Puget Sound K-12 Enrollment Trends
What's Happening with Enrollment?
Fall 2026

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Brief Note on Data

The enrollment data in this report comes from October P223 enrollment counts reported to the State. The numbers may have changed since originally reported, since Districts do periodically update and correct past enrollment reporting.

We have not updated the historical data with these corrections. The changes are typically quite small and insignificant in terms of the overall trends.

Birth data comes from the Washington State Department of Health. We report births for the calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Beginning with the 2019 school year we have included the Muckleshoot Tribal School in the King County enrollment trends. We have excluded it in previous reports but decided to add it to the present and historical data to be consistent with our data reporting across counties (e.g., Chief Leschi has been reported along with the districts in Pierce County since it split off from the Puyallup School District). For this reason, the King County and overall historical numbers for the Puget Sound are slightly different from past reports The trends, however, remain the same.

K-12 Enrollment Trend in the Puget Sound

Public school enrollment in the four-county region (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties) declined by over 8,500 students between October 2025 and October 2026. This is the second straight year that enrollment has declined in the region, and it is the largest decline we have seen since the 2020 pandemic year, outpacing last year's net loss. All four counties saw a large net decline in enrollment over the past year with only a few districts reporting modest enrollment gains. The demographic conditions for the region have changed substantially from the trends we were seeing prior to the pandemic with fewer births, slower population growth, and slower sales of new and existing homes.

Over the past year, there was a net loss of 4,703 students in King County, a net loss of 534 students in Kitsap County, a net loss of 1,956 students in Pierce County, and a net loss of 1,384 students in Snohomish County. There are a handful of districts in King, Pierce and Snohomish County where enrollment is higher than it was before the pandemic.

In Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish County fertility rates remain at about the same level they were at before the pandemic. In those counties fertility rate averages range between 1.7 and 2 kids per female. King County is a different story with women in the county having fewer children and waiting longer to start their families. Fertility rates in recent years have settled to about 1.2 to 1.3 kids per female. Market share at kindergarten continues to be low. Percentages in all four counties this year are lower than the averages we were seeing before the pandemic. People with pre-school-age children are pursuing other options or moving out of the area prior to their children reaching kindergarten age.

K-12 Enrollment Trends in the Puget Sound

Population growth also slowed over the past year according to data estimates from the Office of Financial Management for the State of Washington, and home sales continue to trend below the averages we were seeing before the pandemic.

There needs to be a substantial change in the demographics – better population growth, a turn-around in the real estate market, and an increase in births to help reverse the trends that are in place. The overall size of the K-12 market in the Puget Sound is shrinking annually, and the other parts of the State are not doing well either.

Births are by far the biggest driver of enrollment trends. Until we see a change in the birth trends in King County it is likely that kindergarten and elementary enrollment will continue to decline. The lower kindergarten market share is notable as well. Even when the number of births is comparable to past years (as they are in Snohomish County), the number of children enrolled in kindergarten has dropped since the pandemic. The data suggests that many families with preschool children have left the Puget Sound prior to their children reaching school age and are not being replaced by new families with similar-aged children. There may also be some losses to private schools (see below).

Home sales also continue to lag trends we were seeing leading up to the pandemic. The recent rise in interest rates is likely to exacerbate that trend. Until we see a significant change in prices and/or interest rates, these lower sales trends are likely to remain in place.

K-12 Enrollment Trends in the Puget Sound

Private school enrollment in all four counties declined between 2022 and 2023, suggesting that some of the migration to private schools during the pandemic subsided during this time. But private school enrollment increased between 2023 and 2025 in all four counties. The fact that public schools are declining and private schools growing suggests that some families (perhaps new residents) are now choosing private schools over public schools.

Home-schooling numbers have moderated somewhat over the past four years after rising during the pandemic. We do not yet have homeschooling data for 2026, so we do not know how much this year's trends were influenced by this educational option.

We should also not underestimate the potential effect of immigration policies and practices on enrollment. If the United States takes in fewer immigrants, this can also impact enrollment. Population growth in the region is driven by births, by migration from other states, and by migration from other countries around the world. A change in the latter can affect the overall population growth we are likely to see in the region. Some of the districts with the largest percentage of immigrant children in South King County saw net declines or very little gains in those enrollments over the past year. There are also other large districts in the region where the percentage of immigrant children (as a portion of the overall population) is low, which also saw net declines or very little growth in these populations over the past year. These figures are for one year, however, so we cannot speak to whether this is the beginning of a trend or a one- year anomaly.

