USD 232
Unified School District No. 232

September 20 Count Day

2026–27 Enrollment Summary

Changes by grade level, through matriculation, and over time (Fall 2020–Fall 2026)

USD 232 | cgibson@usd232/AI Supported Graphics| October 1, 2026

The Headline Numbers (K–12 ONLY)

Fall 2026 count (report in progress, not yet submitted to KSDE).

6,966

K–12 headcount

−135 vs. 2025-26 (7,101); −24 vs. 2020-21 (6,990)

6,932.3

K–12 funded FTE*

−121.2 FTE (−1.7%) vs. 2025-26 (7,053.5)

428

Kindergarten

−25 vs. 2025-26 (453); −30 vs. 2020-21 (458)

648

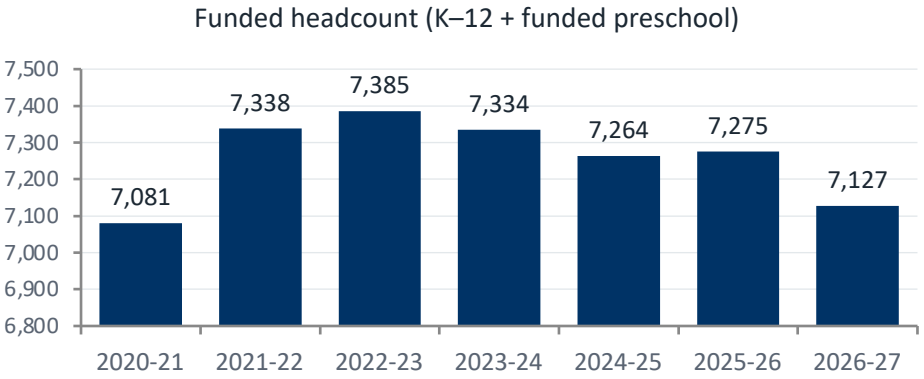
Grade 9, the largest class

+79 vs. Grade 9 in 2025-26 (569); largest grade in the district

*K–12 FTE from the Headcounts Table, excluding virtual students (funded separately). With preschool IEP and at-risk students at 0.5 FTE, total funded FTE is 7,013.3 (−127.2); see the FTE slide.

Headcount: Every Student Counted (PK–12+)

All students on the September 20 count, including preschool and virtual students.



7,201

students counted this fall

–149 vs. 2025-26 (7,350), –2.0%

Funded headcount: 7,127, down 148 from 7,275

+82 vs. 2020-21 (7,119), a pandemic-reduced year

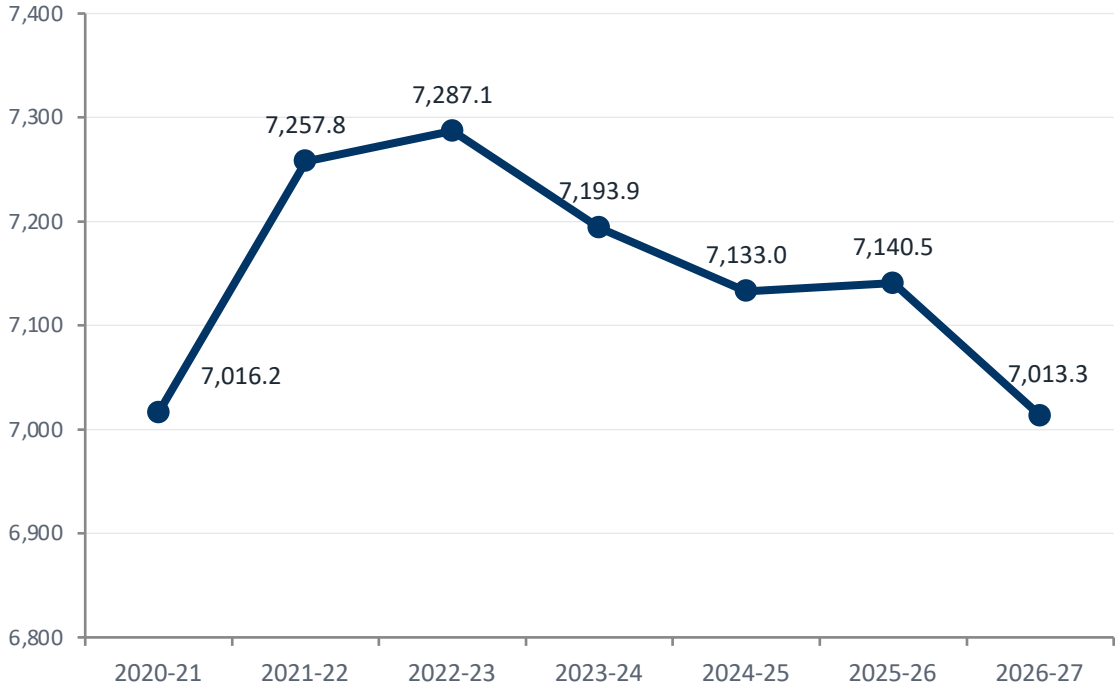
Next slide: funding is not based on headcount. It converts students to full-time equivalent (FTE).

