Bellingham School District

Enrollment Trends and Projections

Prepared by

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Table of Contents

Introduction ……..... 3
Enrollment Trends …….. 11
Birth Trends …… 17
Population Trends…… 24
Housing Trends…… 34
Alternative Forecasts……... 41
Main Forecasts…… 46
School Forecasts…….. 58

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

Enrollment in the Bellingham School District has been rising steadily over the past two decades. Between October 2014 and October 2019 the District saw a net gain of 640 students, due to rapid housing growth and continued population gains within the District boundary area. The District's growth is consistent with the overall population and housing gains that we have seen in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County over the past six years. So what does the future look like?

The present report provides an updated forecast of the Bellingham School District's enrollment from 2020 to 2040. The last forecast, completed in 2017, predicted that the District would continue to see enrollment gains over the next two decades. The present forecast shows a similar trend, although the growth that is predicted in the present forecast is lower than the forecast from 2017. This difference is due to a change in birth trends. Women in Whatcom County, in King County, and even nationally, are having fewer children. This change in fertility rates has an impact on the projected growth of school age children in Whatcom County and the Bellingham School District.

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

Before we get too far, however, we must deal with the elephant in the room: Covid-19. There is no recent precedent for the pandemic that has struck the world in 2020. It is likely that it will have an impact on this year's enrollment in Bellingham and elsewhere. Assuming we have a vaccine or greater immunity at some point in the near future, we will likely see a return to more typical educational practices. But we cannot be certain about the long term impact of the virus on schools, colleges, universities, the economy, or our work life.

It is possible that the Seattle region and Washington State generally we see a longer term fallout from the virus, with higher unemployment and less population growth in the coming years. It is possible that more people working from home will result in people making different choices about where to live and how they work. It is possible that more parents will home-school their children or create home or private school options that can serve a community of students. It is possible that colleges and universities will have to downsize as the economic fall-out from the virus highlights the high cost of college in comparison to various online options. It is also possible that the City of Bellingham will become a more attractive option for parents with children who can escape the Puget Sound region while still working from home for various companies both in and out of State. I have mentioned only a few of the scenarios that are possible, but they make clear the uncertainty we face.

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

Since we do not know what the full effects of the virus will be on society or school enrollment at this time, we cannot take account of it when predicting future enrollment. As the 2020-2021 school year progresses we may develop a better sense of both the short and long term effects. For now we have assumed that the virus will drive enrollment lower than expected this fall and perhaps will have some lingering effects into the 2021-2022 school year. Beyond that time frame we are assuming that things will return to normal. There may be some value in re-visiting the present model once we have more information about the effects of Covid-19 on enrollment in the coming school year. For now, our analysis is focused primarily on the potential impact of various demographic trends (births, population, and housing) on future enrollment.

We have already mentioned the potential impact of lower birth trends on enrollment. But it is important to remember that we are making predictions about future births based on recent trends. We know the size of the birth cohorts eligible to enter school between 2020 and 2023. Beyond that point we are using a forecast of births, based on how many women in their child-bearing years are likely to live in the county over the next two decades (using State forecasts), and the assumed fertility rates for these women (indicating how many children we will see per women). We have used an average of the most recent two years' fertility rates to create this projection. This is our best estimate forecast. If the number of women, the fertility rates, or some combination of the two were to be radically different than what we have assumed, these differences will impact future enrollments.

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

Although our birth forecasts are lower than in past years, they still show some an increase in the number of births over time, primarily due to an increase in the number of women reaching their child-bearing years. This is one reason for thinking there will still be an upward trend in enrollment in the coming decade. In addition, the birth cohort eligible for school in 2020 is the largest we have seen in recent years. After 2020 the cohorts are expected to be smaller for a number of years and then gradually increase between 2025 and 2035.

Forecasts from the State also predict continued growth in the Whatcom County population over the next two decades. For the most part the growth rates in the school District have been similar to the rates we have seen for the County as a whole. Consequently, we have used the low, medium, and high range County population forecasts to create low, medium, and high forecasts of the School District's resident population. Increasing population growth over time is another reason to think that enrollment in the District will continue to increase. The State is also predicting a marked increase in the Age 5-19 population in the County (a proxy for K-12) over the next two decades, another indicator that the K-12 population will continue to grow. In later sections of this report we show several forecasts that use the population of the District and County births, as well as forecasts of the Age 5-19 County population, to predict future enrollment in the District.

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

In addition to births and population, predicted housing growth is another reason to think that the District K-12 population will continue to grow. Since the 2010 Census, the District has added over 5,000 new units to its housing stock. Data from City planners shows that just under 4,500 units have either recently been added, or are likely to be added by 2025 within the City of Bellingham. The City also expects continued development beyond that period. We have used the housing data from the City to make predictions about enrollment gains we are likely to see between now and 2025. Beyond that point we have used the City Comprehensive plans and general estimates of future housing based on average household size and a prediction of how many units might be needed to house future populations.

In a later section of the report we show a student-yield forecast that looks at Census and recent estimates of the number of students per house. If we assume this number remains relatively constant (as it has over the past decade) we can multiply it by the low, medium, and high range housing forecasts to produce estimates of future enrollment.

All of the various methods we have used to predict enrollment point to continued enrollment growth in the District. The District still has room for additional housing, and recent estimates of the number of students who enroll from new housing suggest that continued growth in the K-12 population is likely. As long as the K-12 population in the County continues to grow, we expect Bellingham to grow as well.

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

As noted in previous reports, the general consensus in forecasting is that the average of multiple forecasts is likely to be a better indicator of future enrollment than any one individual forecast.* Following this recommendation we utilized a variety of different methods (including the ones previously mentioned) for predicting future enrollment in the District, before completing our final forecast. Our final recommended forecast uses birth data, enrollment trend data from the past three and six years, some housing forecasts, and predicted growth in the overall County population to predict enrollment out to 2025. Beyond that point we used our population and housing forecasts for the District to predict enrollment out to 2040. The results of our preferred forecast (with our best estimates of births, population, and housing) are reasonably close to the average of the other forecast methods, lending some confidence to our results.

As always there is uncertainty when predicting the future. To account for this, we have created alternative low and high forecasts which show what might happen if population and housing growth in Bellingham and Whatcom County overall were to be lower or higher than our predictions for the main model. In comparison to past years we have also assumed a wider range between the low and high in the near term years of the forecast to account for some of the near term uncertainty we might experience due to the pandemic.

**See for example, John Armstrong (2001) Combining forecasts: A review and annotated bibliography. International Journal of Forecasting, (5), 559-583.*

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

We have also provided school forecasts which attempt to allocate the recommended District forecast into school attendance areas. School projections are generally less reliable than District by grade level projections because they are based on smaller numbers, making it harder to discern the difference between an actual trend in the data and random variation. The problem here is analogous to small sample sizes in polling. The smaller the sample size the wider is the margin of error.

In spite of this problem, the school projections provide some indication of which schools are likely to trend up, down, or remain the same in the future. This information can be used to guide facility and other planning decisions in the District.

In completing the school forecasts we have considered future home development data from the City of Bellingham and projections for various parts of Whatcom County. This information, along with recent school enrollment trends and proposed boundary change information were used to produce the school forecast. As a general rule this method should be reasonably accurate for predicting enrollments over a five to six year period. Similar to the District forecasts, the numbers beyond this time frame tend to have higher projection error rates.

Introduction
Enrollment: Past, Present, and Future

As should be evident from the previous discussion, there is always some degree of uncertainty regarding future demographic trends. As a result, it is recommended that the District update these forecasts periodically (perhaps every three to five years) to take advantage of new information.

In the sections that follow we provide charts and tables detailing trends in enrollment, births, housing, and population. Each section is preceded by a set of bullet points that highlight the relevant information in each section. After this, we present the alternative total enrollment forecasts and the detailed forecasts by grade level for the District. The final section provides enrollment forecasts for the schools.

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment Trends

Highlights

- Enrollment in October 2019 was trending very close to the medium range projection completed in 2017.

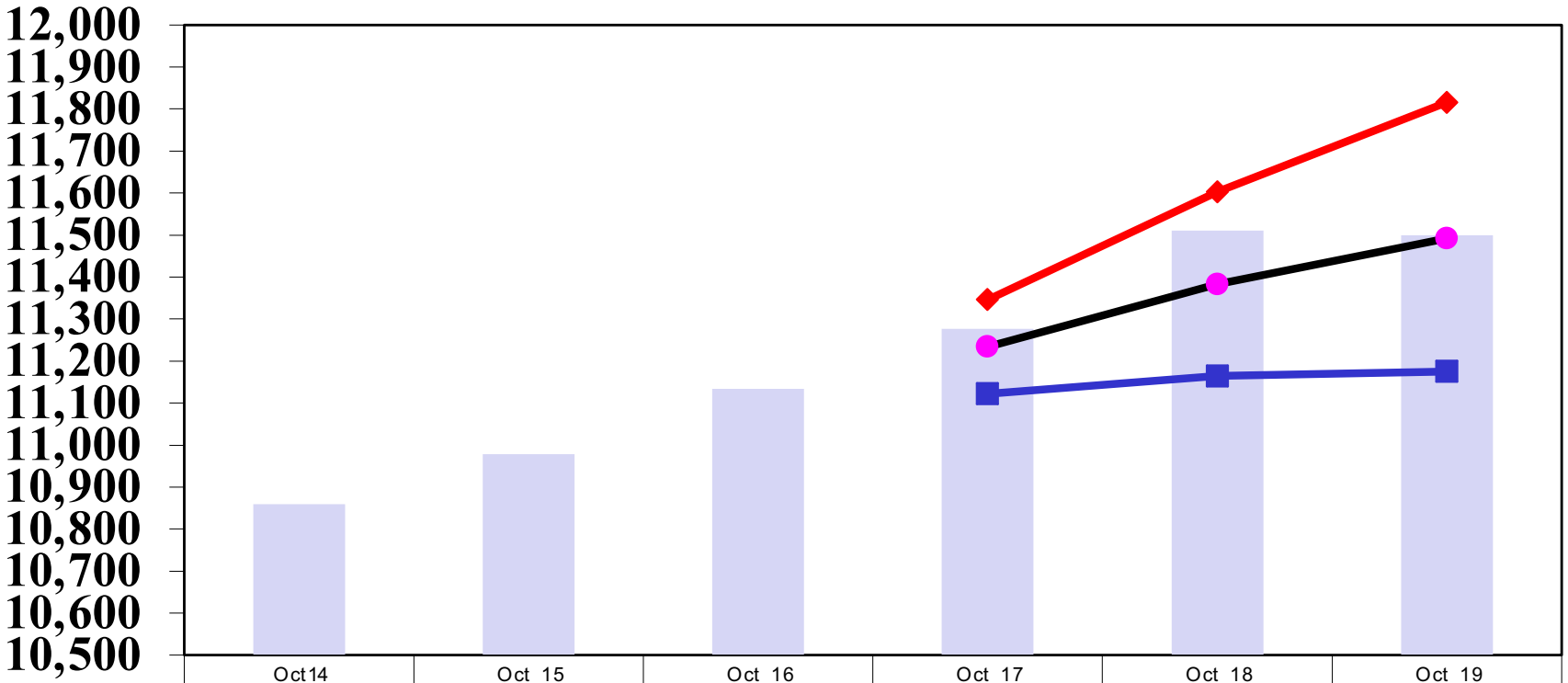
- Bellingham has increased its percentage of the County K-12 population since 2000. The District currently enrolls about 42.6% of the County's K-12 public school students as of October 2019. This percentage is unchanged from October 2016.

- Overall enrollment in the County has increased over the past four years.

- Private schools continue to enroll about 9% of the County K-12 population compared to public schools. OSPI has not provided private school enrollment data for the 2019-2020 school year.

- Long term enrollment forecasts for the County suggest that enrollment will trend up over the next decade. This is consistent with the projected growth in the Age 5-19 population in State forecasts. We have recently seen a drop off in the number of County births, however, leading us to lower our long term forecast of the County K-12 population (compared to the model we were using in 2017).

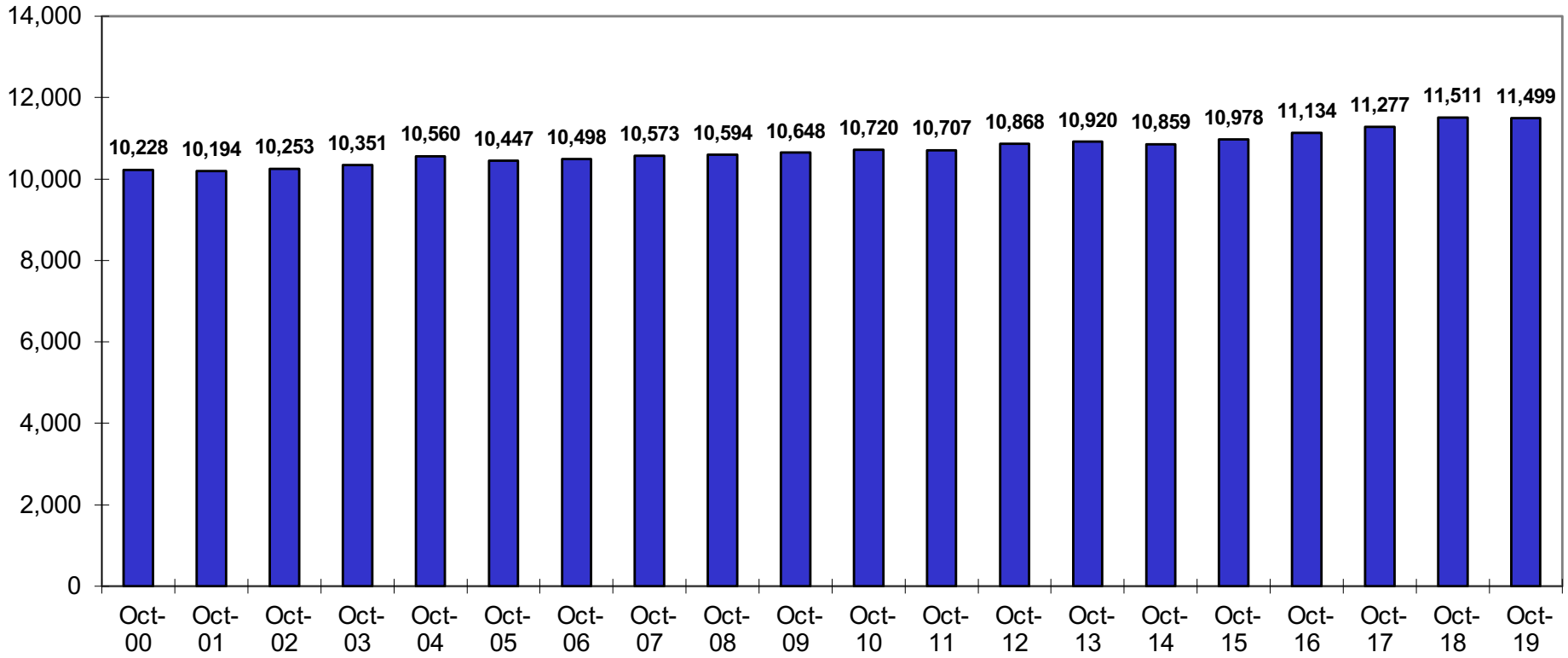
Actual Enrollment
Compared to 2017 Forecasts