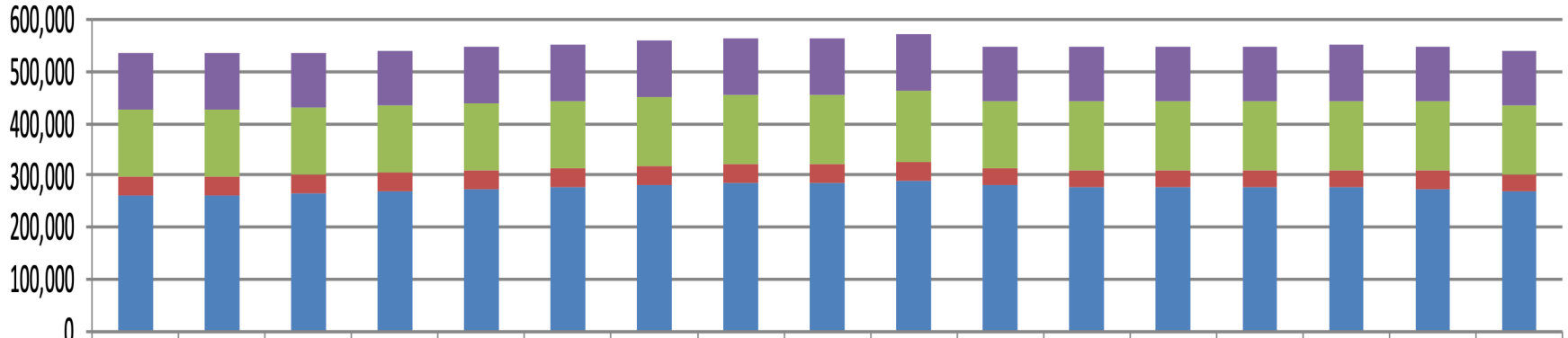
K-12 Enrollment Trends in the Puget Sound

Given the demographic conditions in the region, it seems likely that enrollment will continue to decline over the next one to two years, and possibly beyond that. A quick look at forecasts around the region show many districts are predicting a ten-year decline in enrollment. Although there may be good reasons for this, it is important to remember that these forecasts often extrapolate current trends indefinitely into the future.

Prior to the pandemic, for example, many districts were predicting that enrollment would grow for the foreseeable future. A realistic look at the past twenty-five years suggest that enrollment often shifts and changes as the demographic conditions change. Forecasts of job and population growth for the region from State and regional agencies show continuing population gains in the Puget Sound with an eventual return to increasing births and better economic prospects over the next two decades. These forecasts may turn out to be wrong, of course, but given our knowledge of history, it seems likely that demographic conditions will eventually shift leading to enrollment increasing once again in at least some parts of the Puget Sound.

Finally, it would not be surprising to see some districts growing in the next few years while others are declining, based on differences in the demographic conditions. Although regional trends are important, a district may buck that trend due to unique conditions that are happening within a boundary area (e.g., specific types of housing development, or a clustering of people who have higher fertility rates compared to other regions). In Snohomish County, for example, both Lake Stevens and Monroe saw enrollment grow this year. Tracking the unique conditions and trends of a district is always critical.

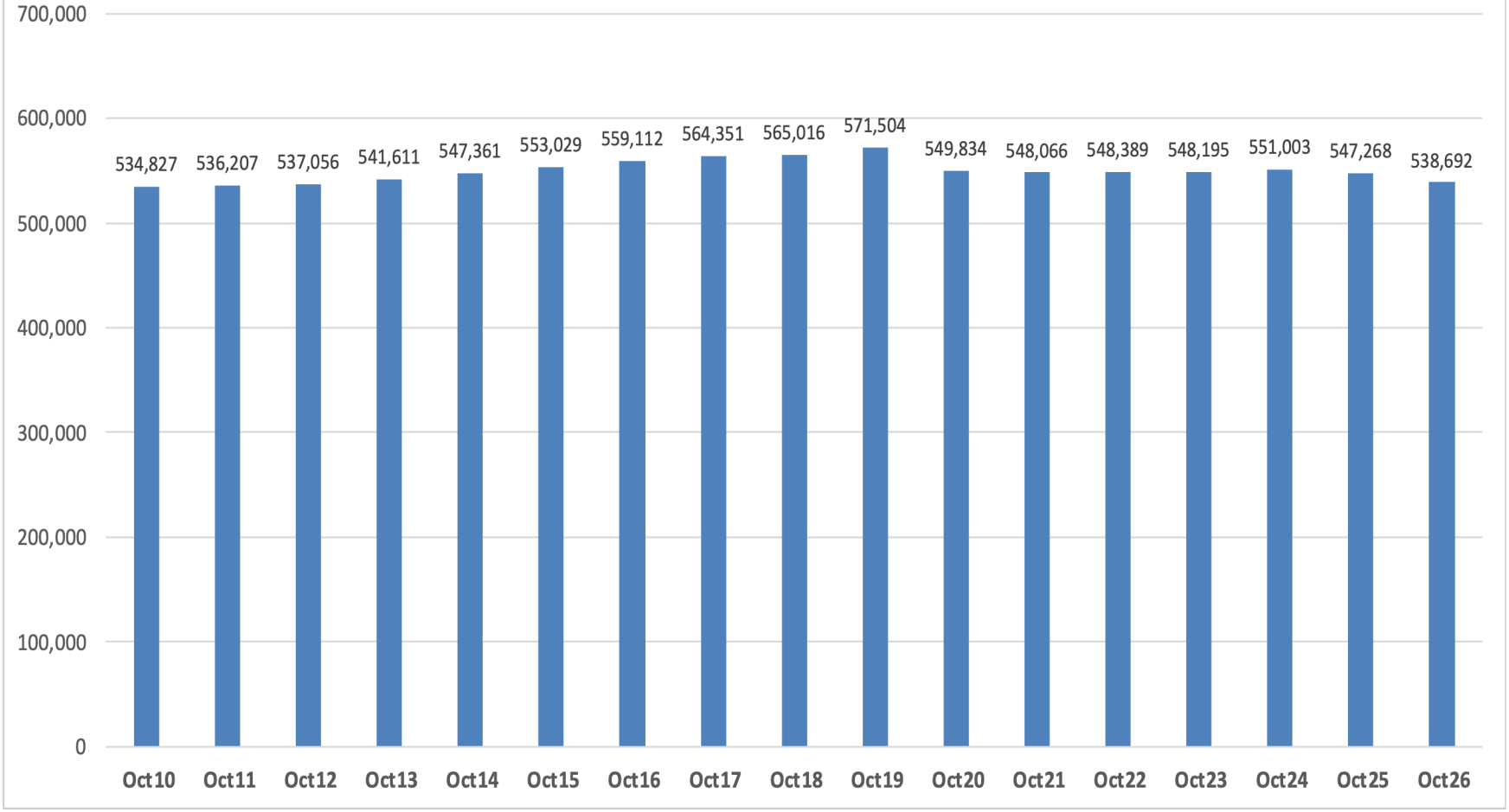
Public School Enrollment for the Puget Sound
King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish County