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K–12	6,990	7,225	7,235	7,164	7,091	7,101	6,966
Preschool, funded (IEP + at-risk)	91	113	150	170	173	174	161
Funded headcount	**7,081**	**7,338**	**7,385**	**7,334**	**7,264**	**7,275**	**7,127**
Preschool-aged, not funded	38	66	63	50	55	75	74
All students	**7,119**	**7,404**	**7,448**	**7,384**	**7,319**	**7,350**	**7,201**

Source: KSDE Headcounts Tables, September 20 count each year. Funded headcount includes virtual students. 2020-21 enrollment was reduced by the pandemic.

From Headcount to FTE: What Funding Counts

Preschool students with an IEP or at-risk status count as 0.5 FTE and part-time students count partially; only unfunded preschool-aged students are excluded.



−273.8 FTE

since the 2022-23 peak (−3.8%)

−127.2 FTE

vs. 2025-26 — the largest one-year drop in the period

FTE is now 2.9 below 2020-21, the pandemic low, after rising 241.6 the following year.

Headcounts Table FTE column: all state-funded students, including preschool IEP and at-risk at 0.5 FTE; virtual students are funded separately

K–12 Changes by Grade Level

K–12 headcount (includes virtual); this year compared with 2020–21 and with last year.

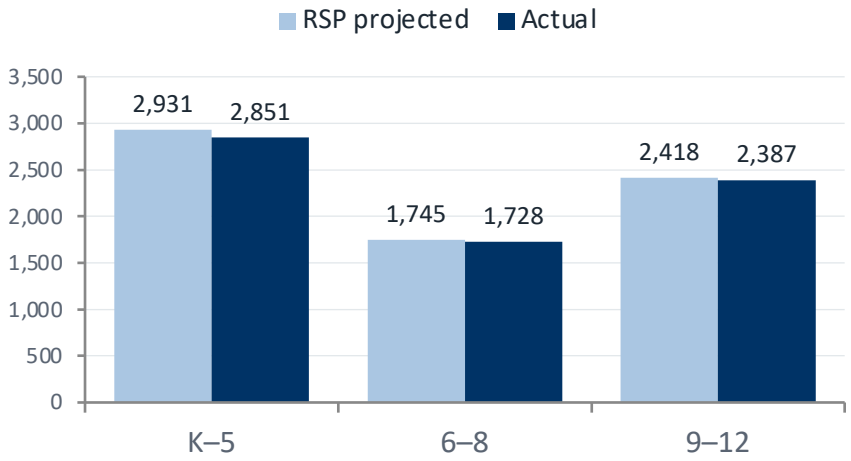
Grade	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Δ vs 20-21	Δ vs 25-26
K	458	499	466	429	418	453	**428**	**–30**	**–25**
Grade 1	469	513	505	473	446	414	**465**	**–4**	**+51**
Grade 2	470	522	522	514	495	464	**431**	**–39**	**–33**
Grade 3	546	514	534	521	525	514	**470**	**–76**	**–44**
Grade 4	486	578	537	544	534	527	**520**	**+34**	**–7**
Grade 5	520	543	594	543	550	553	**537**	**+17**	**–16**
Grade 6	558	546	544	609	551	584	**571**	**+13**	**–13**
Grade 7	594	583	567	550	622	569	**576**	**–18**	**+7**
Grade 8	541	613	597	575	552	637	**581**	**+40**	**–56**
Grade 9	593	548	629	596	579	569	**648**	**+55**	**+79**
Grade 10	550	597	558	627	597	589	**563**	**+13**	**–26**
Grade 11	587	567	610	566	636	592	**581**	**–6**	**–11**
Grade 12	618	602	572	617	586	636	**595**	**–23**	**–41**
K–12 total	**6,990**	**7,225**	**7,235**	**7,164**	**7,091**	**7,101**	**6,966**	**–24**	**–135**

Where the change is concentrated

- **K–12: −135 vs. 25-26, −24 vs. 20-21.**
- Grade 9 (648): +79 vs. 25-26, +55 vs. 20-21.
- Grade 8 (581): −56 vs. 25-26.
- Grades 2, 3 and 12: −33, −44, −41 vs. 25-26.
- Grade 3 (470): −76 vs. 20-21, the largest long-range drop.
- K (428): −25 vs. 25-26, −30 vs. 20-21.

K-12 RSP projection vs. actual: 2026-27

RSP & Associates market forecast (January 2026) compared with the September 20 count.