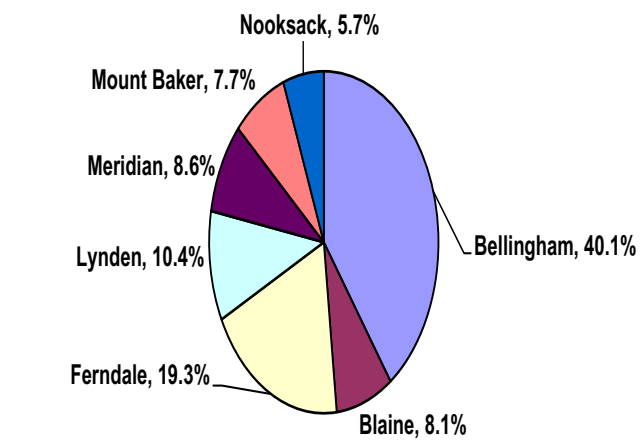
	Oct14	Oct_15	Oct_16	Oct_17	Oct_18	Oct_19
Actual Enrollment	10,859	10,978	11,134	11277	11511	11499
2017 Low FCST				11122	11164	11175
2017 Med FCST				11234	11383	11492
2017 High FCST				11346	11603	11816

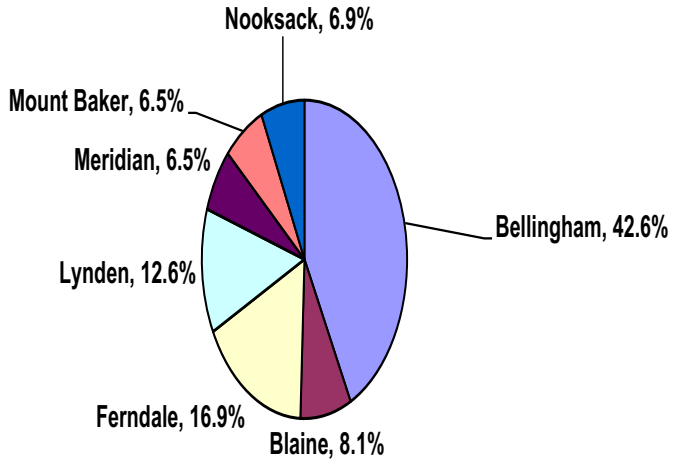
District Enrollment Trend

October Headcount
State P223 Reports
Does NOT include students enrolled in Running Start Full Time



Whatcom County School Districts
Share of K-12 Public School Enrollment





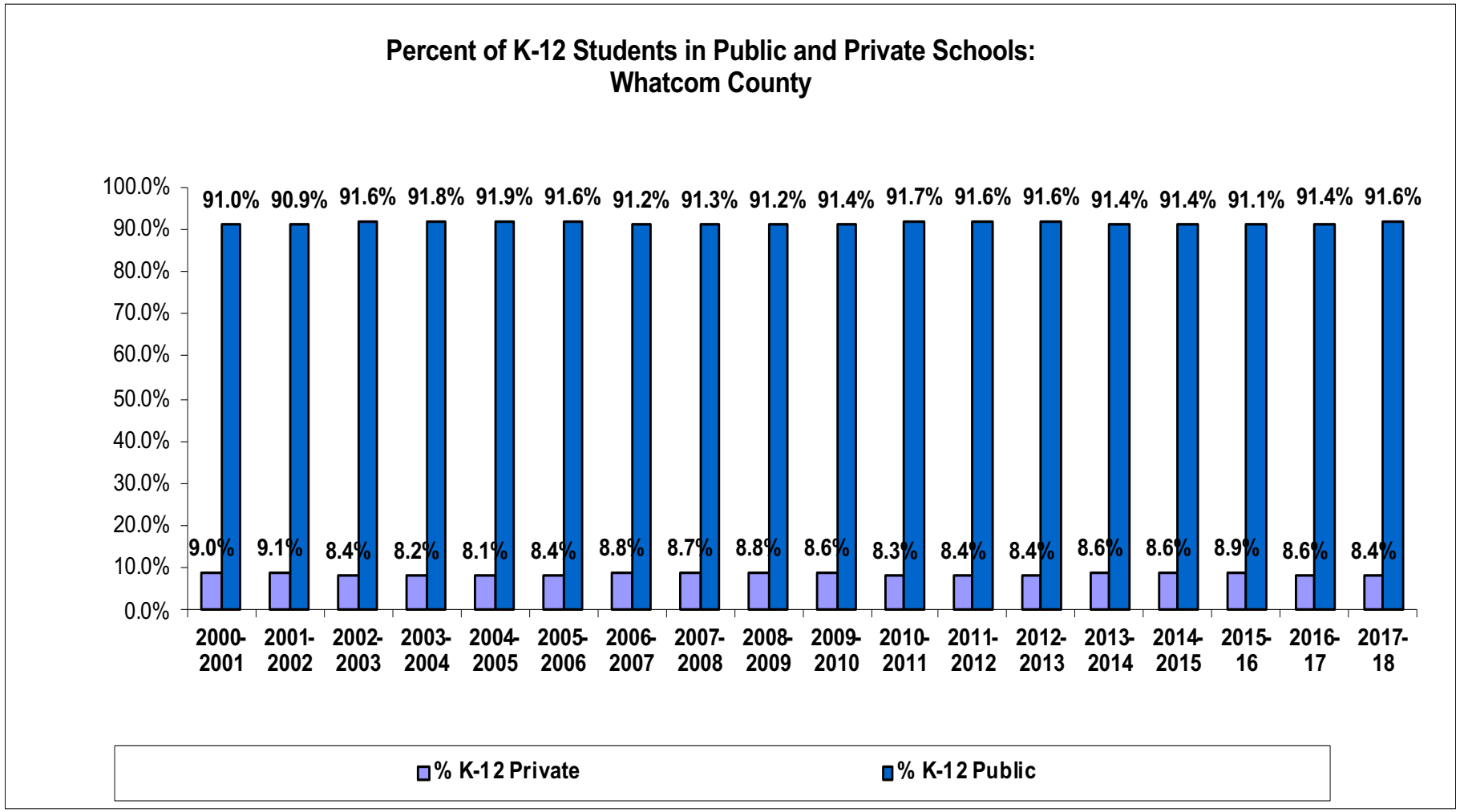
Percent of Public K-12

School District	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bellingham	39.8%	39.6%	39.8%	39.6%	40.0%	39.8%	39.9%	40.5%	40.2%	40.1%	40.1%	40.5%	40.9%	42.1%	42.2%	42.5%	42.6%	42.8%	42.9%	42.6%
Blaine	7.6%	7.8%	7.7%	8.0%	8.5%	8.7%	8.6%	8.5%	8.2%	8.0%	8.1%	8.1%	8.0%	8.2%	8.2%	8.2%	8.2%	8.2%	8.2%	8.1%
Ferndale	20.2%	20.2%	20.3%	20.3%	20.0%	20.1%	19.9%	19.5%	19.9%	19.5%	19.3%	19.3%	19.1%	19.3%	18.7%	18.0%	17.6%	17.4%	17.0%	16.9%
Lynden	9.9%	9.8%	9.9%	10.1%	10.3%	10.4%	10.6%	10.7%	10.5%	10.5%	10.4%	10.5%	10.4%	10.8%	11.1%	11.4%	11.9%	11.8%	12.2%	12.6%
Meridian	6.2%	6.1%	6.1%	6.0%	5.7%	5.7%	6.2%	6.2%	7.0%	7.8%	8.6%	8.3%	8.8%	6.7%	6.6%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.2%	6.5%
Mount Baker	9.1%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	8.9%	8.8%	8.6%	8.3%	8.1%	7.9%	7.7%	7.4%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%	7.3%	7.0%	6.8%	6.7%	6.5%
Nooksack	7.1%	7.2%	6.9%	6.7%	6.7%	6.5%	6.3%	6.3%	6.1%	6.1%	5.7%	5.8%	5.8%	5.9%	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%	6.6%	6.6%	6.9%
Total K-12	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Percent of Students Enrolled in Public and Private Schools in Whatcom County

Source: OSPI (October Enrollment)

Private School data is not available at this time for the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year



Birth Trends

Birth Trends

Highlights

- The number of County births declined in 2017 and 2018 compared to the trends of the previous three years. We have recently seen a similar trend in King County in the Puget Sound area. Women in the 20-35 age group in both counties are having fewer children.

- We do not know if this is a long term trend or if it is temporary. Given these trends our current forecast of County births (based on recent fertility rates) is lower than the forecast from 2017, leading us to predict lower K-12 enrollment growth in the County over time, compared to our earlier forecast.

- Even with fewer births we are continuing to predict an increase in the K-12 population in the County over the next decade because there will likely be a large number of women reaching their child-bearing years. Based on the past decade and future housing growth we are assuming that the District will continue to enroll between 35-40% of the kindergarten population over time.

- The District's share of the kindergarten population is projected to fluctuate within this range over the course of the forecast based on projected changes in annual population and housing growth that are assumed in our long range projection models.

Birth Trends

Highlights

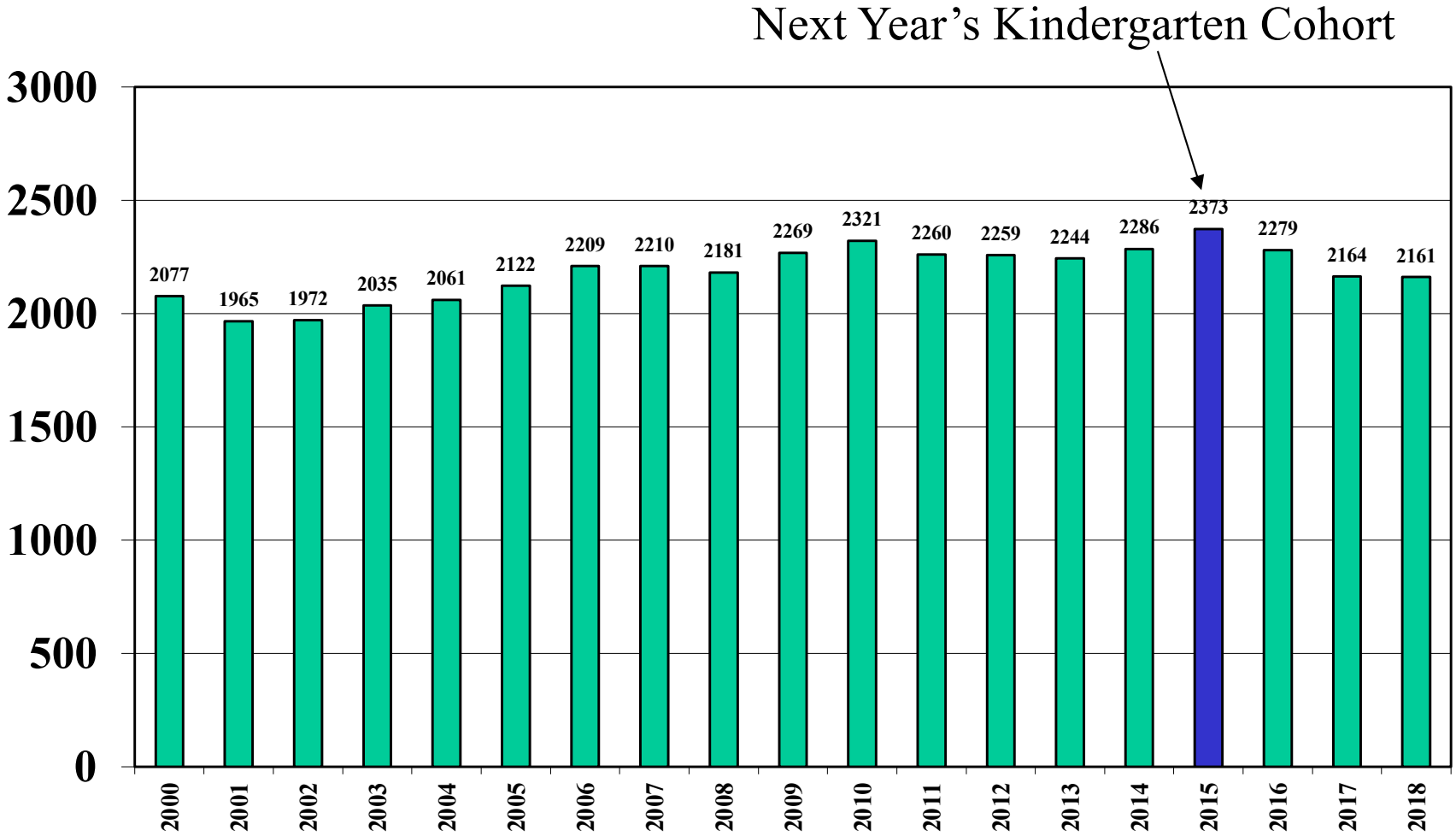
- A comparison of births in the City of Bellingham to enrollment in the school district five years later shows a net loss of families prior to the start of school. Put another way, the number of families with preschool age children moving out of the City before their children reach school age, exceeds the number of families moving in or staying put.

- In order to predict kindergarten enrollment we use the birth-to-k ratio at the county level, comparing kindergarten enrollment in a given year to the County births five years prior to each year. We consider the County birth number to be a more reliable predictor of future kindergarten enrollment than the City birth number based on our past experience with both indicators.

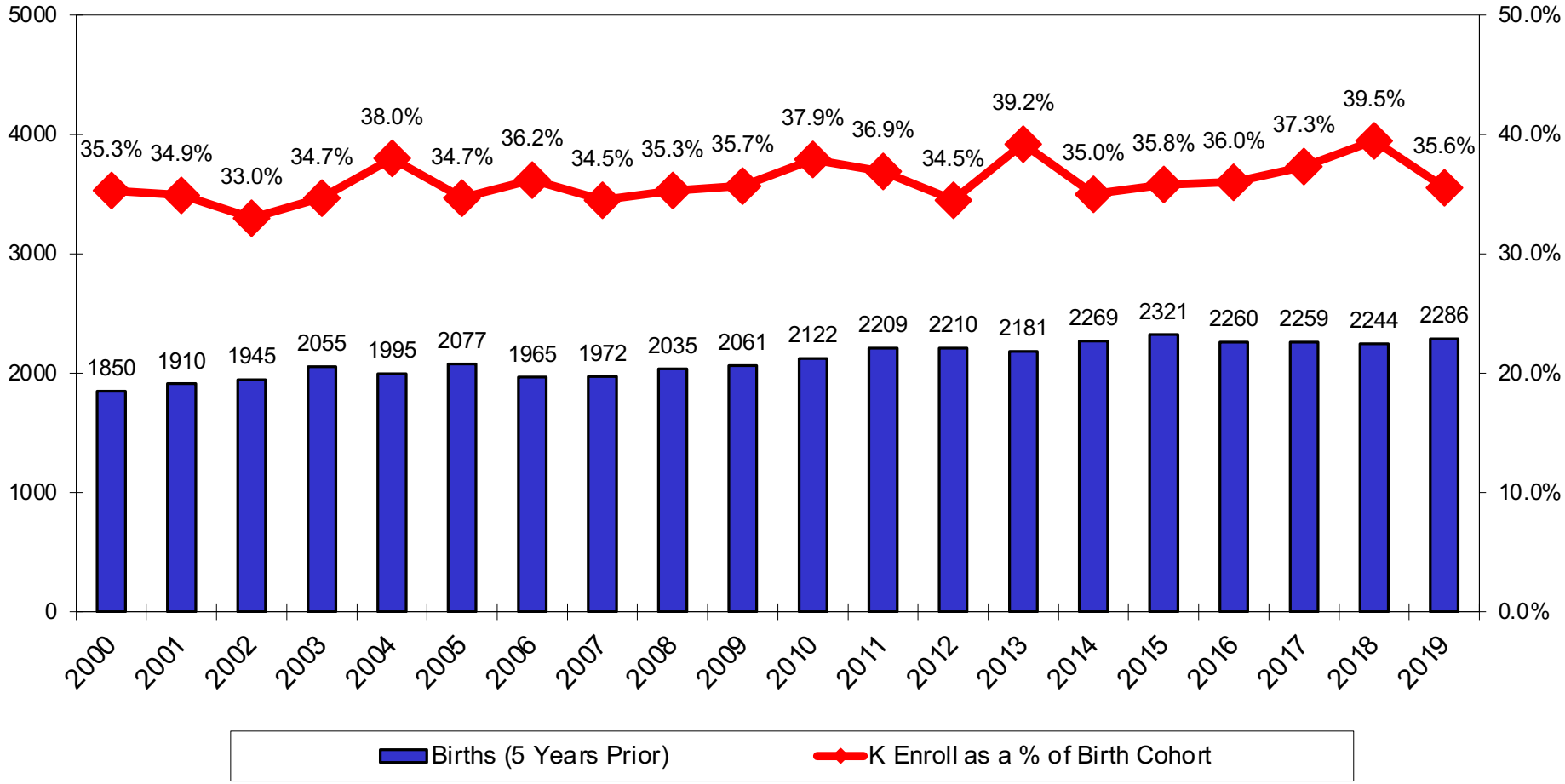
- It is possible that with fewer people moving to buy houses (due to the virus) we will see a higher than normal kindergarten population in 2020 within the Bellingham School District (more parents will stay put). This is the trend we saw in the Puget Sound between 2007-2011 when home sales and prices were declining.