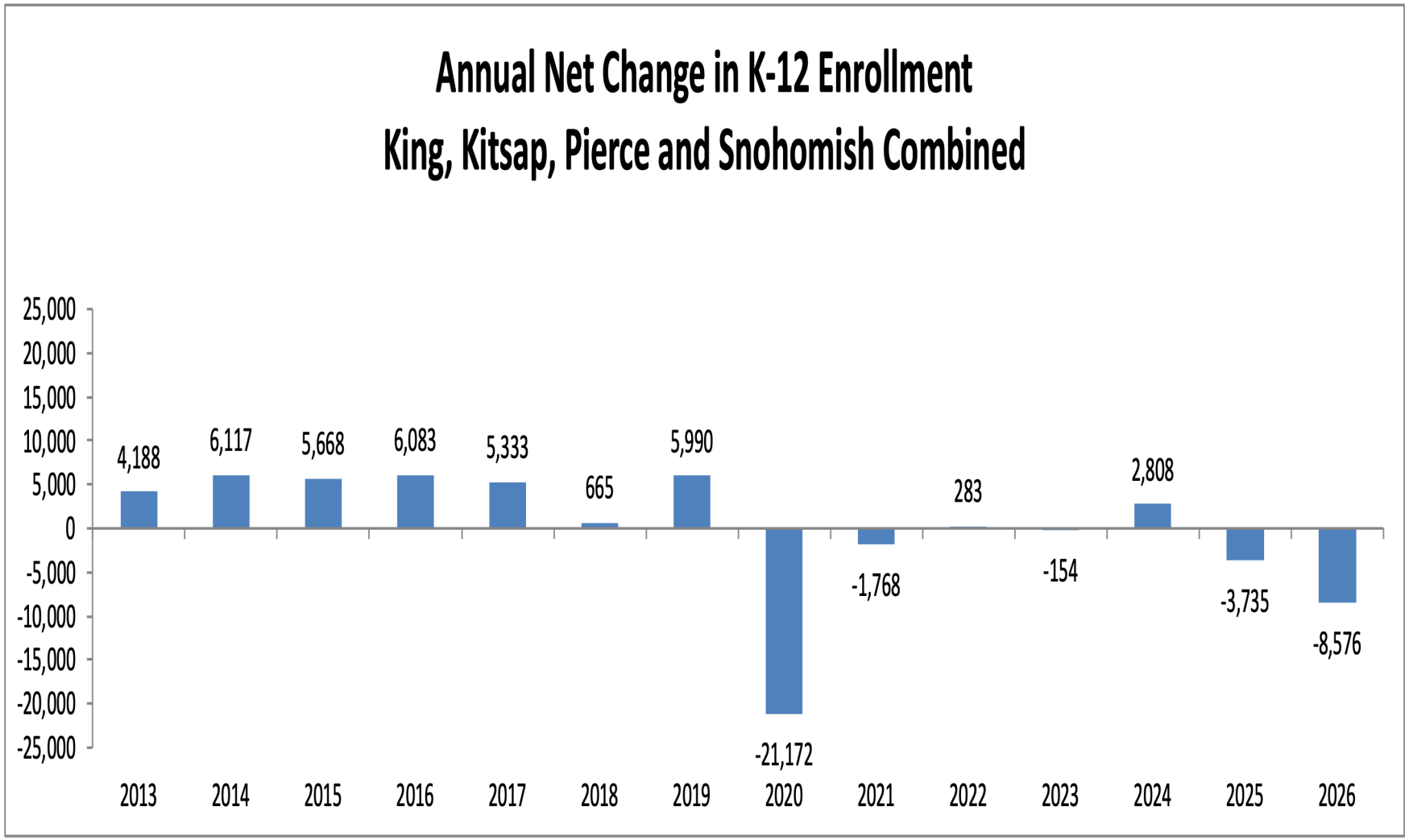
	Oct10	Oct11	Oct12	Oct13	Oct14	Oct15	Oct16	Oct17	Oct18	Oct19	Oct20	Oct21	Oct22	Oct23	Oct24	Oct25	Oct26
Snohomish	109,457	108,724	107,891	108,186	108,242	108,277	109,058	108,848	109,157	109,777	105,543	106,282	106,112	106,248	107,349	106,368	104,985
Pierce	128,698	128,413	126,930	127,332	128,501	130,117	131,366	132,940	133,571	134,855	129,040	130,927	131,588	131,575	132,506	132,589	130,633
Kitsap	37,156	36,751	35,975	35,547	35,451	35,675	35,527	35,762	35,464	35,897	34,308	34,324	33,733	33,731	33,741	33,448	32,914
King	259,516	262,319	266,260	270,546	275,167	278,960	283,161	286,801	286,824	290,477	280,943	276,533	276,916	276,641	277,407	274,863	270,160