Level	RSP projected	Actual	Difference	%
K–5	2,931	**2,851**	**–80**	–2.7%
6–8	1,745	**1,728**	**–17**	–1.0%
9–12	2,418	**2,387**	**–31**	–1.3%
K–12 total	**7,094**	**6,966**	**–128**	**–1.8%**

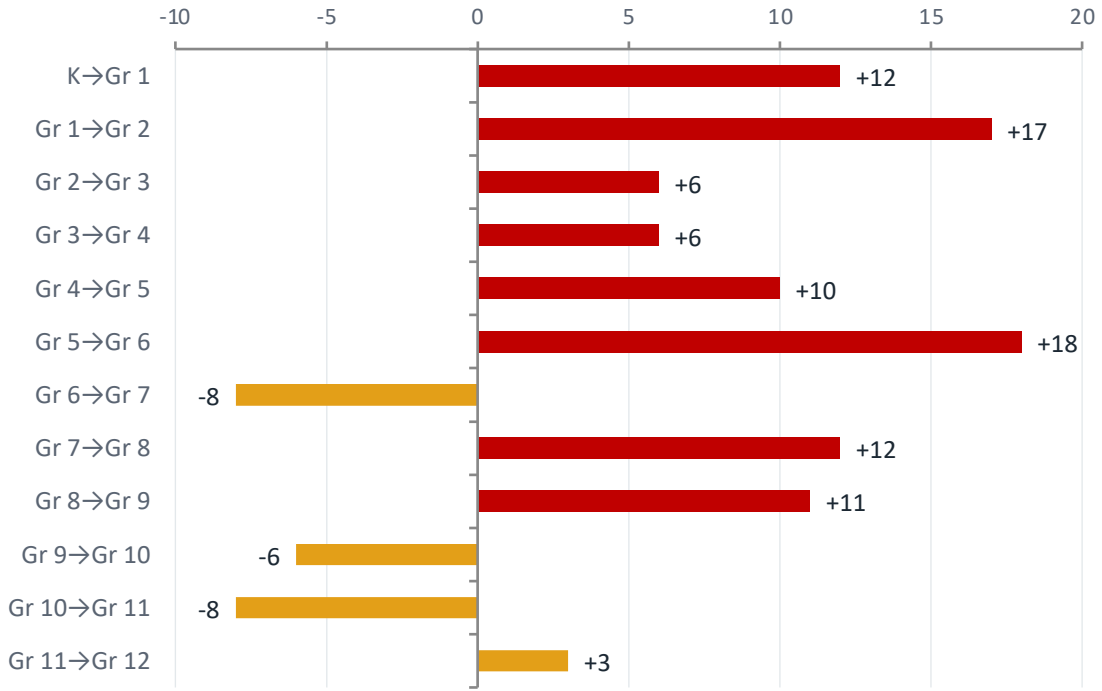
–128

students below RSP's K–12 projection (7,094 projected, 6,966 actual; −1.8%)

- Every level came in under projection.
- Elementary had the largest shortfall (−80, −2.7%), the level RSP expects to drive future growth.
- RSP expected K–12 to grow by 23 this year; it fell by 135.
- RSP forecasts 7,271 by 2030-31. From 6,966, reaching it would take +305 over four years instead of the +177 RSP built in.

K-12 Matriculation: How Each Class Changed

Each class in 2025–26 compared with the same class one grade up in 2026–27.



+73

net students gained by the twelve classes that returned this fall (+1.1%)