Whatcom County Births

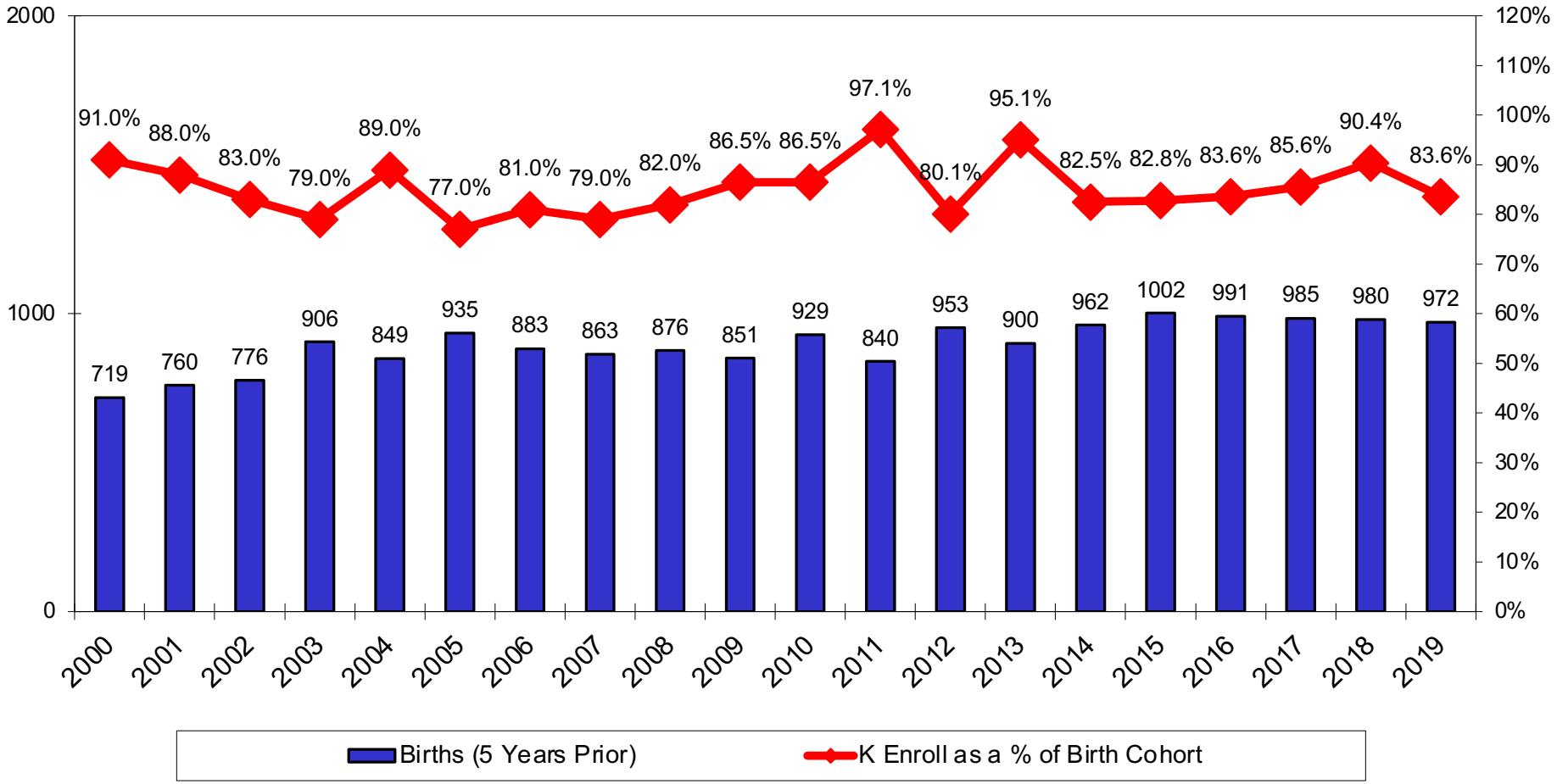
Source: Washington State Health Department



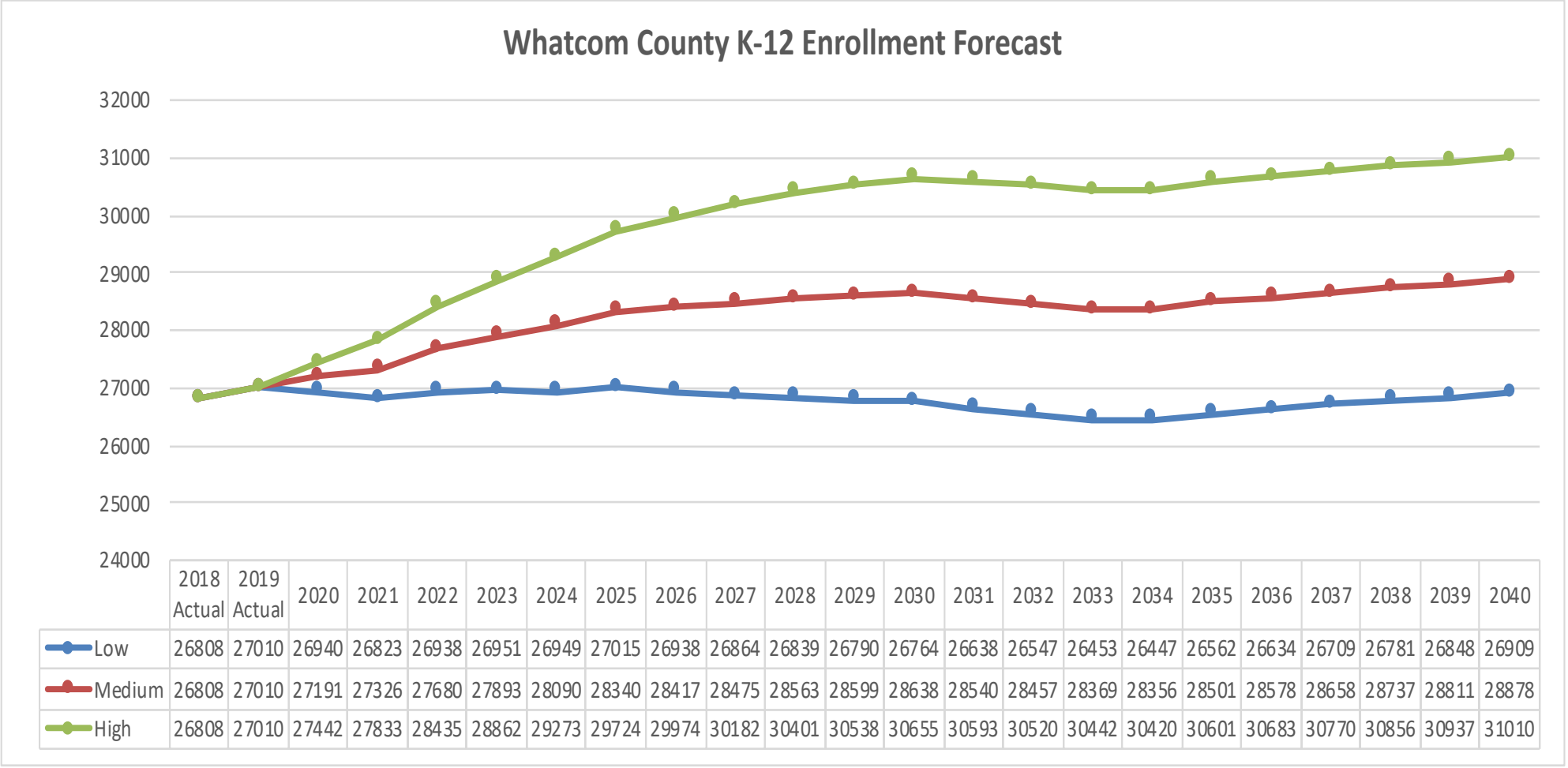
Bellingham: K Enrollment as a Percent of the Whatcom County Births (2000-2019)



Bellingham: K Enrollment as a Percent of the Bellingham City Births (2000-2019)



Forecast of the Whatcom County K-12 Public School Population Using Births, Historical Enrollment Trends, and Forecasted Growth in the Age 5-19 Population
Low, Medium, and High



	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040
Low	26808	27010	26940	26823	26938	26951	26949	27015	26938	26864	26839	26790	26764	26638	26547	26453	26447	26562	26634	26709	26781	26848	26909
Medium	26808	27010	27191	27326	27680	27893	28090	28340	28417	28475	28563	28599	28638	28540	28457	28369	28356	28501	28578	28658	28737	28811	28878
High	26808	27010	27442	27833	28435	28862	29273	29724	29974	30182	30401	30538	30655	30593	30520	30442	30420	30601	30683	30770	30856	30937	31010

Population Trends

Population Trends

Highlights

- Population growth in Whatcom County has been improving with an average net gain of more than 4,000 residents per year between 2017 and 2019. The 2020 population estimates from the State shows slightly lower growth overall in Whatcom County, compared to the past few years. But the 2020 estimate does not fully account for the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak since much of the data was collected before the full effects of the virus were known. We do not yet know the full effects of the virus on population growth or the real estate market.

- The average annual population growth rate for the Bellingham School District, and for the City of Bellingham has been slightly below, but very close to, the average annual growth rate for the County since 2010.

- The chart on page 29 shows the low, medium, and high forecast of the County population produced by the Office of Financial Management for the State of Washington updated in 2017. We used these forecasts to help us develop the alternative population forecasts for the Bellingham School District, since the State forecasts provide good alternative population scenarios for the region.

- Our main population forecast assumes that the Bellingham School District population will grow at about the same rate as the medium range State forecast for Whatcom County. We have also modeled a growth rate based on the low and high County forecasts.

Population Trends

Highlights

- One method for forecasting enrollment is to assume that growth in the school age population in the District will align with growth in the school-age population in the County. This approach works reasonably well for the Bellingham School District because annual population and K-12 growth in the District are both reasonably close to the County averages.

- The chart on page 32 shows the relationship between the percent of the County population that falls into the Age 5-19 group (a proxy for K-12) and the percent of the population of the Bellingham School District that is of school age (the K-12 enrollment).

- If we assume that the percent of the population that is school age in Bellingham trends in the same manner as the Age 5-19 State population forecast for the County we can estimate what percentage of the future population in the school district will be of school age (grades K-12).

- Applying this percentage to the low, medium, and high range District population forecasts we get a low, medium, and high range forecast of the future K-12 population in the Bellingham School District. (page 33)

Population Trends

Highlights

- This model suggests that the percent of the population that is school age will rise modestly between 2020 and 2030 and then decline between 2030 and 2040.

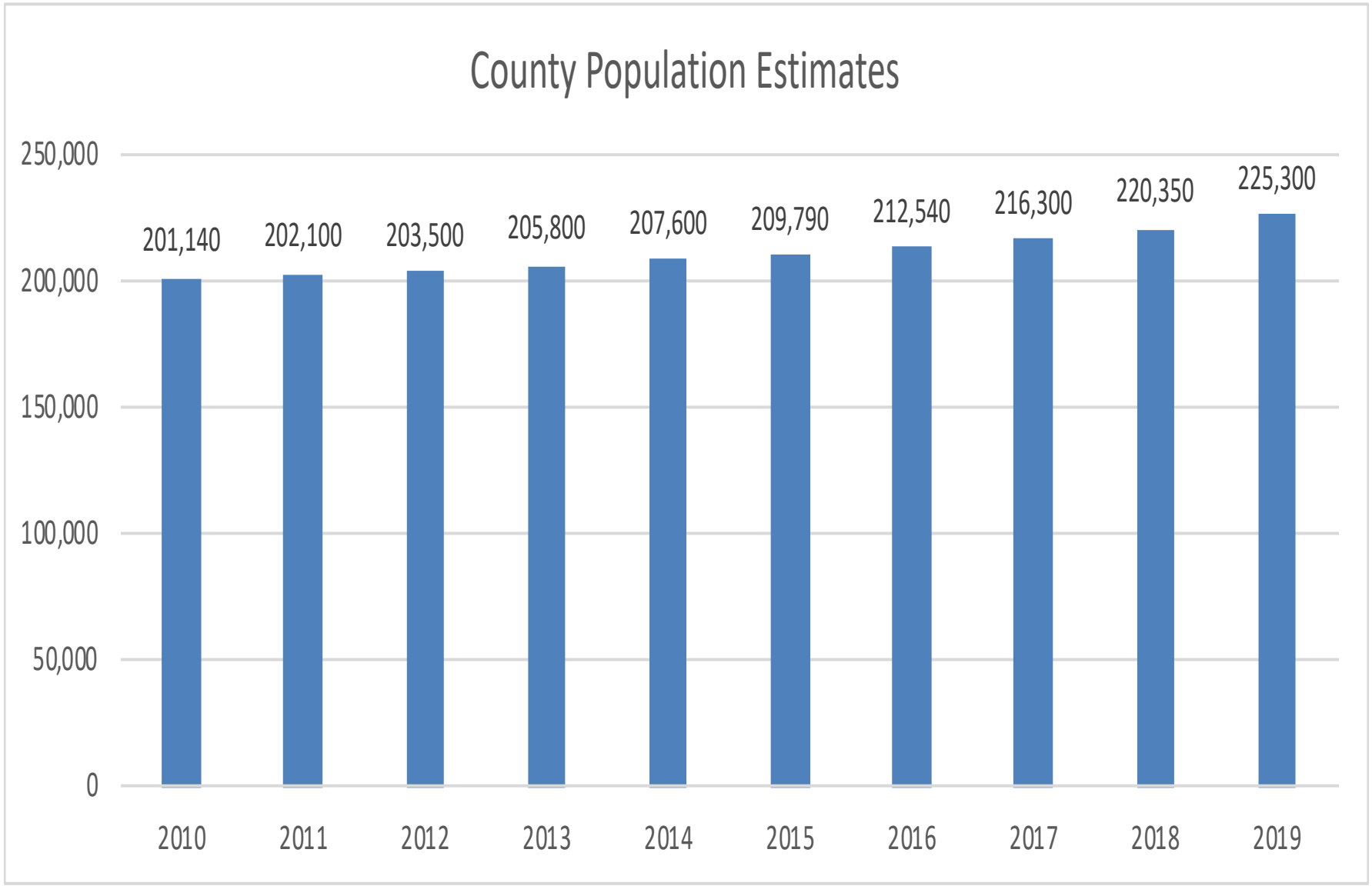
- This results in a net gain in enrollment between 2020 and 2035 and then a net decline between 2035 and 2040, as the percentage of the population that is school age declines.

- The Age 5-19 forecast from the State Growth Management figures was completed in 2017 and will likely be updated sometime after the 2020 Census is completed. The forecast assumes better growth in the Age 5-19 population than we might currently predict based on our recently completed birth projections for the County. The birth projections suggest that the school age population in the County and the District might land somewhere between the low and medium range forecasts presented here.

