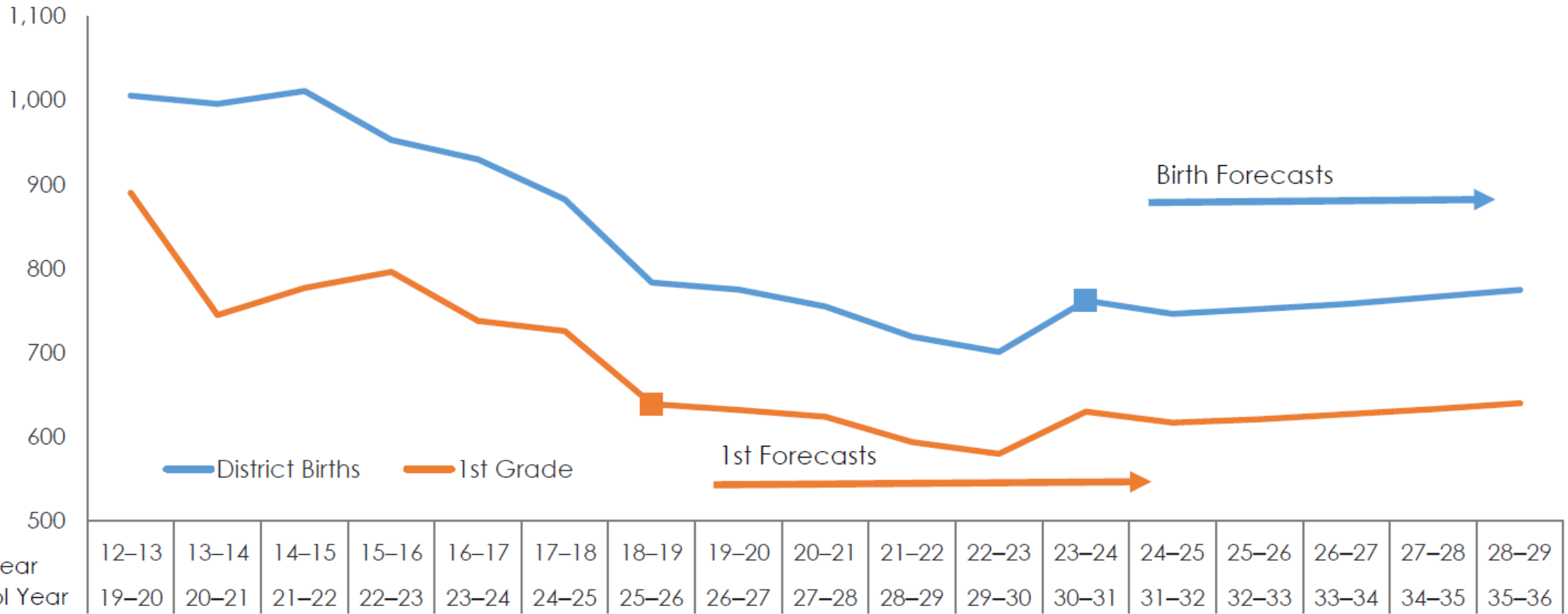
School Year	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	Forecasts									
Kindergarten	794	830	824	843	886	813	748	774	731	700	638	622	614	586	572	620	608	612	617	623	630	637
Ratio to Births	0.80	0.81	0.80	0.83	0.88	0.82	0.74	0.81	0.79	0.79	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81



Birth Year	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
School Year	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36