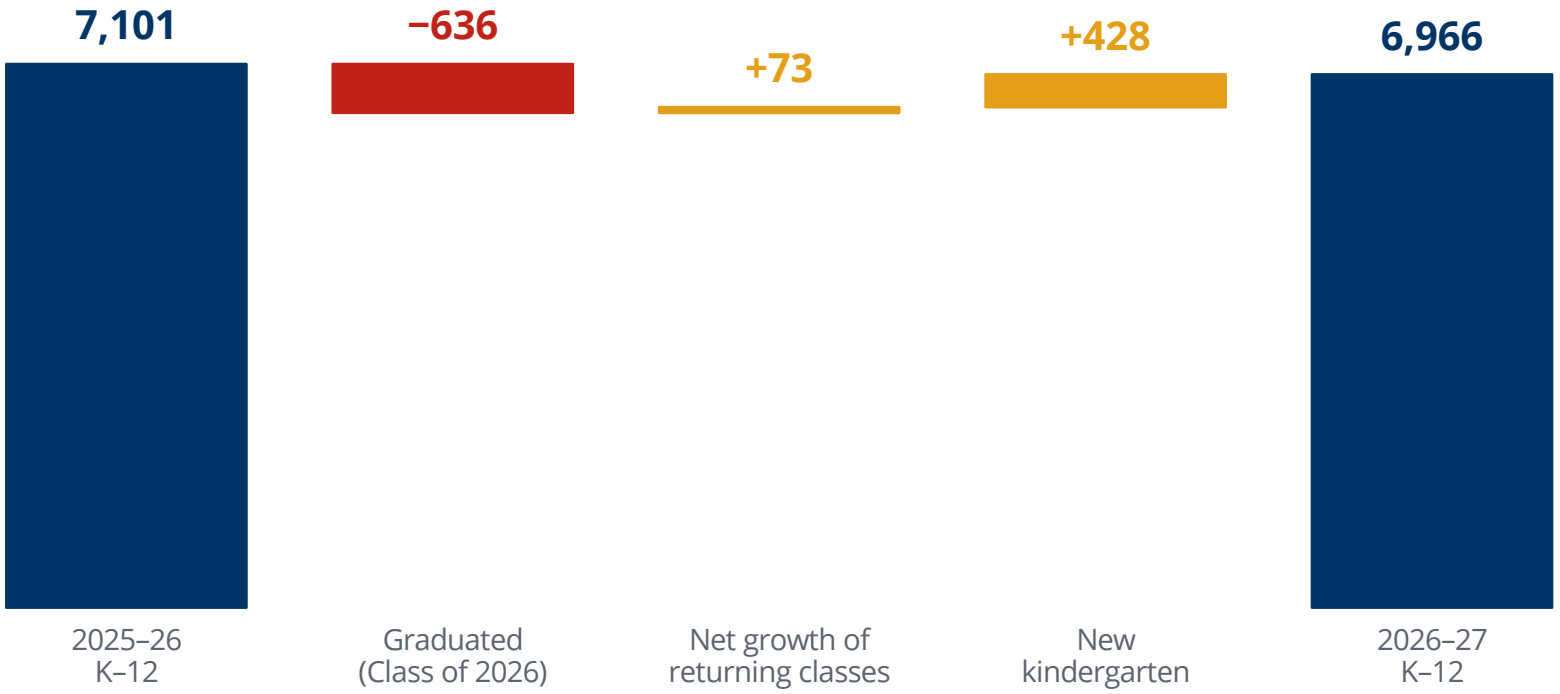
9 of 12 classes grew; the three that shrank lost 6–8 students each. Returning classes have grown every year since 2020-21, from +72 to +354 (the 2021-22 rebound).

Classes are not shrinking as they move through. The decline comes from which classes enter and leave (next slide).

Net change reflects all move-ins, move-outs and retention within each class. Prior-year figures compare each Headcounts Table with the prior year.

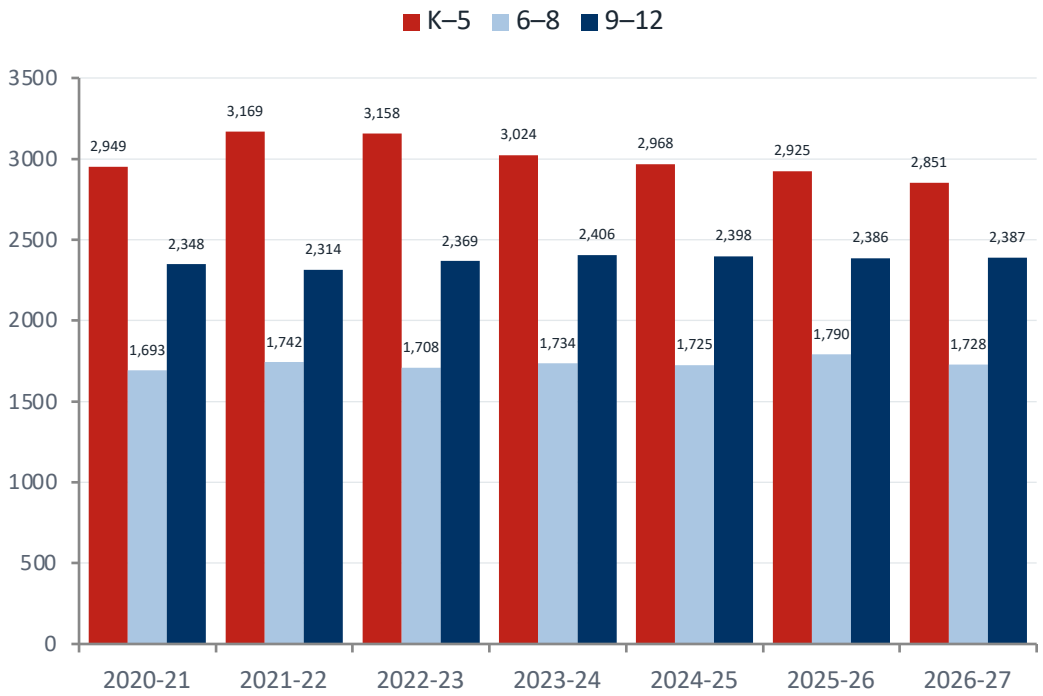
Why K–12 Enrollment Fell by 135 Students