Puget Sound K-12 Public School Enrollment

Beginning with the 2019 Enrollment Muckleshoot Tribal School is Included in King County
Numbers may have changed from when they were originally reported.

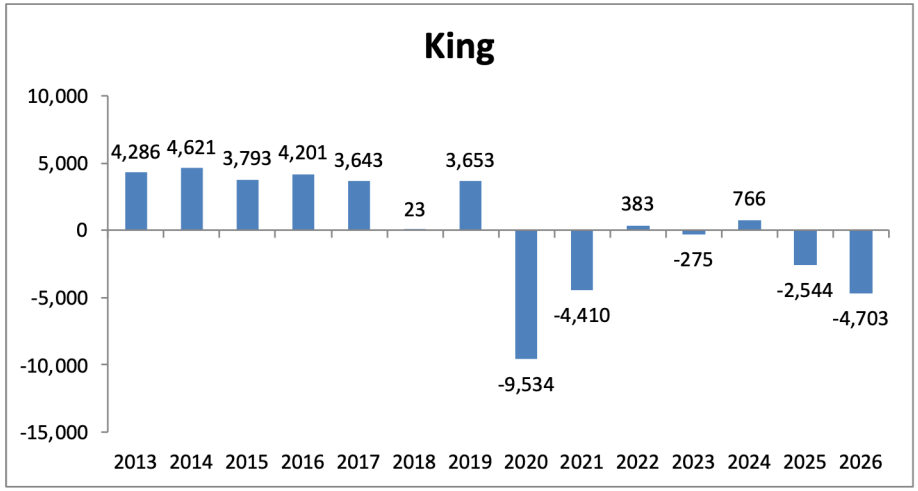


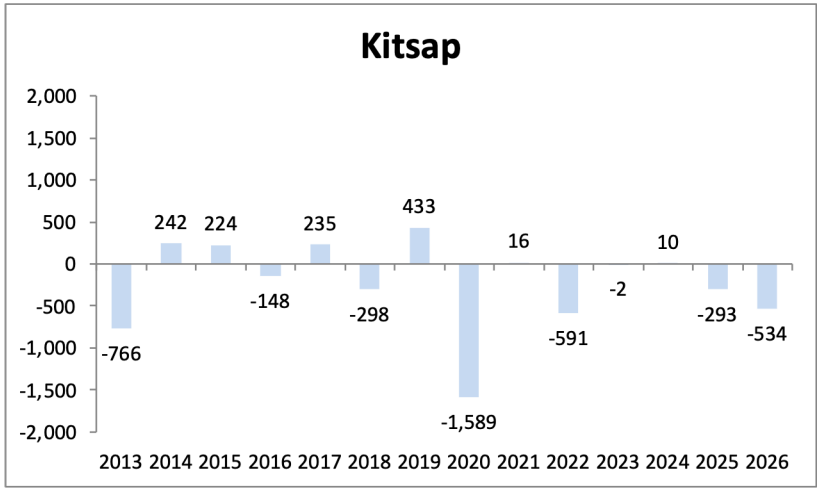
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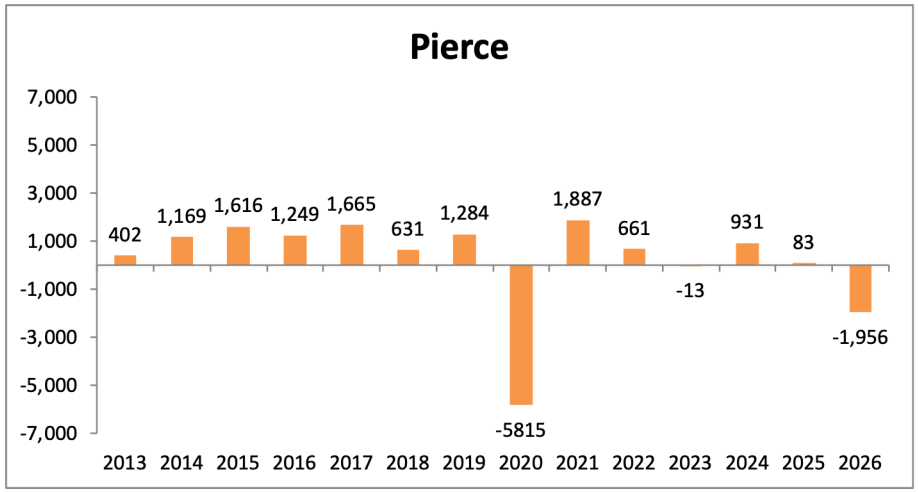