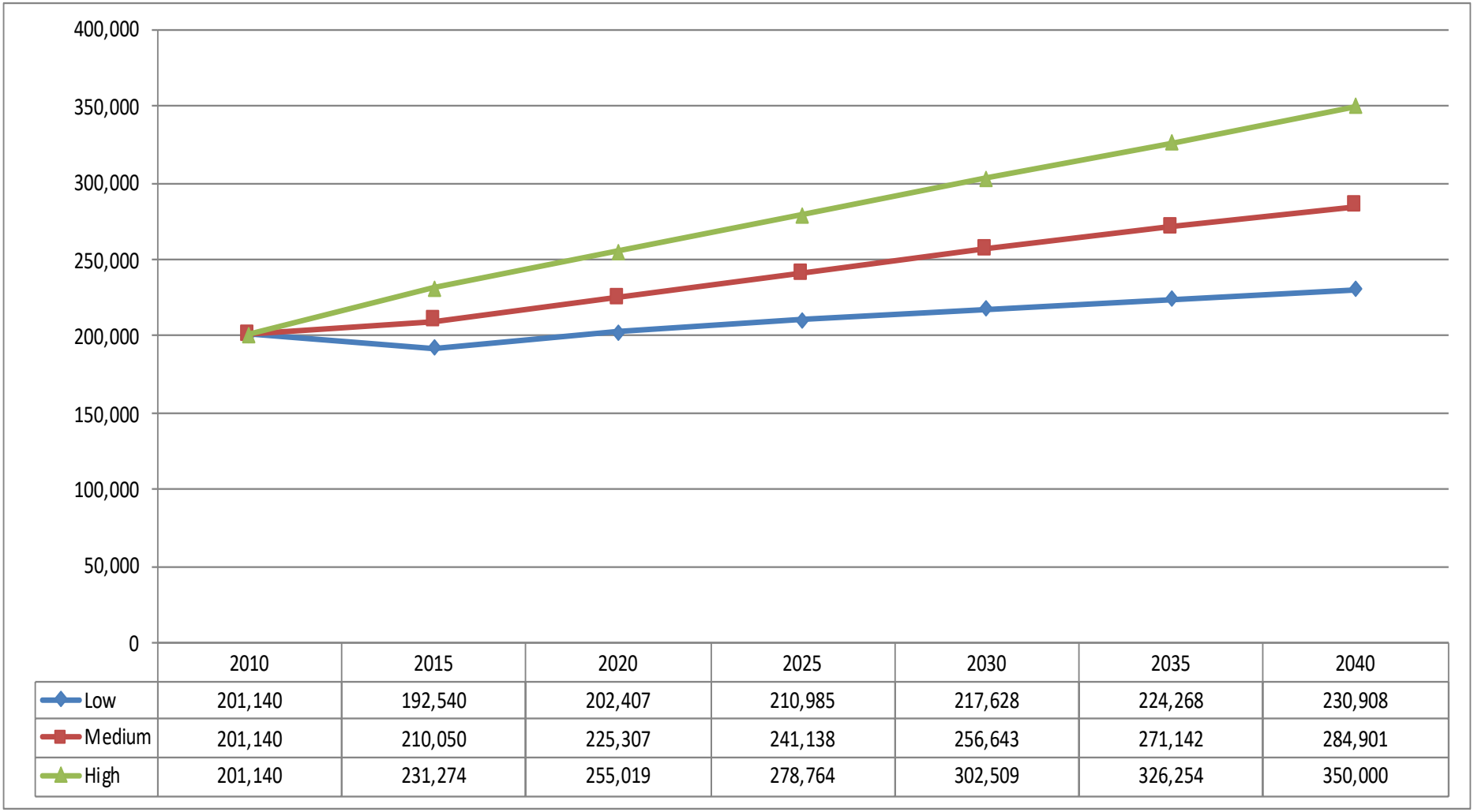
- In spite of this caveat, this method provides one look at how enrollment might trend into the future based on projected population trends for the County and the District.

Whatcom County Population Estimates

Source: Office of Financial Management State of Washington



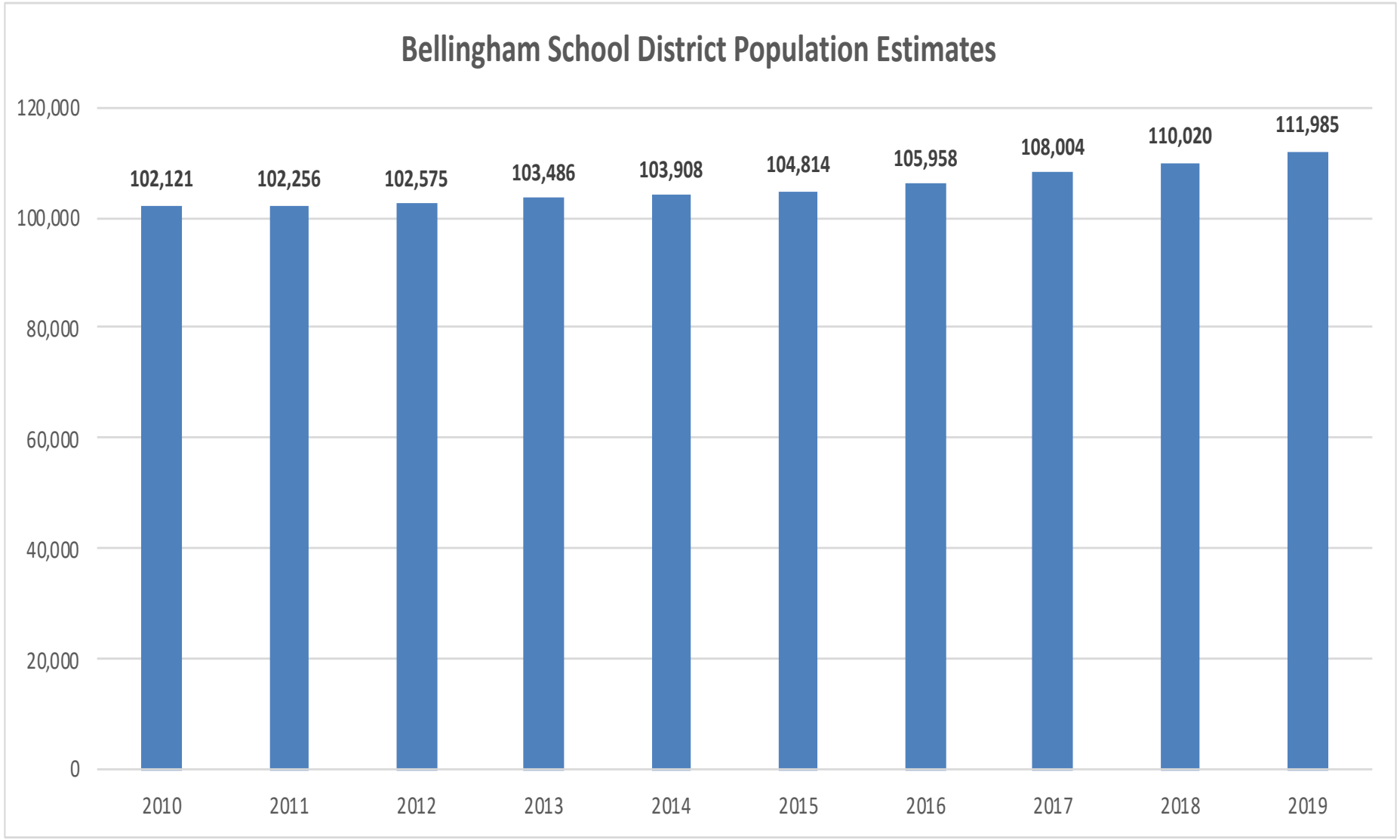
Low, Medium, and High Range Forecasts from the Office of Financial Management (State of Washington) For Whatcom County



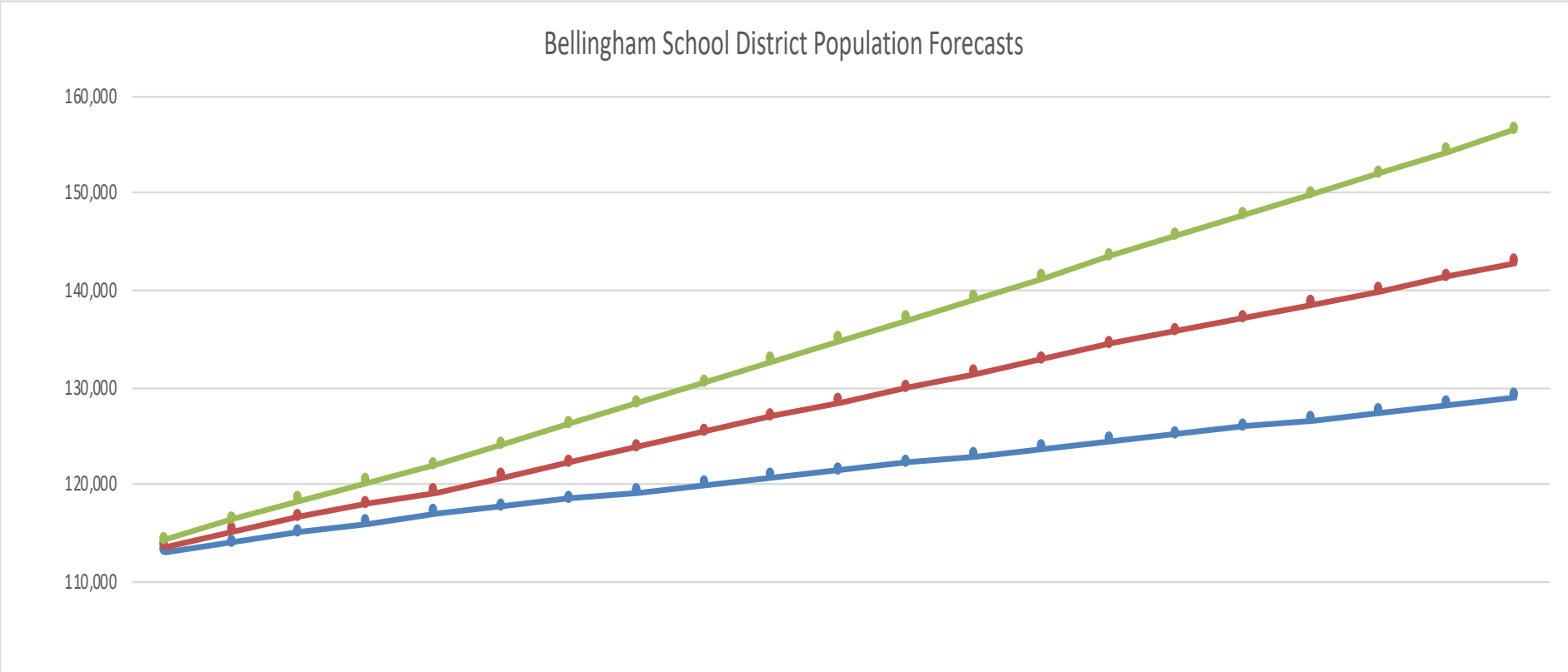
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Low	201,140	192,540	202,407	210,985	217,628	224,268	230,908
Medium	201,140	210,050	225,307	241,138	256,643	271,142	284,901
High	201,140	231,274	255,019	278,764	302,509	326,254	350,000

Bellingham School District Population Estimates

Source: Office of Financial Management State of Washington

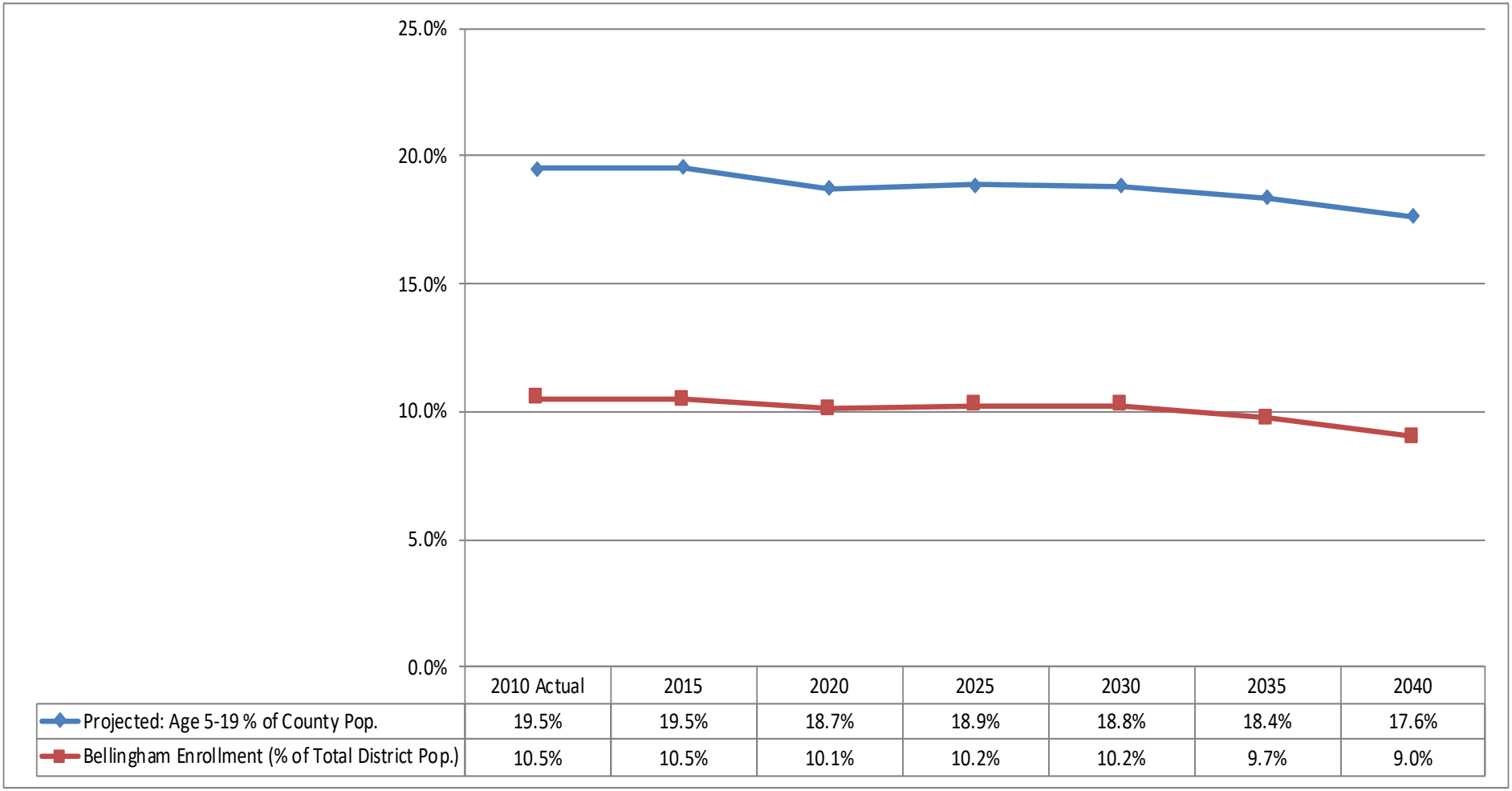


Alternative Forecasts of the Bellingham School District Resident Population Based on Alternative Growth Rates Derived from the Low, Medium, and High Whatcom County State Forecasts