2025–26 to 2026–27



The Decline Is at the Elementary Level

Headcount by level



K–5 **–98**

2,949 → 2,851 since 2020-21 (-3.3%); −74 vs. 25-26

6–8 **+35**

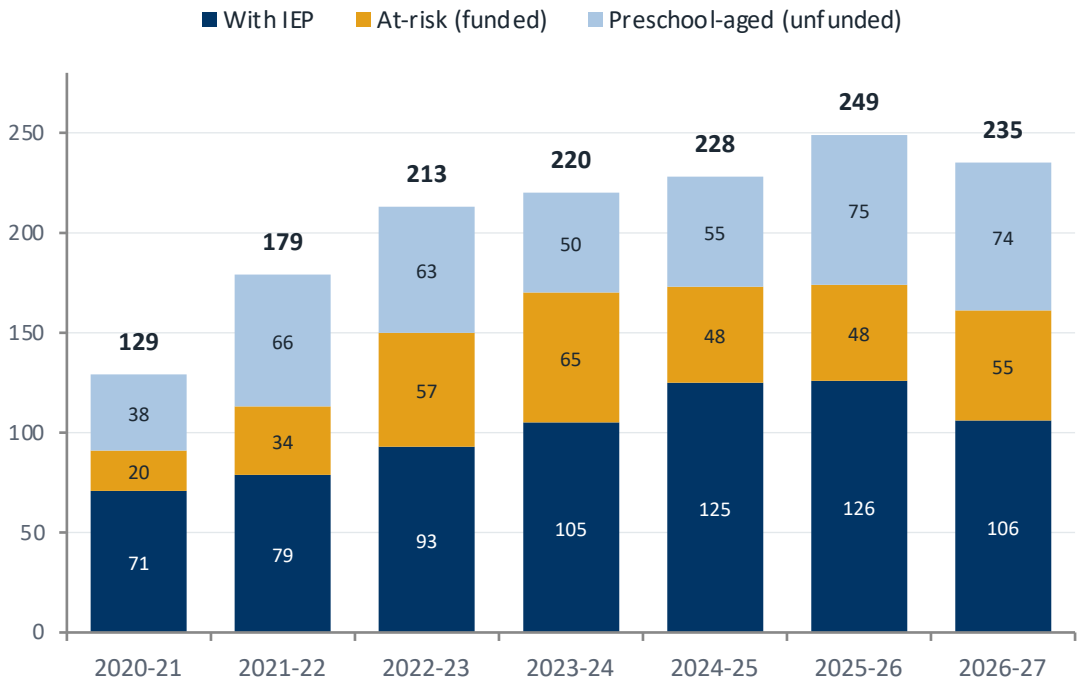
1,693 → 1,728 since 2020-21 (2.1%); −62 vs. 25-26

9–12 **+39**

2,348 → 2,387 since 2020-21 (1.7%); +1 vs. 25-26

Preschool Enrollment

Headcount; the "Preschool-Aged" row (no IEP, not at-risk) is informational and does not generate state funding.



Preschool with IEP
106 this year, down 20 from 126 in 2025-26 but up 49% from 71 in 2020-21.

Funded At-Risk
55 this year, up from 48 in both 2024-25 and 2025-26 but below the 2023-24 high of 65.

Preschool-Aged, Unfunded
74, about the same as last year (75).

2020-21 and 2021-22 at-risk count only 4-year-olds as funded (20; 34); 2 three-year-olds are included with the unfunded group. 2022-23 at-risk = 22 three-year-olds + 35 four-year-olds.

A National Trend, Not Just USD 232

Districts across the country and in Kansas are seeing the same forces.

Birth Rates

~3.6M

U.S. births in 2025 (−1%). The fertility rate hit a record low of 53.1 per 1,000 women, down ~23% since 2007.

CDC provisional data, Apr 2026

National Enrollment

−7.6%

Public K–12 peaked at 50.8M in fall 2019 and is projected to fall to 46.9M by 2031.

NCES projections via Stateline, Jul 2025

Immigration

↓ Newcomers

New-to-country enrollment fell sharply in 2025-26: Examples: Miami-Dade ~14,000 → ~2,550; Denver 1,500 → 400; Wichita 1,152 → 930.

WLRN Nov 2025; KPR Oct 2025

USD 232 Residents Staying Put

Aging Population

Median age of the population within the boundaries of USD 232:

2010	**34.8**
2023	**35.9**
2026	**39**

What We See in USD 232

Births → Kindergarten fell from 499 to 428 since 2021-22 (−14%), while senior classes are still about 600.

Immigration → Bilingual headcount dropped from 250 to 210 from 2024-25 to 2025-26 (−16%).