District Births and 1st Grade Enrollment

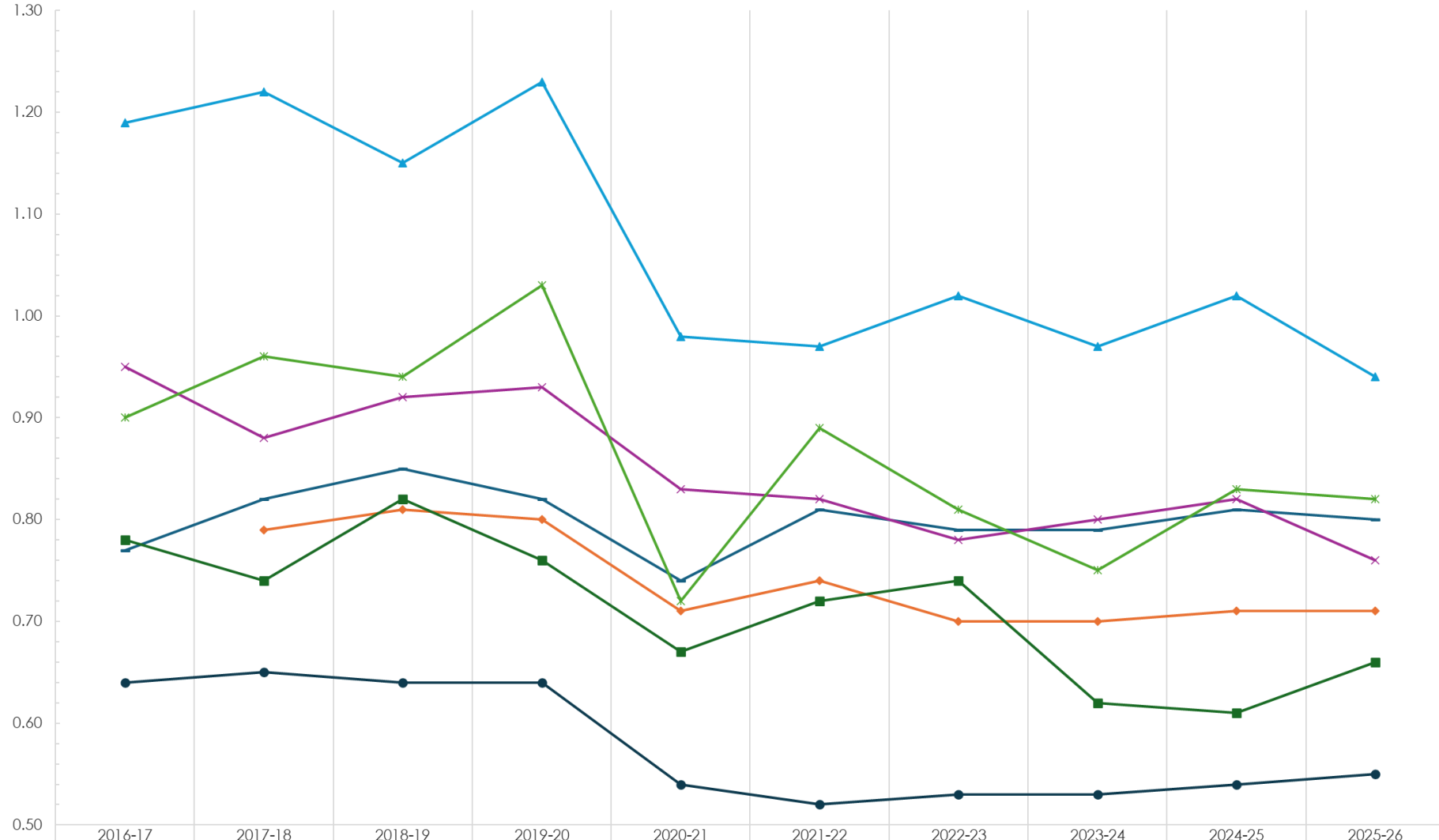
Birth Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
Births	1,005	996	1,011	953	930	882	783	775	755	719	701	762	746	752	758	766	775
School Year	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	Forecasts →									
1st Grade	890	745	777	796	738	726	639	632	624	594	580	630	617	621	627	633	640
Ratio to Births *	0.89	0.75	0.77	0.84	0.79	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83



Births and Kindergarten Enrollment - Comparators

Sum of Ratio

K-TO-BIRTH RATIO



- District
- Bellingham School District
 - School District 1
 - School District 2
 - School District 3
 - School District 4
 - School District 5
 - School District 6

District	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Bellingham School District	0.77	0.82	0.85	0.82	0.74	0.81	0.79	0.79	0.81	0.80
School District 1		0.79	0.81	0.80	0.71	0.74	0.70	0.70	0.71	0.71
School District 2	0.78	0.74	0.82	0.76	0.67	0.72	0.74	0.62	0.61	0.66
School District 3	1.19	1.22	1.15	1.23	0.98	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.02	0.94
School District 4	0.95	0.88	0.92	0.93	0.83	0.82	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.76
School District 5	0.90	0.96	0.94	1.03	0.72	0.89	0.81	0.75	0.83	0.82
School District 6	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.64	0.54	0.52	0.53	0.53	0.54	0.55

School Year