Annual Net Change in K-12 Enrollment
King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Combined
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
-5,000
-10,000
-15,000
-20,000
-25,000
4,188
6,117
5,668
6,083
5,333
665
5,990
-21,172
-1,768
283
-154
2,808
-3,735
-8,576
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026

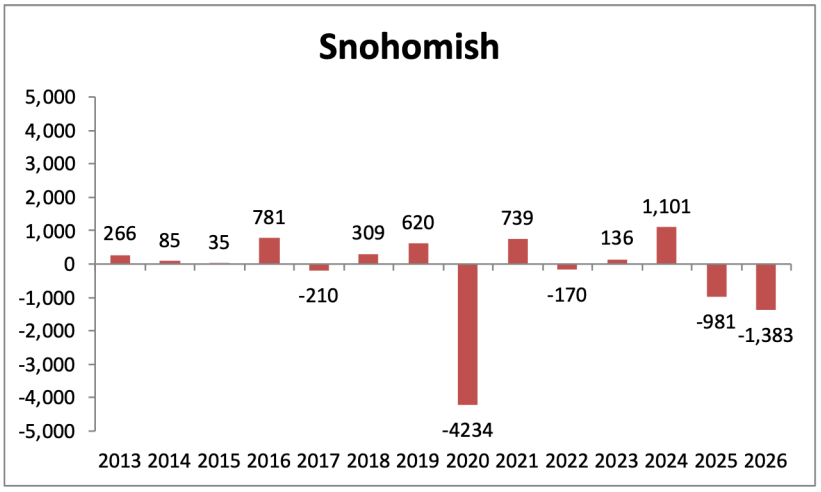
Annual Net Change in Enrollment by County Since 2012

(Numbers may have changed since the original reporting date)









King County Public Schools

Change in Enrollment Between Oct 2025 and Oct 2026

King County Districts	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Oct 2025	Oct 2026	Change Oct25 to Oct26	Change Oct19 to Oct26	
Auburn	16,906	16,194	16,601	17,061	17,239	17,301	17,039	16,733	-306	-173	*
Bellevue	20,323	19,496	18,750	18,353	18,769	19,267	19,488	19,295	-193	-1,028	
Enumclaw	4,104	3,951	4,046	4,236	4,309	4,328	4,360	4,334	-26	230	*
Federal Way	21,624	20,609	20,175	20,436	20,552	21,005	20,812	20,208	-604	-1,416	*
Highline	18,189	17,745	17,476	17,341	17,069	17,377	17,404	17,050	-354	-1,139	*
Issaquah	20,470	19,442	18,905	18,902	18,800	18,442	17,924	17,706	-218	-2,764	*
Kent	25,913	24,587	24,153	24,481	24,447	24,445	23,932	23,360	-572	-2,553	
Lake Washington	31,106	30,648	30,553	30,423	30,605	30,654	30,155	29,700	-455	-1,406	
Mercer Island	4,387	4,125	4,007	4,012	3,932	3,955	3,862	3,836	-26	-551	
Northshore	22,943	22,686	22,419	22,320	22,391	22,064	21,895	21,405	-490	-1,538	
Renton	15,176	14,922	14,595	14,387	14,128	14,117	13,993	13,522	-471	-1,654	*
Riverview	3,268	3,001	2,983	3,035	2,988	2,881	2,875	2,797	-78	-471	
Seattle	53,628	52,383	50,192	50,065	49,230	49,240	48,957	48,481	-476	-5,147	
Shoreline	9,604	9,271	9,078	9,150	9,128	9,216	9,260	9,256	-4	-348	
Skykomish	51	48	38	35	42	44	46	47	1	-4	
Snoqualmie	7,021	6,704	6,965	6,897	6,982	6,947	6,891	6,807	-84	-214	
Tahoma	8,846	8,415	8,621	8,831	8,874	8,928	8,794	8,553	-241	-293	
Tukwila	2,758	2,650	2,529	2,511	2,624	2,671	2,611	2,539	-72	-219	
Vashon Island	1,469	1,439	1,465	1,475	1,434	1,416	1,362	1,309	-53	-160	
LW Technical	204	175	166	165	154	132	124	92	-32	-112	
Renton Technical	1	1	0	0	0	11	20	11	-9	10	
Mukleshoot Indian Tribal School	534	566	524	537	552	445	464	467	3	-67	
CHARTER SCHOOLS											
Summit Atlas	344	453	479	458	545	570	616	624	8	280	
Rainier Prep	350	346	327	334	335	361	362	360	-2	10	
Summit Sierra	507	379	314	232	222	216	166	121	-45	-386	
Rainier Valley Leadership Academy	378	162	161	145	163	126	121	87	-34	-291	
Impact Salish Elementary		130	300	351	324	397	452	431	-21	431	
Impact Puget Sound Elementary	283	415	607	594	485	505	531	668	137	385	
Impact Black River Elementary	0	0	0	0	132	213	271	361	90	361	
Ashe	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-90	
Why Not You Academy			104	149	186	133	76	0	-76	0	
Total	**290,477**	**280,943**	**276,533**	**276,916**	**276,641**	**277,407**	**274,863**	**270,160**	**-4,703**	**-20,317**	
October to October Change		-9,534	-4,410	383	-275	766	-2,544	-4,703			
*Counts include transitional kindergarten.											