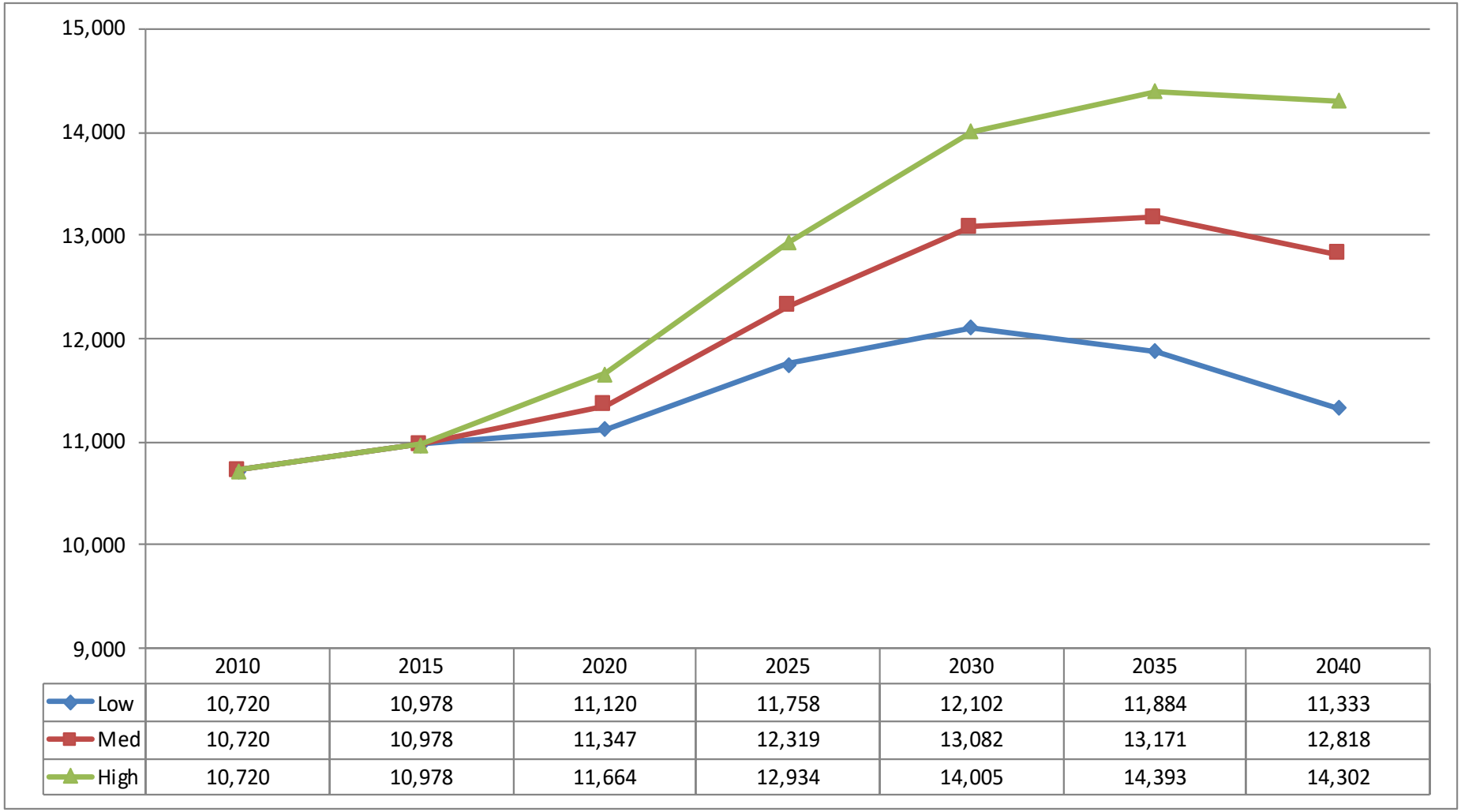
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040
Low	113,133	114,092	115,059	116,034	117,018	117,755	118,496	119,242	119,993	120,749	121,486	122,227	122,973	123,723	124,478	125,215	125,957	126,703	127,453	128,207	128,967
Medium	113,612	115,209	116,690	118,009	119,206	120,739	122,292	123,865	125,457	127,071	128,507	129,959	131,427	132,912	134,414	135,778	137,156	138,548	139,954	141,374	142,809
High	114,285	116,413	118,396	120,255	122,005	124,084	126,198	128,348	130,534	132,758	134,842	136,959	139,109	141,293	143,511	145,600	147,719	149,870	152,051	154,265	156,510

Relationship Between the County Age 5-19 Population as a Percent of the Overall County Population and the Bellingham School District's K-12 Population as a Percent of the Total District Population



	2010 Actual	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Projected: Age 5-19 % of County Pop.	19.5%	19.5%	18.7%	18.9%	18.8%	18.4%	17.6%
Bellingham Enrollment (% of Total District Pop.)	10.5%	10.5%	10.1%	10.2%	10.2%	9.7%	9.0%

Forecast of Bellingham's K-12 Population Using the Percent of the Population that is Expected to be School Age Applied to the Low, Medium, and High Population Forecasts



	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Low	10,720	10,978	11,120	11,758	12,102	11,884	11,333
Med	10,720	10,978	11,347	12,319	13,082	13,171	12,818
High	10,720	10,978	11,664	12,934	14,005	14,393	14,302

Housing Trends

Housing Trends

Highlights

- We estimate that the District has added over 4,500 housing units since the 2010 Census. This estimate is based on permit data from the City of Bellingham and estimates from the State of Washington for the Bellingham School District. To put this in perspective the District has added an average of 500 new housing units per year since the 2010 Census (multi-family and single family).

- Using our population forecasts and average household size data from the 2010 Census, as well as recent estimates, we have made estimates about the amount of housing that is likely to be added to the District's housing stock over the next two decades. We have assumed different amounts of housing based off the low, medium, and high range population estimates and assumptions about average household size over time (obtained from State and Regional Forecasts). Our medium range estimate is reasonably close to the estimates in the City of Bellingham's comprehensive plan.

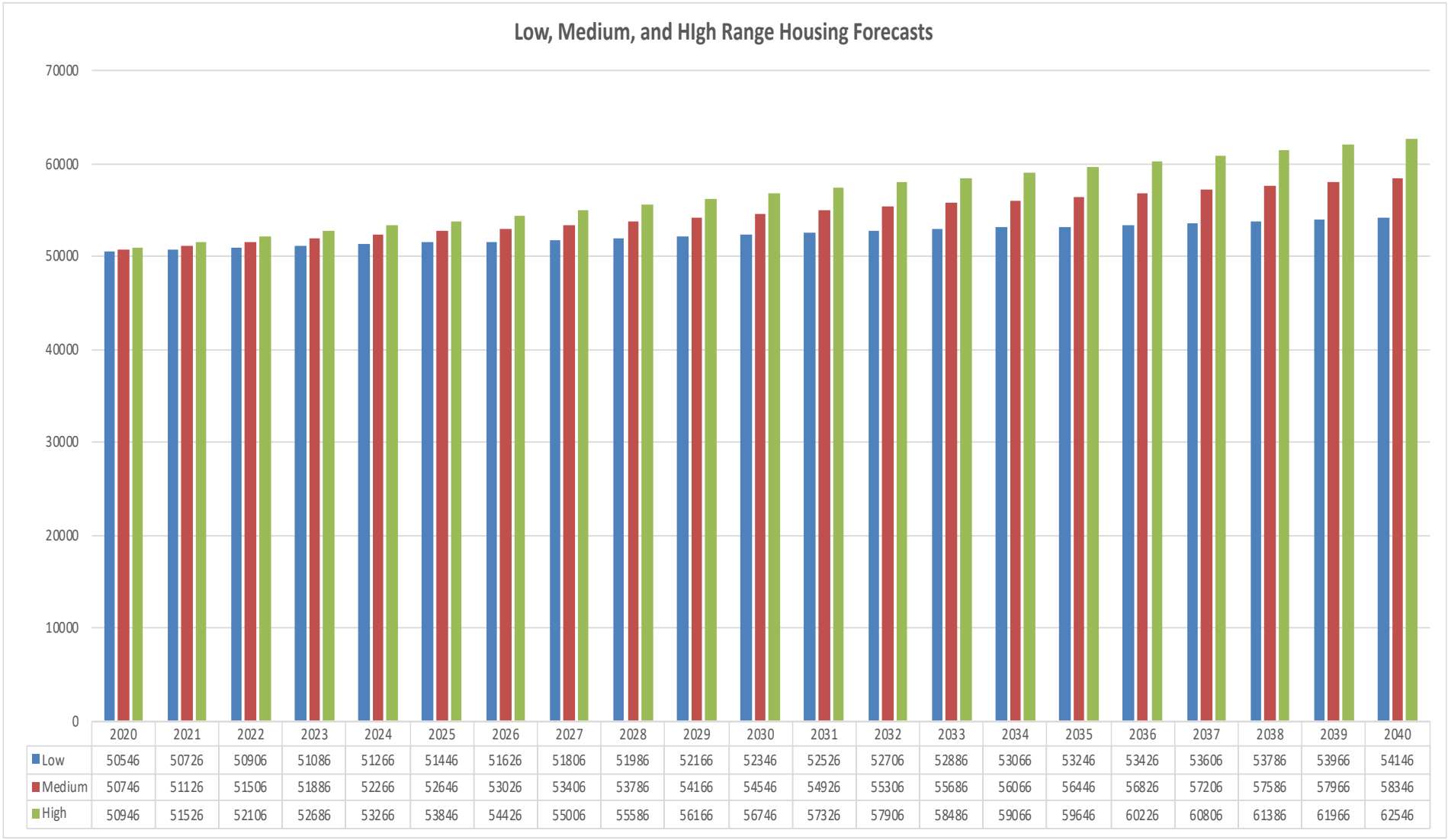
- Comparing enrollment to housing there are approximately 23 public school students for every 100 housing units in the District (as of October 2019). This number is about the same as it was in the 2010 Census. If we assume this number remains relatively stable (it will likely fluctuate up and down over the course of the forecast) we can multiply the number of students we expect per house by the low, medium, and high range housing forecasts to get low, medium, and high range enrollment forecasts for the District.

Housing Trends
Highlights

- Although this estimate is based on total enrollment it provides a rough estimate of where enrollment might land in the future given our low, medium, and high range housing forecasts.

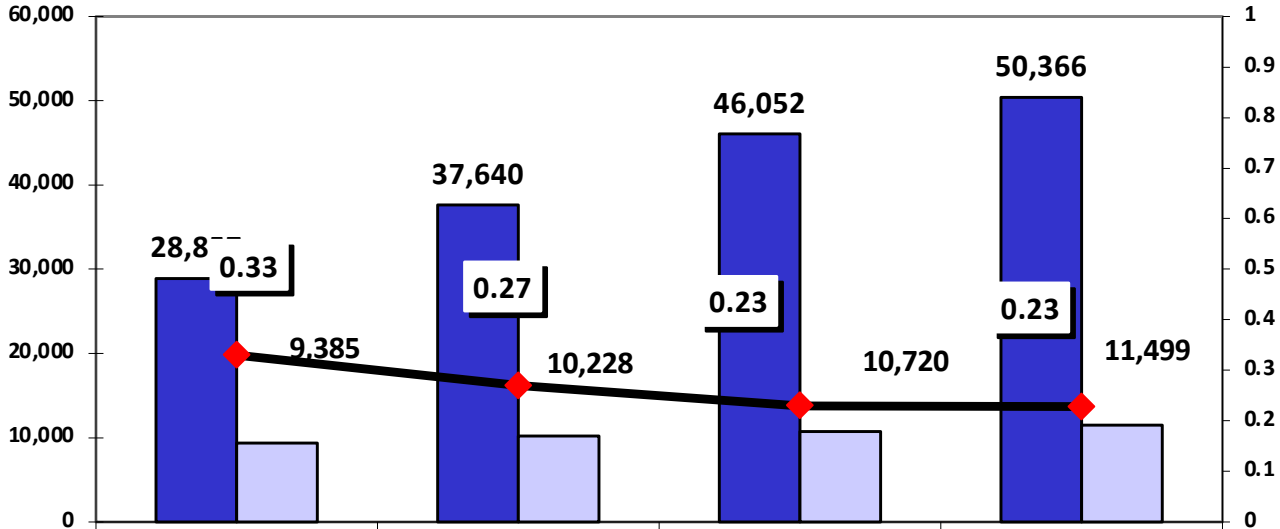
- The chart on page 38 shows a projection of the Bellingham School District population if we assume that the number of students per household is similar to the 2010 Census estimate over time. This number (about 23 students per 100 housing units) applied to the medium range housing forecast produces an estimate of future enrollment. We created similar estimates using the low and high housing forecasts. All of these estimates of future enrollment are presented with other estimates in the forecast section of this report.

Low, Medium, and High Range Housing Forecast for the Bellingham School District Based off of the Low, Medium, and High Range Population Forecasts and Assumptions About Changes in the Average Household Size Over Time.



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040
Low	50546	50726	50906	51086	51266	51446	51626	51806	51986	52166	52346	52526	52706	52886	53066	53246	53426	53606	53786	53966	54146
Medium	50746	51126	51506	51886	52266	52646	53026	53406	53786	54166	54546	54926	55306	55686	56066	56446	56826	57206	57586	57966	58346
High	50946	51526	52106	52686	53266	53846	54426	55006	55586	56166	56746	57326	57906	58486	59066	59646	60226	60806	61386	61966	62546

Housing Units and Students Per Household (1990, 2000 and 2010 Census Data; 2019 Estimate Using City Permit Data)



	Census 1990	Census 2000	2010 Census	2019 Estimate
Housing Units	28,857	37,640	46,052	50,366
Bellingham Enrollment	9,385	10,228	10,720	11,499
Public School Students Per House	0.33	0.27	0.23	0.23

Housing Permits Issued: City of Bellingham

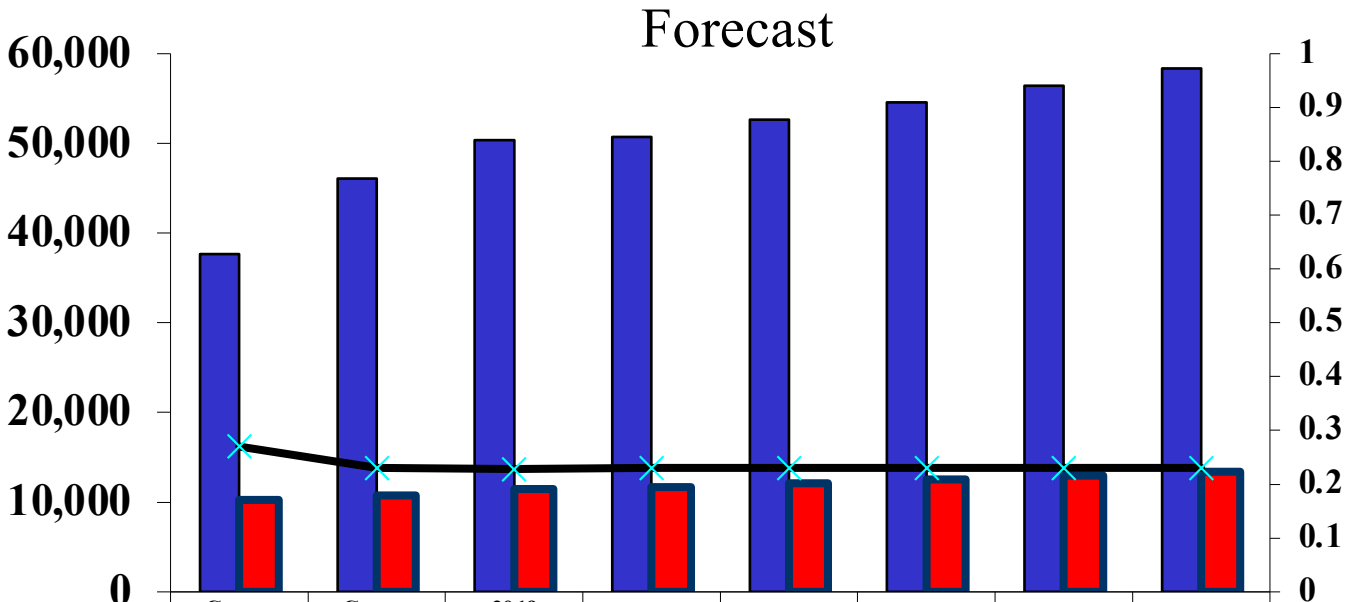
City of Bellingham (Number of Units Permitted by Year)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
New Single Family	320	187	145	194	86	57	72	71	104	149	145	126	194	219	186	179	44
New Two Dwelling	16	23	12	25	0	4	2	9	0	8	22	126	20	14	32	10	6
New Multi-family	57	51	207	266	102	23	8	95	26	136	322	424	232	331	361	613	380
Total Units	393	261	364	485	188	84	82	175	130	293	489	676	446	564	579	802	430

*As of June 2020

A Simple K-12 Forecast For Bellingham Based on the Medium Range Housing Forecast and the Number of Students per House Using the 2010 Census Estimate

(Assumes 23 public school students per 100 homes, including both new and existing homes)



	Census 2000	Census 2010	2019 Estimate	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Housing Units	37,640	46,052	50,366	50,746	52,646	54,546	56,446	58,346
K-12 Students	10,228	10,720	11,499	11,672	12,109	12,546	12,983	13,420
Total Students Per Household	0.27	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23

Alternative Forecasts

Alternative Forecasts

The previous sections presented several methods for estimating the K-12 population in the Bellingham School District in future years. In addition to these estimates we also employed some other methods to predict K-12 enrollment over time. The results of these different forecasts are displayed in the table on page 44. The following is an explanation of the methodology used for each forecast.