Mobility → Unlike many districts, our returning classes grew: +73 this year and +143 last year. Families are moving in as students age in the K-12 system.

Fiscal Impact (Operating Funds)

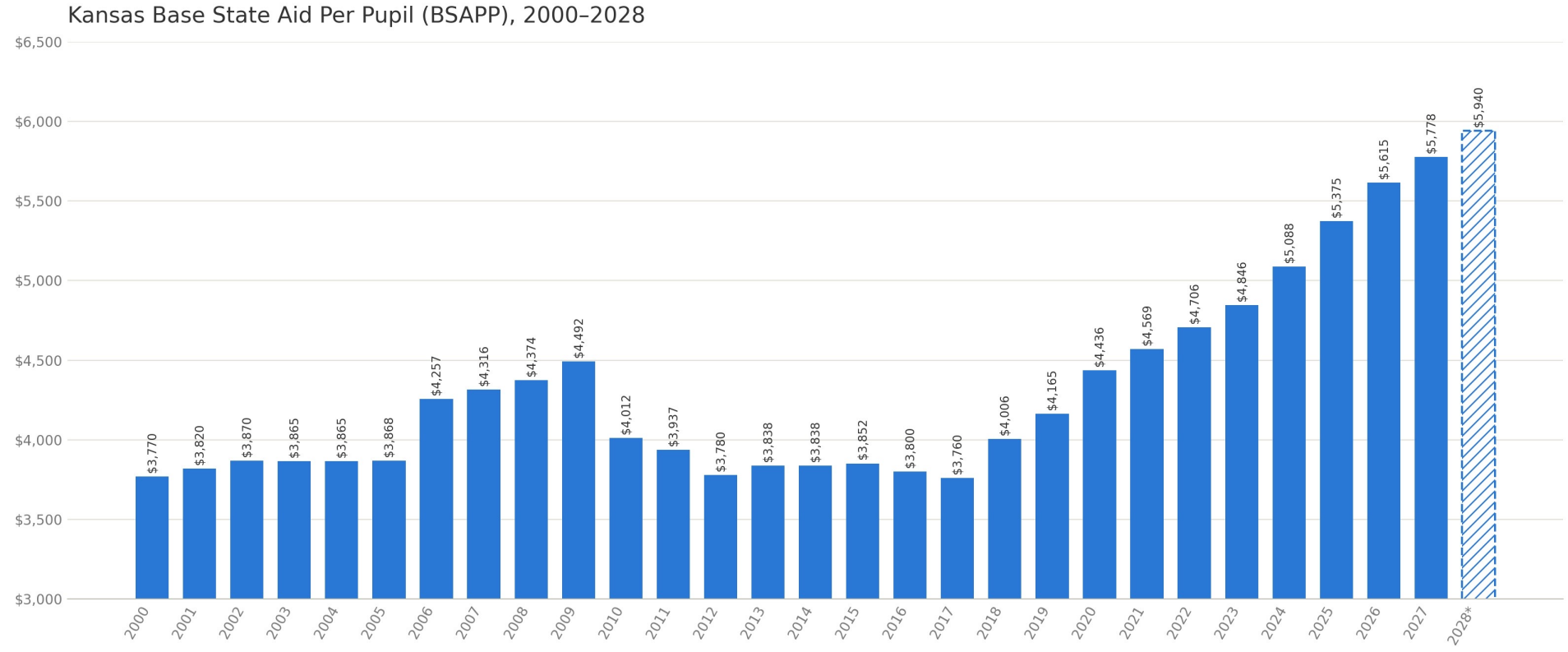
2026–27

Because funding uses the greater of current or preceding year enrollment, the base enrollment and high-enrollment weighting are held harmless this year. Only the program weightings attached to departing students are lost, and the district's actual loss there is 1.5 weighted FTE — far below the 13.7 weighted FTE that 131 average students would have carried. The $163 BASE increase applies to all remaining weighted FTE (-$12,294 in weightings).

Operational Fund	July Projected Revenue	New revenue from BASE (+$163): Updated October Projection	July Projected Revenue vs. Updated Projection
General Fund (State Foundation Aid)	+$1,509,162	$1,369,901	-$139,261
Cost of Living (COLA)*	$973,561	$827,527	-$146,034
Local Option Budget (LOB)	$593,698	$486,030	-107,668
Total	**$3,076,421**	**$2,683,458**	**-$392,963**