Kitsap County Public Schools

Change in Enrollment Between Oct 2025 and Oct 2026

Kitsap County	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Oct 2025	Oct 2026	Change Oct25 to Oct26	Change Oct19 to Oct26
Bainbridge Island	3,764	3,560	3,607	3,521	3,486	3,445	3,339	3,257	-82	-507
Bremerton	5,122	4,764	4,729	4,674	4,663	4,698	4,612	4,595	-17	-527
Central Kitsap	11,590	10,848	11,059	10,939	10,801	10,831	10,787	10,592	-195	-998
North Kitsap	5,787	5,238	5,354	5,256	5,189	5,163	5,159	5,114	-45	-673
South Kitsap	9,491	8,719	8,715	8,940	9,102	9,088	9,028	8,886	-142	-605
SK Connections Academy	227	1,179	860	0	0	0	0	0	0	-227
Catalyst Public Schools (Charter)				443	490	516	523	470	-53	470
Total	**35,981**	**34,308**	**34,324**	**33,773**	**33,731**	**33,741**	**33,448**	**32,914**	**-534**	**-3,067**
October to October Change		-1,673	16	-551	-42	10	-293	-534		

Pierce County Public Schools

Change in Enrollment Between Oct 2025 and Oct 2026

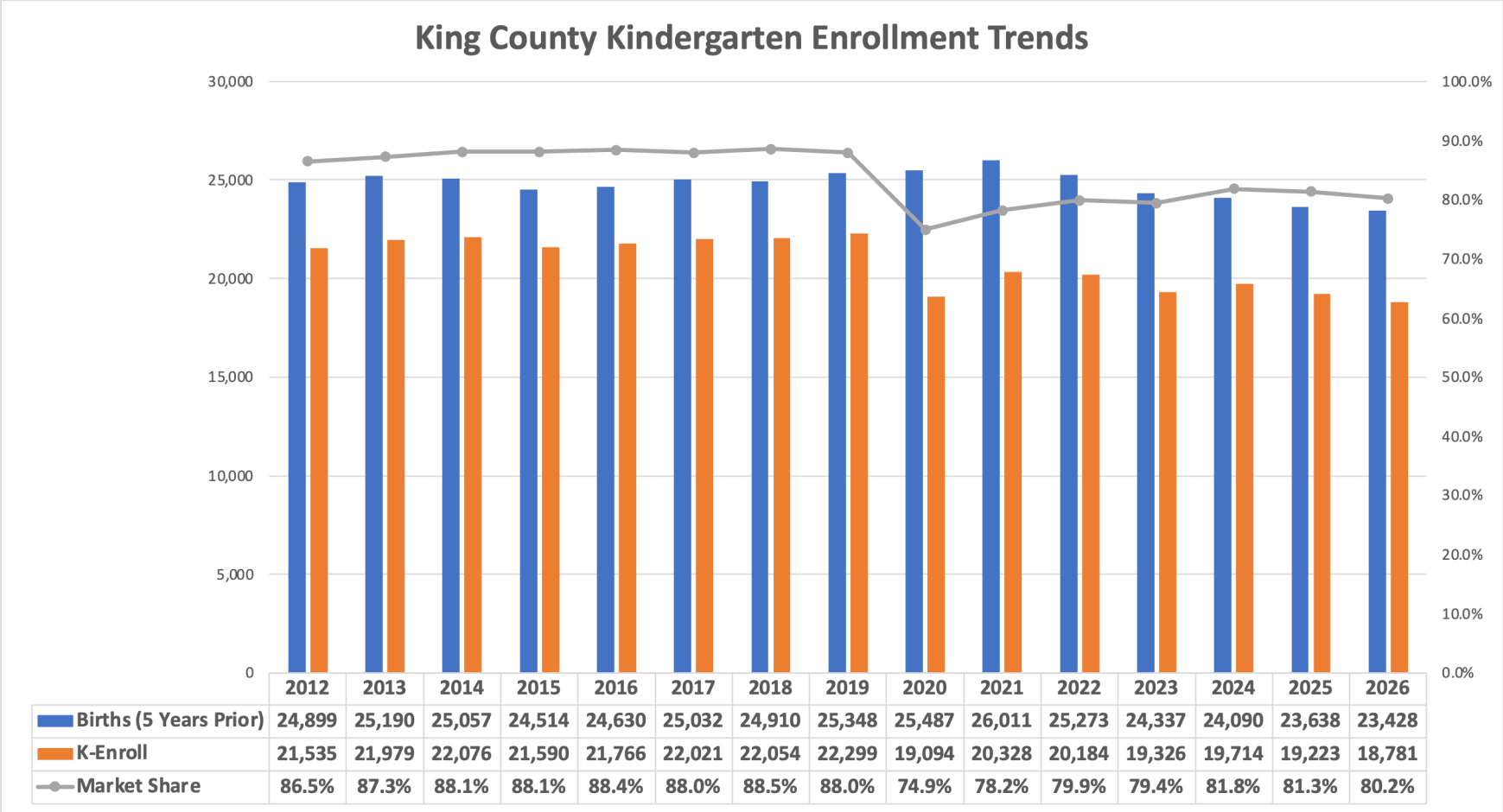
Pierce County Districts	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Oct 2025	Oct 2026	Change Oct25 to Oct26	Change Oct19 to Oct26	
Bethel	19959	19810	20061	20175	20,338	20,293	20,482	20,209	-273	250	*
Carbonado	183	185	179	180	175	176	168	167	-1	-16	
Clover Park	12,729	11,762	11,980	11,748	11,589	11,438	11,629	11,404	-225	-1,325	
Dieringer	1,531	1,359	1,364	1,405	1,398	1,410	1,430	1,437	7	-94	*
Eatonville	1,917	1,792	1,889	1,905	1,935	1,986	1,953	1,914	-39	-3	*
Fife	3,802	3,680	3,672	3,793	3,817	3,861	3,792	3,775	-17	-27	