3 and 6-Year Cohort Survival: These forecasts look at average grade-to-grade growth and the average birth-to-k ratio over the past three and six years and uses these along with a projection of births to predict future enrollment.

Housing Yield Forecasts: These models use the low, medium, and high range housing forecasts multiplied by the number of students per house that we expect over time. For these models we have assumed that the number of students per house will remain at the current estimate of about 23 public school students for every 100 homes in the District. This forecast was presented in the housing section of this report.

Linear Model Using Births and County Population: These models use actual and projected births along with the low, medium, and high range population forecasts for the District to predict the total enrollment of the District in future years.

Alternative Forecasts

Age 5-19 Trend Forecasts: These forecasts assume that the school district population trends in a manner similar to the trends that are projected at the County level for the Age 5-19 population (a proxy for K-12). This forecast was presented in the population section of this report.

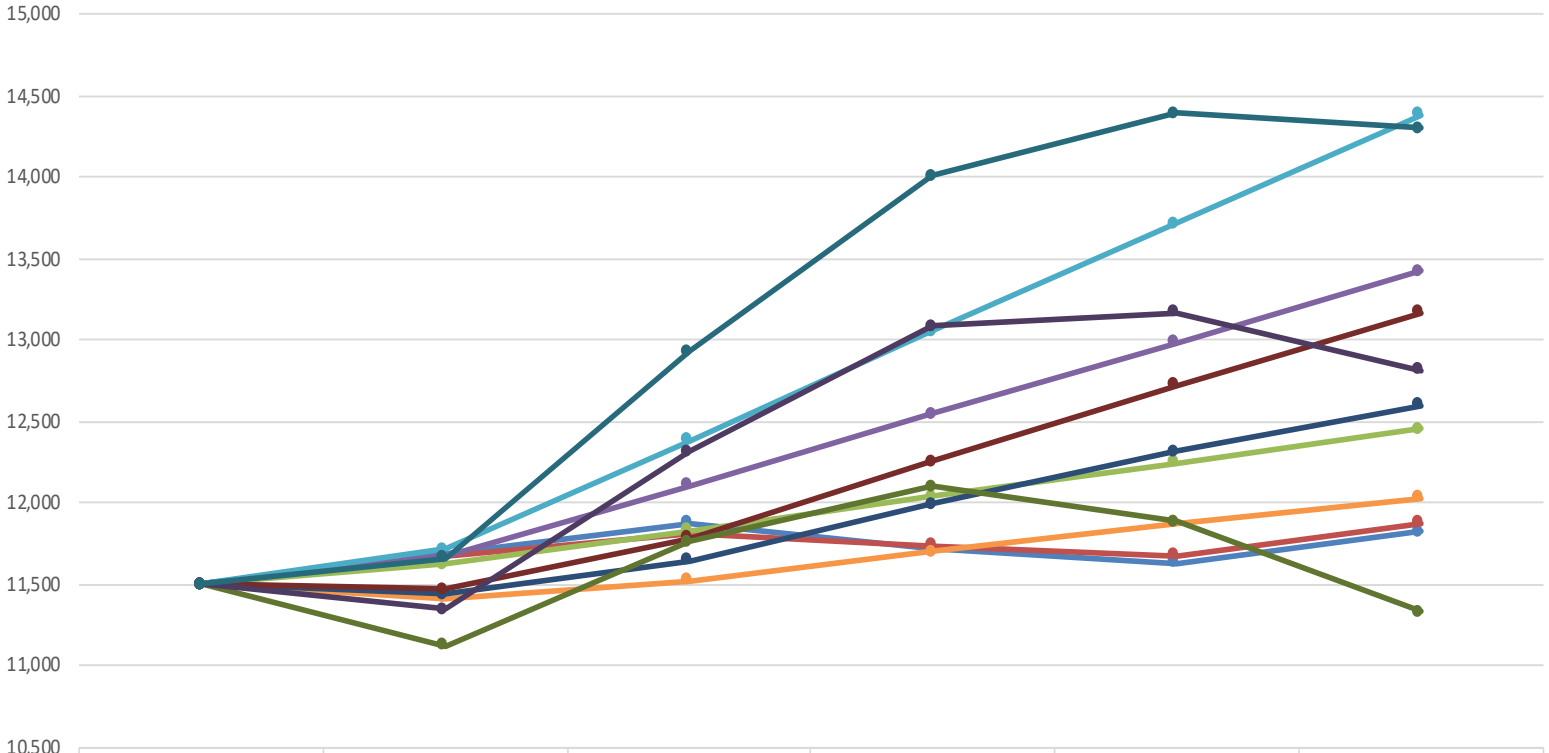
These different forecasts suggest that our estimates of future enrollment will vary considerably based on the assumptions we make about population and housing growth. It is also good to remember that our estimates based on housing, population, and Age 5-19 trends consider total enrollment only, rather than enrollment by grade level.

Our final recommended medium range forecast is close to the average of these different estimates but differs here and there from this average due to consideration of how students roll up through the grades and the size of each year's entering kindergarten class and exiting 12th grade class. We have also assumed a somewhat lower estimate of enrollment in the first two years of the forecast due to the recent events surrounding the Coronavirus outbreak in the Nation and Washington State. We believe that this outbreak could lead to lower rates of movement throughout the nation and the State in the coming year and possibly beyond that time frame. In addition, there is a notable decline in the birth cohort projected to enter the schools at kindergarten between 2022 and 2024, in contrast to our birth forecast from a few years ago. This results in a lower estimate of enrollment during this time period.

Alternative Forecasts of the Bellingham School District Enrollment

		Forecast				
	2019	***2020***	***2025***	***2030***	***2035***	***2040***
6 Year Cohort/Birth-to K Ratio	11,499	11,689	11,876	11,717	11,631	11,824
3 Year Weighted Cohort/Birth-to-K Ratio	11,499	11,667	11,807	11,740	11,680	11,873
Housing Yield (Low Forecast)	11,499	11,626	11,833	12,040	12,247	12,454
Housing Yield (Medium Forecast)	11,499	11,672	12,109	12,546	12,983	13,420
Housing Yield (High Forecast)	11,499	11,718	12,385	13,052	13,719	14,386
Linear Model (Births/Pop) Low	11,499	11,418	11,520	11,698	11,876	12,028
Linear Model (Births/Pop) Medium	11,499	11,438	11,644	11,989	12,314	12,602
Linear Model (Births/Pop) High	11,499	11,466	11,783	12,252	12,721	13,171
Age 5-19 Low Pop. Growth Model	11,499	11,120	11,758	12,102	11,884	11,333
Age 5-19 Medium Pop. Growth Model	11,499	11,347	12,319	13,082	13,171	12,818
Age 5-19 High Pop. Growth Model	11,499	11,664	12,934	14,005	14,393	14,302
Average		**11,530**	**11,997**	**12,384**	**12,602**	**12,746**
Our Preferred Model		***11,436***	***12,012***	***12,320***	***12,436***	***12,736***
Difference from Preferred Model		(93)	15	(64)	(166)	(10)

Alternative Forecasts of the Bellingham School District Population (Headcount)



	2019	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
6 Year Cohort/Birth-to K Ratio	11,499	11,689	11,876	11,717	11,631	11,824
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Age 5-19 High Pop. Growth Model	11,499	11,664	12,934	14,005	14,393	14,302

Main Forecasts

Final Forecast Methodology

Births and Kindergarten

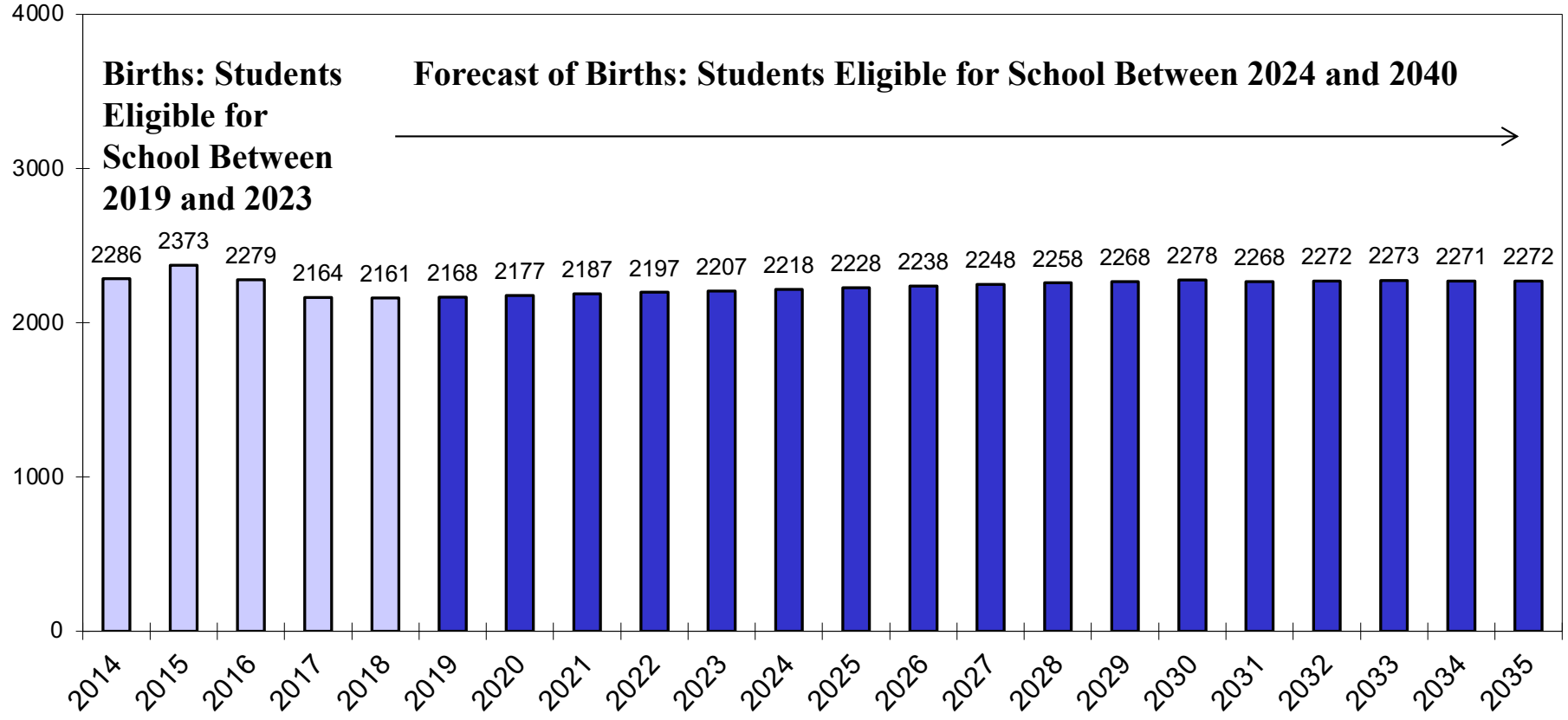
County births were used to project kindergarten. The number of county births is known through 2018 which means we can predict kindergarten enrollment based on actual births out to 2023. Beyond that point births were projected based on the medium range population projections for the county provided by the State of Washington for women in their child bearing ages (15-44 years) and the average of recent fertility rates for this population. The chart on the following page shows the most recent births and the forecast of births for Whatcom County that were used to create the kindergarten forecast.

Kindergarten Projection

Kindergarten enrollments were projected using birth-to-k ratios. The birth-to-k ratio compares the kindergarten enrollment in a given year to births five years prior to that year. The District's birth-to-k ratio has averaged about 36% of county births over the last decade with small fluctuations around that average. The projection model assumes that this percentage will rise gradually over time as the District add additional housing stock.

Forecast of Whatcom County Births

Based on the Average of Recent Fertility Rates (Washington State Department of Health) and the Medium Range County Forecast of the Number of Women Between the Ages of 15 and 44 for the Forecast Period. (Office of Financial Management for the State of Washington)



Forecast Methodology

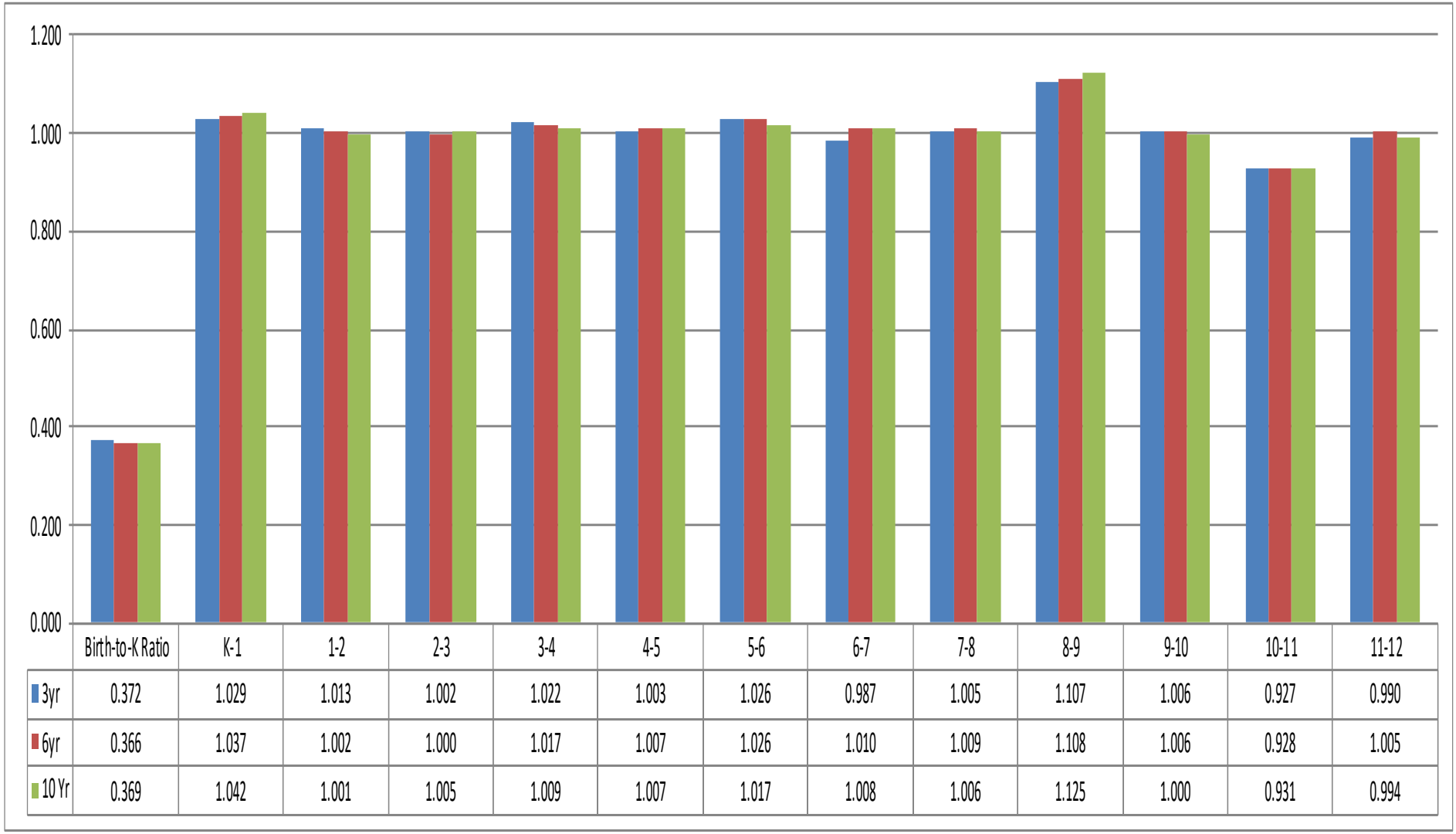
Average Grade-to-Grade Growth

Enrollment at the continuing grades was projected using average cohort ratios adjusted for predicted population changes over time. Over the course of a year some families will move out of the District, and others move in. A cohort ratio is a way of summarizing the effect of these changes. By comparing the enrollment at a given grade in a given year (say 3rd grade) to the previous grade enrollment from the previous year (2nd grade) one can get a sense of whether there is a net loss or gain in enrollment as students progress from one grade to the next. A ratio greater than one indicates that more families move in than move out over the course of a year. A ratio less than one indicates that more families move out than move in. Ratios can be averaged over several years to get a sense of how much growth or decline occurs at various grades.