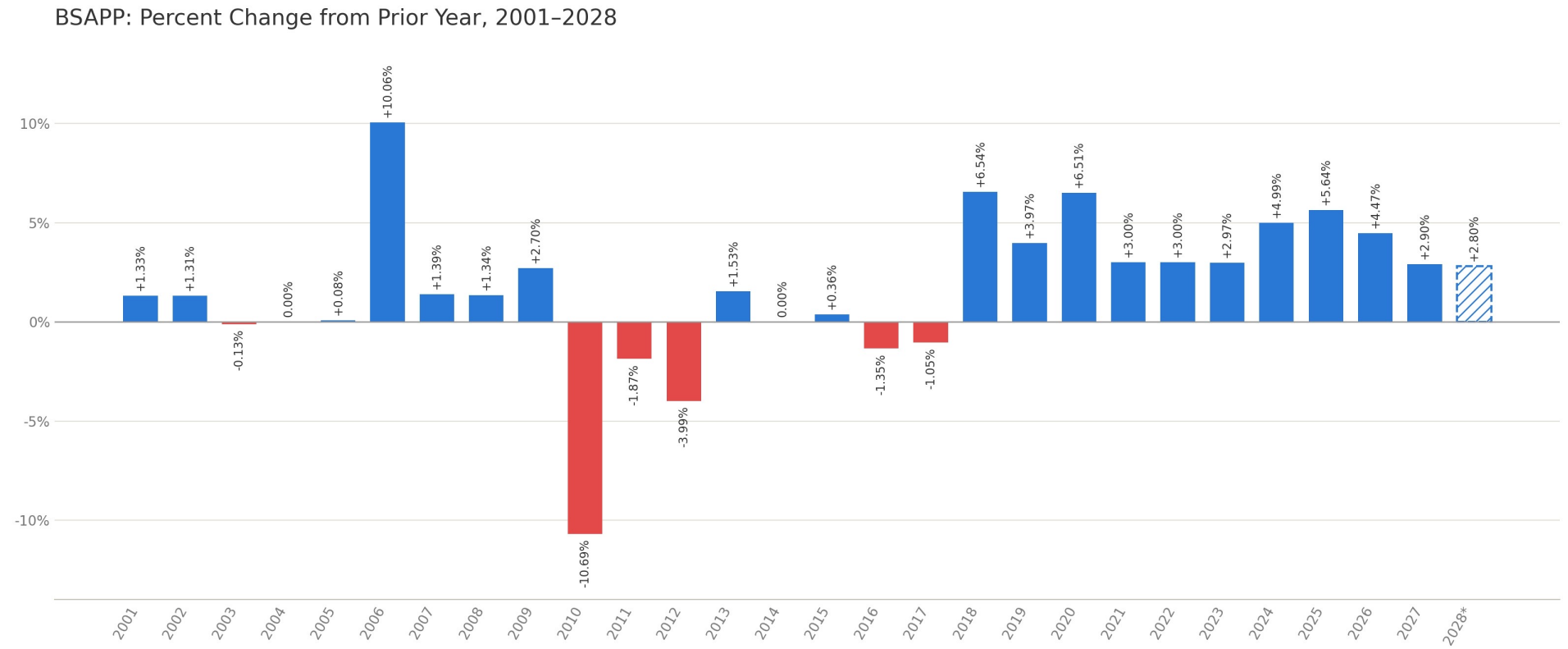
* COLA recapturing funds from FY'26 Kansas Finance Software Error

Enrollment/Weightings x BSAPP (GF)



* 2028 (2027-28) is an estimate. Years shown are the spring year of each school year.

% Changes in BSAPP (GF), Which Also Impact LOB/COLA



* 2028 (2027-28) is an estimate. Blue = increase, red = decrease.

Fiscal Impact (Operating Funds)

2027–28

If enrollment does not rebound, the hold-harmless no longer protects the base count. The district loses the base FTE and enrollment weighting for 131 students. The 1.5 weighted FTE of program weightings lost in FY 2026-27 is already reflected in the starting point and carries forward. There is no assurance that the base funding will increase, nor that the same finance formula will remain intact.

Fund	New revenue from BASE (+$162) – If Funded by Legislators	Lost revenue from enrollment	Net change
General Fund (State Foundation Aid)	$1,361,254	($834,978)	+$526,276
Cost of Living (COLA)	$86,775	($53,227)	+$33,548
Local Option Budget (LOB)	$482,962	($296,244)	+$186,719
Total	**$1,930,991**	**($1,184,449)**	**+$746,542**

Estimated Cost Increases in 2026-2027 (Changes in Pay/ Insurance/ Property/ Shift in SPED funding, etc.)
$4,582,829