Franklin Pierce	7,774	7,490	7,374	7,287	7,093	6,912	6,846	6,577	-269	-1,197	
Orting	2,692	2,517	2,605	2,715	2,758	2,813	2,784	2,751	-33	59	
Peninsula	9,145	8,301	8,490	8,734	8,732	8,786	8,807	8,698	-109	-447	*
Puyallup	22,840	21,835	22,046	22,507	22,232	22,424	22,706	22,451	-255	-389	
Steilacoom	3,286	3,035	3,068	3,033	2,956	2,910	2,992	2,955	-37	-331	
Sumner	9,837	9,460	9,837	10,019	10,163	10,318	10,291	10,200	-91	363	
Tacoma	28,202	27,141	27,108	26,627	26,713	27,306	26,828	26,286	-542	-1,916	*
University Place	5,545	5,482	5,463	5,442	5,407	5,478	5,528	5,544	16	-1	*
White River	3,912	3,802	4,104	4,199	4,291	4,270	4,260	4,211	-49	299	*
Bates Tech	399	343	402	495	543	670	651	552	-99	153	
Chief Leschi	546	561	597	600	658	651	679	684	5	138	*
CP Tech	366	289	236	229	362	458	499	554	55	188	
CHARTER SCHOOLS											
Summit Olympus	190	196	180	157	151	110	0	0	0	-190	
Soar Acadmey	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-144	
Green Dot Destiny	270	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-270	
Impact Commencement Bay			272	338	264	236	264	264	0	264	
Total	**135,269**	**129,040**	**130,927**	**131,588**	**131,575**	**132,506**	**132,589**	**130,633**	**-1,956**	**-4,636**	
October to October Change		-6,229	1,887	661	-13	931	83	-1,956			
Counts include transitional kindergarten.											

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Snohomish County Public School Districts
Change in Enrollment Between Oct 2025 and Oct 2026