The chart on page 48 shows the three, six, and ten year average cohort ratios by grade level for the Bellingham School District. The 2020 projection in the medium range model is based on a three year weighted adjusted for potential enrollment gains from housing. We also adjusted the forecast down to account for the potential slowing of enrollment growth due to the coronavirus. For the other years we used the three year weighted average adjusted for projected changes in the rate of population and housing growth over time. For our final adjustment we tried to make the medium range projection align as close as possible to the the average of the alternative estimates presented earlier. We allowed for some variance from these estimates, given the long range horizon for the forecast.

Average Grade to Grade Growth

Cohort Ratio Averages for the Bellingham School District



	Birth-to-K Ratio	K-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
3yr	0.372	1.029	1.013	1.002	1.022	1.003	1.026	0.987	1.005	1.107	1.006	0.927	0.990
6yr	0.366	1.037	1.002	1.000	1.017	1.007	1.026	1.010	1.009	1.108	1.006	0.928	1.005
10 Yr	0.369	1.042	1.001	1.005	1.009	1.007	1.017	1.008	1.006	1.125	1.000	0.931	0.994

The Forecasts

Forecast Summary

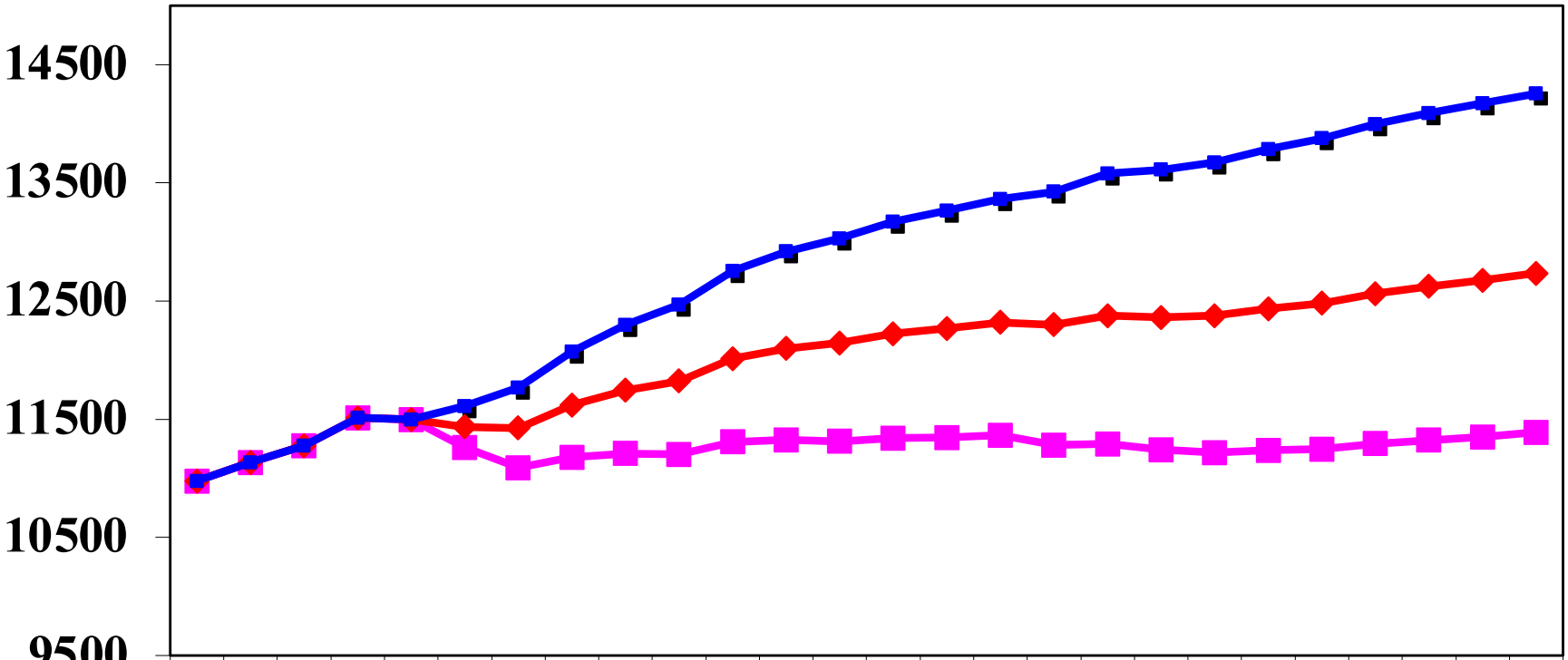
The graph on the following page shows the low, medium, and high range forecasts for the District. Subsequent pages show the enrollment history for the District and the detailed forecasts by grade level for each forecast option. All of the forecasts assume that enrollment will grow over time. They differ mostly in their assumptions regarding the amount of population and housing growth that is likely to occur in the District over the next two decades.

The medium range forecast is recommended at this time and it conforms closely to the average of the alternative forecast estimates presented earlier. The low and high range forecasts show what might happen if population growth in the District were to be lower or higher than what is assumed in the medium range forecast. Although the medium range forecast is recommended at this time, it is important to consider the low and high forecasts as well. Specifically, the District should consider what changes in facilities or other planning might be needed if enrollment were to trend closer to the low or high range numbers.

Compared to the 2017 forecast, the present forecast shows a lower growth trend over time. Much of this difference is accounted for by the lower birth forecast in this year's update. Should births be higher in future years, overall enrollment is also likely to be higher. The medium forecast is a best estimate, but it is possible to imagine a number of scenarios in which enrollment exceeds or falls below this trend line for a number of years.

Low, Medium, and High Range Forecasts 2020-2040

Based on Kindergarten Trends, Grade-to-Grade growth and an adjustment for projected future changes in population growth.



	Oct-15	Oct-16	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26	Oct-27	Oct-28	Oct-29	Oct-30	Oct-31	Oct-32	Oct-33	Oct-34	Oct-35	Oct-36	Oct-37	Oct-38	Oct-39	Oct-40
Low Growth	10978	11134	11277	11511	11499	11260	11088	11179	11210	11203	11308	11325	11313	11340	11345	11365	11281	11292	11243	11219	11238	11245	11294	11323	11351	11388
Medium (Recommended)	10978	11134	11277	11511	11499	11436	11425	11622	11746	11824	12012	12099	12144	12224	12268	12320	12301	12376	12363	12377	12436	12482	12564	12624	12677	12736
High Growth	10978	11134	11277	11511	11499	11612	11766	12071	12298	12469	12754	12920	13031	13171	13266	13362	13424	13580	13611	13674	13784	13876	13996	14089	14173	14255

Bellingham Enrollment History (October)

Birth Data *Birth Data*

Birth Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
City Births	735	730	719	760	776	906	849	935	883	863	876	851	929	840	953	900	962	1002	991	*985*	*980*	*972*
% of Cohort	93.5%	85.5%	90.8%	87.6%	82.6%	78.8%	89.4%	77.1%	80.5%	83.2%	77.6%	86.5%	86.5%	97.1%	80.5%	95.1%	82.5%	82.8%	83.6%	85.6%	90.4%	83.6%
County Births	1986	1920	1850	1910	1945	2055	1995	2077	1965	1972	2035	2061	2122	2209	2210	2181	2269	2321	2260	*2259*	*2244*	*2286*
% of Cohort	34.6%	32.5%	35.3%	34.9%	33.0%	34.7%	38.0%	34.7%	36.2%	36.4%	33.4%	35.7%	37.9%	36.9%	34.7%	39.2%	35.0%	35.8%	36.6%	37.3%	39.5%	35.6%

	Oct-98	Oct-99	Oct-00	Oct-01	Oct-02	Oct-03	Oct-04	Oct-05	Oct-06	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-11	Oct-12	Oct-13	Oct-14	Oct-15	Oct-16	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19
K	687	624	653	666	641	714	759	721	711	718	680	736	804	816	767	856	794	830	828	843	886	813
1	778	757	685	711	771	723	795	818	785	770	796	772	794	849	836	797	888	843	861	851	868	911
2	714	778	767	707	723	772	744	782	822	782	774	778	782	785	847	831	768	886	851	870	876	870
3	773	739	796	756	734	730	765	741	797	850	799	797	776	808	808	840	816	774	880	869	867	875
4	737	769	749	786	757	732	748	761	742	801	840	804	809	771	804	793	837	835	785	890	918	869
5	828	761	789	773	796	773	726	745	773	738	819	842	810	814	776	810	772	844	873	787	911	909
6	773	821	784	806	785	819	785	711	740	812	750	797	845	807	832	772	816	777	877	919	824	914
7	751	774	831	789	814	813	849	794	703	763	828	756	799	828	829	839	784	826	811	896	911	802
8	849	779	829	832	803	827	827	839	820	724	775	842	764	789	848	817	833	791	856	821	892	919
9	949	955	914	957	993	1014	1011	1070	1112	918	861	891	974	878	931	944	891	915	893	957	910	984
10	935	904	881	871	912	924	924	939	956	972	906	875	890	956	881	908	938	892	920	925	962	907
11	787	846	858	829	773	855	872	841	829	892	915	868	799	854	885	830	861	899	805	831	846	908
12	676	662	692	711	751	655	755	685	708	833	851	890	874	752	824	883	861	866	894	818	840	818
Total	**10237**	**10169**	**10228**	**10194**	**10253**	**10351**	**10560**	**10447**	**10498**	**10573**	**10594**	**10648**	**10720**	**10707**	**10868**	**10920**	**10859**	**10978**	**11134**	**11277**	**11511**	**11499**
Change		-68	59	-34	59	98	209	-113	51	75	21	54	72	-13	161	52	-61	119	156	143	234	-12
Percent		-0.7%	0.6%	-0.3%	0.6%	1.0%	2.0%	-1.1%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%	-0.1%	1.5%	0.5%	-0.6%	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%	2.1%	-0.1%
Enrollment by Level																						
K-5	4517	4428	4439	4399	4422	4444	4537	4568	4630	4659	4708	4729	4775	4843	4838	4927	4875	5012	5078	5110	5326	5247
6-8	2373	2374	2444	2427	2402	2459	2461	2344	2263	2299	2353	2395	2408	2424	2509	2428	2433	2394	2544	2636	2627	2635
9-12	3347	3367	3345	3368	3429	3448	3562	3535	3605	3615	3533	3524	3537	3440	3521	3565	3551	3572	3512	3531	3558	3617

Enrollment Forecast (Medium)

Estimate of City of Bellingham Births (2019 to 2035)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
City Births	*1017*	*942*	*944*	*942*	*945*	*949*	*954*	*958*	*962*	*967*	*972*	*976*	*980*	*985*	*989*	*993*	*989*	*1030*	*1004*	*1008*	*1014*

Projected County Births

County Births	*2373*	*2279*	*2164*	*2161*	*2168*	*2177*	*2187*	*2197*	*2207*	*2218*	*2228*	*2238*	*2248*	*2258*	*2268*	*2278*	*2268*	*2362*	*2303*	*2311*	*2325*
% of Cohort	36.5%	36.7%	37.2%	37.2%	37.2%	37.2%	37.4%	37.4%	37.4%	37.4%	37.4%	37.6%	37.6%	37.6%	37.6%	37.6%	37.8%	37.8%	37.8%	37.8%	37.8%

	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26	Oct-27	Oct-28	Oct-29	Oct-30	Oct-31	Oct-32	Oct-33	Oct-34	Oct-35	Oct-36	Oct-37	Oct-38	Oct-39	Oct-40
K	866	836	805	804	807	810	818	822	826	830	834	841	845	849	853	856	857	892	870	873	878
1	819	887	869	837	835	838	842	850	853	857	862	866	874	878	882	886	888	888	925	902	905
2	905	817	897	879	847	845	848	852	861	864	868	872	876	885	889	893	895	897	897	934	911
3	855	899	825	906	888	855	853	856	861	869	872	877	881	885	894	898	900	902	904	904	941
4	876	865	924	847	931	912	879	877	880	884	893	896	901	905	909	918	920	923	925	927	927
5	855	879	880	940	863	947	928	894	892	895	899	908	911	916	921	925	932	934	937	939	941
6	914	865	903	904	967	886	974	953	918	916	919	923	933	936	941	946	950	958	961	964	966
7	884	916	880	919	920	984	901	991	971	934	932	935	939	949	952	957	964	968	976	978	981
8	790	885	931	894	934	935	1000	916	1007	987	949	947	950	954	965	968	973	980	984	992	994
9	998	871	990	1042	1000	1045	1046	1119	1025	1127	1104	1063	1061	1064	1068	1080	1081	1087	1094	1099	1108
10	970	999	885	1006	1059	1016	1063	1064	1137	1042	1145	1122	1080	1078	1081	1085	1096	1096	1103	1110	1115
11	824	896	937	829	943	994	952	997	997	1067	978	1074	1052	1012	1011	1013	1015	1025	1025	1032	1038
12	881	812	896	937	829	943	994	952	997	997	1067	978	1074	1052	1012	1011	1011	1013	1023	1023	1030
Total	**11436**	**11425**	**11622**	**11746**	**11824**	**12012**	**12099**	**12144**	**12224**	**12268**	**12320**	**12301**	**12376**	**12363**	**12377**	**12436**	**12482**	**12564**	**12624**	**12677**	**12736**
Change	-63	-11	196	124	78	188	86	45	80	44	52	-20	75	-13	14	59	46	82	60	54	59
Percent	-0.5%	-0.1%	1.7%	1.1%	0.7%	1.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	-0.2%	0.6%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Enrollment by Level																					
K-5	5175	5182	5200	5214	5171	5209	5169	5152	5172	5198	5226	5259	5287	5317	5347	5376	5393	5437	5459	5481	5505
6-8	2588	2666	2714	2717	2821	2805	2874	2860	2896	2837	2801	2806	2823	2840	2858	2871	2887	2906	2920	2933	2940
9-12	3673	3578	3708	3815	3832	3999	4055	4132	4156	4233	4294	4236	4266	4206	4171	4188	4202	4220	4245	4264	4291