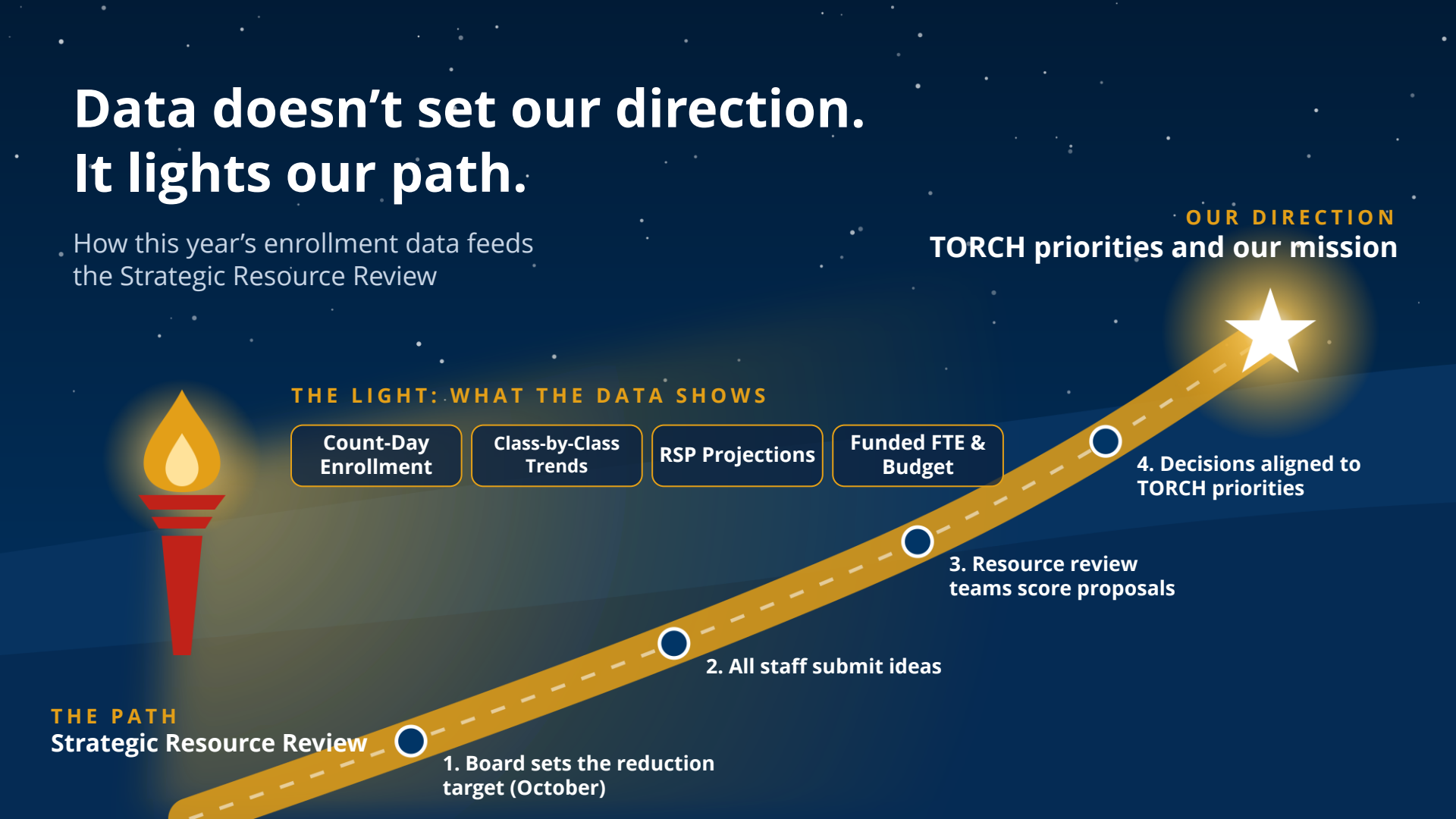
Potential Gap (if Everything held true again next year):
($3,836,287)

Essential Gap:
($1,300,000) – ($2,000,000)

Fiscal Impact

Planning Assumptions

Assumption	Value & Basis
Enrollment change	131 fewer FTE students on the September 20, 2026 count than in FY 2025-26. Enrollment does not rebound in FY 2027-28.
Program weightings	District actual: 1.5 weighted FTE lost across at-risk, high-density at-risk, bilingual, and CTE — about 11% of what 131 average students would have carried.
Transportation weighting	Estimated at the district average (5.0 weighted FTE), since it follows residence and distance rather than program participation.
BASE per pupil (estimates)	FY 2025-26: $5,615 (actual). FY 2026-27: $5,778 (final, +$163). FY 2027-28: $5,940 (Spring 2026 Education Consensus estimate, +$162).
Formula (Sunsets June 30, 2027)	KSEEA continues unchanged in FY 2027-28, including all current weightings. Hold-harmless uses the greater of current or preceding year enrollment.
Starting point	FY 2025-26 Legal Max: 8,404.3 weighted FTE excluding special education and COLA. Estimates used based on data available in FY27/FY28
COLA	6.37% of foundation weighted FTE (FY 2025-26 ratio), with the housing-value factor held constant.
LOB	33% of LOB-modified foundation aid, including the statutory artificial-BASE adjustment (1.0107).

Data doesn't set our direction. It lights our path.

How this year's enrollment data feeds the Strategic Resource Review