Enrollment Forecast (Low)

Estimate of City of Bellingham Births (2019 to 2035)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
City Births	*1017*	*942*	*944*	*942*	*945*	*949*	*954*	*958*	*962*	*967*	*972*	*976*	*980*	*985*	*989*	*993*	*989*	*1030*	*1004*	*1008*	*1014*

Projected County Births

County Births	*2373*	*2279*	*2164*	*2161*	*2168*	*2177*	*2187*	*2197*	*2207*	*2218*	*2228*	*2238*	*2248*	*2258*	*2268*	*2278*	*2268*	*2362*	*2303*	*2311*	*2325*
% of Cohort	35.8%	35.9%	36.5%	36.5%	36.5%	36.5%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.7%	36.8%	36.8%	36.8%	36.8%	36.8%	37.0%	37.0%	37.0%	37.0%	37.0%

	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26	Oct-27	Oct-28	Oct-29	Oct-30	Oct-31	Oct-32	Oct-33	Oct-34	Oct-35	Oct-36	Oct-37	Oct-38	Oct-39	Oct-40
K	848	819	789	788	791	794	802	805	809	813	817	825	828	832	836	839	840	874	853	856	861
1	807	856	842	812	811	813	817	825	828	832	836	836	844	848	852	855	857	858	893	871	874
2	891	793	857	844	814	813	815	819	827	830	834	834	833	841	845	849	850	853	854	889	867
3	842	873	793	857	844	814	813	815	819	827	830	830	830	829	837	841	843	844	847	848	883
4	863	839	888	807	872	859	828	827	829	833	841	840	840	840	839	847	849	852	853	856	857
5	842	852	845	894	813	878	865	834	833	835	839	843	842	842	842	841	847	849	852	853	856
6	901	839	866	860	909	827	893	880	848	847	849	849	853	852	852	852	851	858	860	863	864
7	871	889	845	872	866	916	833	900	887	854	853	851	851	855	854	854	854	853	860	862	865
8	778	859	894	850	877	871	922	838	906	892	859	854	852	852	856	855	855	855	854	861	863
9	983	845	951	990	942	972	965	1021	928	1004	988	947	941	938	938	943	940	940	940	939	946
10	956	969	850	957	996	948	978	971	1027	934	1010	989	948	942	939	939	942	939	939	939	938
11	812	869	900	789	888	925	880	908	901	953	867	933	913	875	870	868	866	869	866	866	866
12	868	787	860	891	781	879	915	871	899	892	943	854	919	899	862	858	853	851	854	851	851
Total	**11260**	**11088**	**11179**	**11210**	**11203**	**11308**	**11325**	**11313**	**11340**	**11345**	**11365**	**11281**	**11292**	**11243**	**11219**	**11238**	**11245**	**11294**	**11323**	**11351**	**11388**
Change	-239	-172	91	31	-8	105	17	-11	27	5	20	-83	11	-49	-24	19	8	49	29	29	37
Percent	-2.1%	-1.5%	0.8%	0.3%	-0.1%	0.9%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	-0.7%	0.1%	-0.4%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Enrollment by Level																					
K-5	5093	5031	5014	5002	4944	4971	4939	4925	4945	4970	4996	5006	5015	5030	5049	5070	5085	5130	5151	5172	5197
6-8	2549	2586	2605	2582	2652	2614	2648	2618	2641	2593	2561	2553	2555	2558	2561	2560	2559	2565	2573	2585	2591
9-12	3618	3470	3561	3627	3607	3724	3738	3771	3755	3783	3808	3723	3722	3655	3609	3607	3601	3599	3599	3595	3601

Enrollment Forecast (High)

Estimate of City of Bellingham Births (2019 to 2035)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
City Births	*1017*	*942*	*944*	*942*	*945*	*949*	*954*	*958*	*962*	*967*	*972*	*976*	*980*	*985*	*989*	*993*	*989*	*1030*	*1004*	*1008*	*1014*

Projected County Births

County Births	*2373*	*2279*	*2164*	*2161*	*2168*	*2177*	*2187*	*2197*	*2207*	*2218*	*2228*	*2238*	*2248*	*2258*	*2268*	*2278*	*2268*	*2362*	*2303*	*2311*	*2325*
% of Cohort	37.2%	37.4%	38.0%	38.0%	38.0%	38.0%	38.2%	38.2%	38.2%	38.2%	38.2%	38.3%	38.3%	38.3%	38.3%	38.3%	38.5%	38.5%	38.5%	38.5%	38.5%

	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26	Oct-27	Oct-28	Oct-29	Oct-30	Oct-31	Oct-32	Oct-33	Oct-34	Oct-35	Oct-36	Oct-37	Oct-38	Oct-39	Oct-40
K	883	852	822	820	823	827	834	838	842	846	850	858	862	866	870	874	874	910	887	890	896
1	832	917	895	862	861	864	867	875	879	883	887	897	905	909	913	918	920	920	958	934	937
2	918	841	937	915	881	880	883	886	895	899	903	911	922	930	934	938	940	943	943	982	958
3	867	927	858	956	933	899	898	901	904	913	917	926	934	945	953	957	960	962	965	965	1005
4	889	891	962	891	992	969	932	931	934	937	948	956	966	974	986	994	997	999	1001	1005	1005
5	867	905	915	988	915	1019	996	958	957	960	963	979	987	997	1006	1018	1025	1027	1029	1031	1035
6	928	891	940	950	1026	950	1058	1033	994	993	997	1005	1021	1029	1041	1049	1062	1069	1071	1073	1075
7	897	944	916	966	976	1055	976	1087	1062	1021	1020	1029	1037	1055	1063	1074	1084	1097	1104	1106	1108
8	802	912	969	941	992	1002	1082	1002	1116	1090	1049	1052	1062	1070	1088	1097	1108	1117	1132	1139	1141
9	1013	897	1030	1096	1063	1121	1132	1223	1132	1261	1232	1191	1194	1207	1216	1235	1243	1256	1267	1283	1291
10	985	1029	920	1058	1125	1092	1151	1162	1256	1162	1295	1271	1229	1232	1245	1255	1272	1280	1293	1304	1321
11	837	923	975	871	1002	1066	1033	1089	1101	1189	1101	1232	1210	1170	1173	1185	1192	1208	1215	1229	1239
12	894	836	932	984	879	1011	1076	1044	1100	1111	1201	1116	1251	1227	1187	1190	1200	1207	1224	1231	1244
Total	**11612**	**11766**	**12071**	**12298**	**12469**	**12754**	**12920**	**13031**	**13171**	**13266**	**13362**	**13424**	**13580**	**13611**	**13674**	**13784**	**13876**	**13996**	**14089**	**14173**	**14255**
Change	113	154	306	226	171	285	166	111	141	95	96	63	156	32	62	111	92	120	93	84	82
Percent	1.0%	1.3%	2.6%	1.9%	1.4%	2.3%	1.3%	0.9%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%	1.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Enrollment by Level																					
K-5	5257	5333	5389	5432	5405	5458	5411	5390	5411	5439	5468	5528	5576	5621	5662	5699	5715	5761	5783	5808	5836
6-8	2627	2747	2825	2856	2994	3006	3116	3123	3171	3104	3065	3086	3121	3154	3191	3220	3254	3284	3307	3318	3325
9-12	3728	3685	3858	4009	4069	4290	4393	4518	4588	4723	4828	4811	4884	4836	4820	4865	4907	4952	4999	5047	5095

Medium Range October Headcount Forecast Converted to October FTE Projection

Projection Converted to FTE

	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26	Oct-27	Oct-28	Oct-29	Oct-30	Oct-31	Oct-32	Oct-33	Oct-34	Oct-35	Oct-36	Oct-37	Oct-38	Oct-39	Oct-40
	856.8	827.0	797.1	796.0	798.5	802.0	809.6	813.3	817.1	820.9	824.9	832.6	836.2	840.0	843.7	847.6	847.9	882.9	860.8	863.9	869.2
	812.7	879.4	861.6	830.6	828.6	831.6	835.6	843.6	846.6	850.6	854.6	858.6	866.6	870.7	874.7	878.7	880.9	880.9	917.9	894.9	897.9
	897.7	810.7	890.1	872.1	841.0	839.0	842.0	846.0	854.0	857.0	861.1	865.1	869.1	878.1	882.1	886.1	888.4	890.4	890.4	927.4	904.4
	848.8	893.4	819.6	899.9	881.8	849.7	847.7	850.7	854.7	862.8	865.8	870.8	874.8	878.8	887.8	891.9	894.1	896.1	898.1	898.1	935.1
	869.4	858.0	917.1	840.9	924.1	905.0	872.0	870.0	873.0	877.0	886.0	889.0	894.0	898.0	902.0	911.1	913.2	916.2	918.2	920.3	920.3
	849.8	873.7	874.8	935.1	857.8	942.1	923.1	888.9	886.9	889.9	893.9	903.0	906.0	911.0	916.0	920.0	927.2	929.2	932.3	934.3	936.3
	908.1	858.7	896.8	897.8	959.9	879.7	967.0	946.9	911.8	909.8	912.8	916.8	926.8	929.9	934.9	939.9	943.9	951.9	953.9	956.9	958.9
	878.9	911.1	874.6	913.8	914.8	978.1	895.7	985.1	965.0	928.8	926.8	929.9	933.9	943.9	946.9	951.9	958.0	962.0	970.0	972.0	975.0
	782.9	876.7	923.0	885.9	926.0	927.0	991.0	908.0	998.0	978.0	941.0	939.0	942.0	946.0	956.0	959.0	964.0	971.0	975.0	983.0	985.0
	990.7	864.5	982.9	1035.0	992.9	1038.0	1039.0	1111.3	1018.0	1119.3	1096.2	1055.1	1053.1	1056.1	1060.1	1072.1	1073.0	1079.0	1086.0	1091.0	1100.0
	960.4	988.9	875.8	995.8	1048.8	1005.8	1051.8	1052.8	1125.8	1031.8	1133.8	1110.8	1068.8	1066.8	1069.8	1073.8	1084.7	1084.7	1091.6	1098.6	1103.6
	717.0	779.9	815.4	721.4	820.7	864.6	828.6	867.3	867.3	927.9	850.6	934.0	915.6	880.4	879.6	881.3	883.1	891.8	891.8	898.0	903.2
	704.0	648.8	715.8	748.9	662.6	753.8	794.1	761.0	796.5	796.5	852.2	781.2	857.9	840.9	808.6	807.8	807.8	809.5	817.5	817.5	823.1
	11077.1	**11071.0**	**11244.7**	**11373.2**	**11457.4**	**11616.5**	**11697.2**	**11744.8**	**11814.7**	**11850.4**	**11899.7**	**11885.8**	**11944.8**	**11940.6**	**11962.3**	**12021.2**	**12066.2**	**12145.7**	**12203.7**	**12256.0**	**12312.3**
Change	-30.3	-6.1	173.7	128.5	84.3	159.0	80.7	47.6	69.9	35.7	49.3	-13.9	59.0	-4.2	21.7	58.9	45.0	79.5	58.0	52.2	56.3
Percent	-0.3%	-0.1%	1.6%	1.1%	0.7%	1.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	-0.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
K-5	5135	5142	5160	5175	5132	5169	5130	5112	5132	5158	5186	5219	5247	5277	5306	5335	5352	5396	5418	5439	5463
6-8	2570	2647	2694	2697	2801	2785	2854	2840	2875	2817	2781	2786	2803	2820	2838	2851	2866	2885	2899	2912	2919
9-12	3372	3282	3390	3501	3525	3662	3714	3792	3808	3876	3933	3881	3895	3844	3818	3835	3849	3865	3887	3905	3930

School Forecasts

School Projections Methodology

- School enrollments were projected for the period from 2020 to 2025. It should be noted that projections beyond a few years are less reliable and should be used with caution.

- At the entry grades (K, 6, and 9) each school's average share of the District's enrollment at the appropriate grade over the past three years was calculated. This percentage was multiplied by the projected District total at each entry grade for subsequent years. These numbers were then adjusted as necessary for projected housing and population growth within each service area.

- At the continuing grades, students were rolled up for each subsequent year based on the average roll up rate of the past three years. Adjustments were then made for projected new housing growth within each school's attendance area. This adjustment was based on data provided by the City of Bellingham and some long range estimates from regional planning agencies and the State of Washington. The data was coded into attendance areas so that we could see which areas have the potential for growth from new housing.

- The housing data for this analysis was provided by the City of Bellingham. The City provided recently permitted units as well as units that are in the process of development. We did not have specific data for unincorporated areas of the District so it is possible we are underestimating growth in those areas.

School Projections Methodology

- The City of Bellingham has issued an average of approximately 500 permits a year since the 2010 Census, although a large number of these permits were issued in the last five years.

- In order to determine how many students might come from new housing we used student generation rate estimates provided by the City analyst based on work that was recently completed for the District.

- In addition, to accounting for the effect of housing, we also had to account for the effect of proposed boundary changes that are happening in the District in 2021 and 2022. To help with this analysis the District provided enrollment data that showed the present and future boundary areas for all students enrolled in the District in the 2019-2020 school year. We looked at the current and future boundary area data for impacted schools to create estimates of what percentage of the students might move from one school to the other. These percentage estimates were used to adjust the numbers by school.

- The analysis shows where the District might see additional growth from new housing and the potential impact of the revised boundary areas. As previously noted school projections are less reliable than District projections because the school forecasts are based on smaller numbers. The boundary changes introduce some additional uncertainty into these forecast estimates. In spite of these reservations, the present projections should show which schools are likely to trend up, trend down, or stay about the same.

School Service Area Projections

October Projections

Projection Summary by School (October Headcount 2020-2025)

	Projections							
	Oct-18	**Oct-19**	**Oct-20**	**Oct-21**	**Oct-22**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-24**	**Oct-25**
Alderwood	241	259	268	277	289	295	296	303
Birchwood	344	345	340	338	362	369	355	355
Carl Cozier	326	326	314	318	319	332	332	332
Columbia	312	300	298	274	267	256	260	263
Cordata	390	362	358	350	354	340	328	325
Geneva	476	474	468	458	444	444	448	451
Happy Valley	416	434	440	456	455	458	450	445
Lowell	302	271	272	299	294	285	288	295
Northern Heights	392	377	377	362	432	431	436	438
Parkview	346	342	350	369	397	411	409	414
Roosevelt	393	410	406	411	413	432	424	423
Silver Beach	507	479	461	454	333	326	320	328
Sunnyland	310	295	296	290	333	330	323	329
Wade King	413	398	373	378	361	357	355	359
Total	**5168**	**5072**	**5023**	**5034**	**5054**	**5067**	**5024**	**5059**
Fairhaven	625	596	572	589	618	635	639	633
Kulshan	576	618	659	708	748	716	746	727
Shuksan	680	683	676	667	639	635	680	693
Whatcom	693	677	628	647	651	673	696	691
Total	**2574**	**2574**	**2535**	**2611**	**2657**	**2659**	**2760**	**2744**
Bellingham	1054	1097	1124	1101	1144	1174	1184	1232
OPTIONS	182	189	180	176	183	189	192	203
Sehome	1057	1051	1068	1041	1066	1100	1107	1153
Squalicum	1153	1157	1178	1145	1189	1220	1226	1272
Total	**3446**	**3494**	**3549**	**3462**	**3583**	**3683**	**3708**	**3861**
Alternative	323	359	329	318	328	337	332	349
Grand Total	**11511**	**11499**	**11436**	**11425**	**11622**	**11746**	**11824**	**12012**