Snohomish	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Oct 2025	Oct 2026	Change Oct25 to Oct26	Change Oct19 to Oct26	
Arlington	5,671	5,276	5,344	5,442	5,507	5,555	5,460	5,387	-73	-284	
Darrington	424	397	407	426	451	438	441	406	-35	-18	*
Edmonds	20,494	20,013	19,917	19,690	19,785	20,050	19,470	19,079	-391	-1,415	
Everett	20,170	19,539	19,633	19,578	19,602	19,727	19,705	19,507	-198	-663	
Granite Falls	1,997	2,018	2,117	2,233	2,216	2,221	2,171	2,081	-90	84	
Index	31	28	24	21	23	36	28	21	-7	-10	
Lake Stevens	9,255	8,882	9,345	9,360	9,479	9,801	9,848	9,899	51	644	
Lakewood	2,514	2,477	2,586	2,586	2,620	2,673	2,736	2,694	-42	180	
Marysville	10,201	9,825	9,901	9,812	9,368	9,172	9,023	8,892	-131	-1,309	
Monroe	6,577	6,066	5,881	5,586	5,538	5,747	5,744	5,805	61	-772	*
Mukilteo (Includes Skills Center)	16,034	15,445	15,355	15,354	15,478	15,441	15,101	14,824	-277	-1,210	
Snohomish	9,746	9,179	9,257	9,270	9,374	9,536	9,668	9,612	-56	-134	
Stanwood	4,682	4,521	4,560	4,705	4,739	4,778	4,833	4,709	-124	27	*
Sultan	1,981	1,877	1,955	2,049	2,068	2,174	2,140	2,069	-71	88	*
Total	**109,777**	**105,543**	**106,282**	**106,112**	**106,248**	**107,349**	**106,368**	**104,985**	**-1,383**	**-4,792**	
October to October Change		-4,234	739	-170	136	1,101	-981	-1,383			
*Counts include transitional kindergarten.											

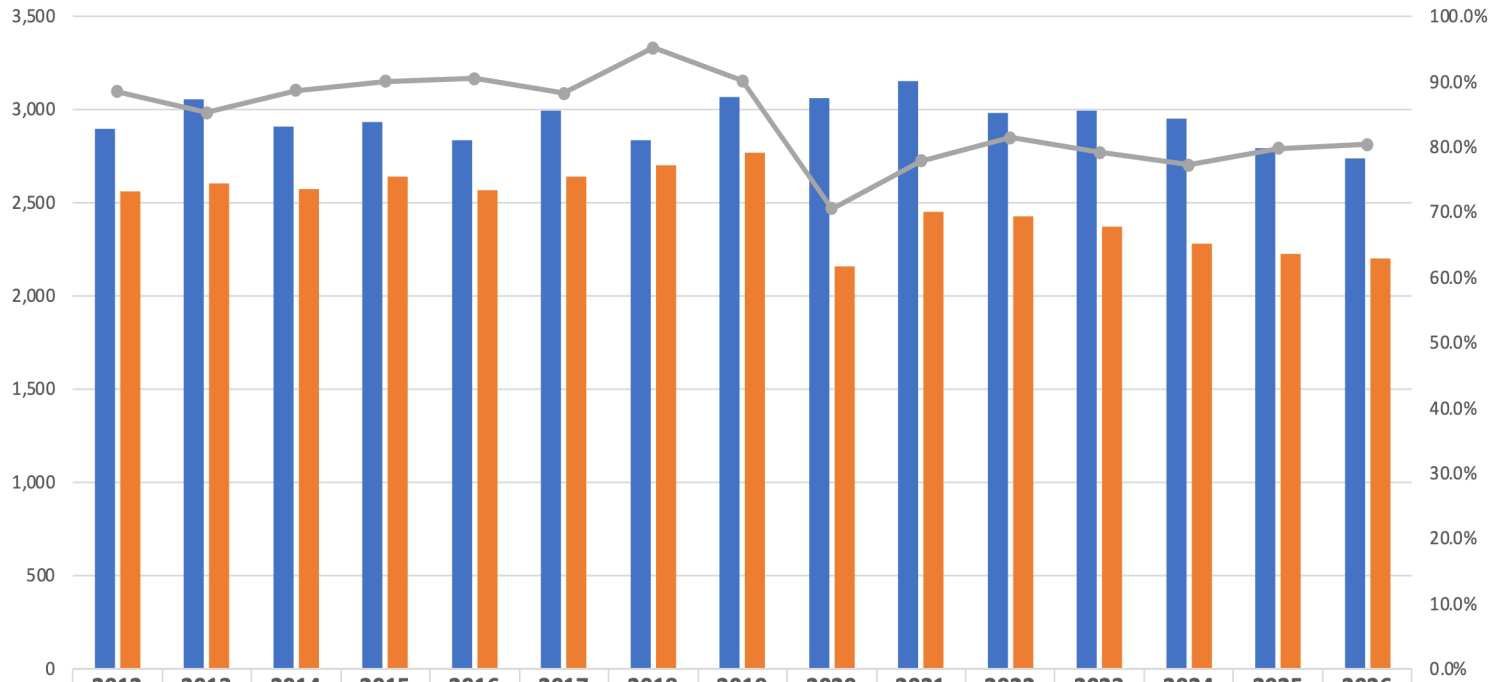
Kindergarten Enrollment Trends



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Births (5 Years Prior)	24,899	25,190	25,057	24,514	24,630	25,032	24,910	25,348	25,487	26,011	25,273	24,337	24,090	23,638	23,428
K-Enroll	21,535	21,979	22,076	21,590	21,766	22,021	22,054	22,299	19,094	20,328	20,184	19,326	19,714	19,223	18,781
Market Share	86.5%	87.3%	88.1%	88.1%	88.4%	88.0%	88.5%	88.0%	74.9%	78.2%	79.9%	79.4%	81.8%	81.3%	80.2%

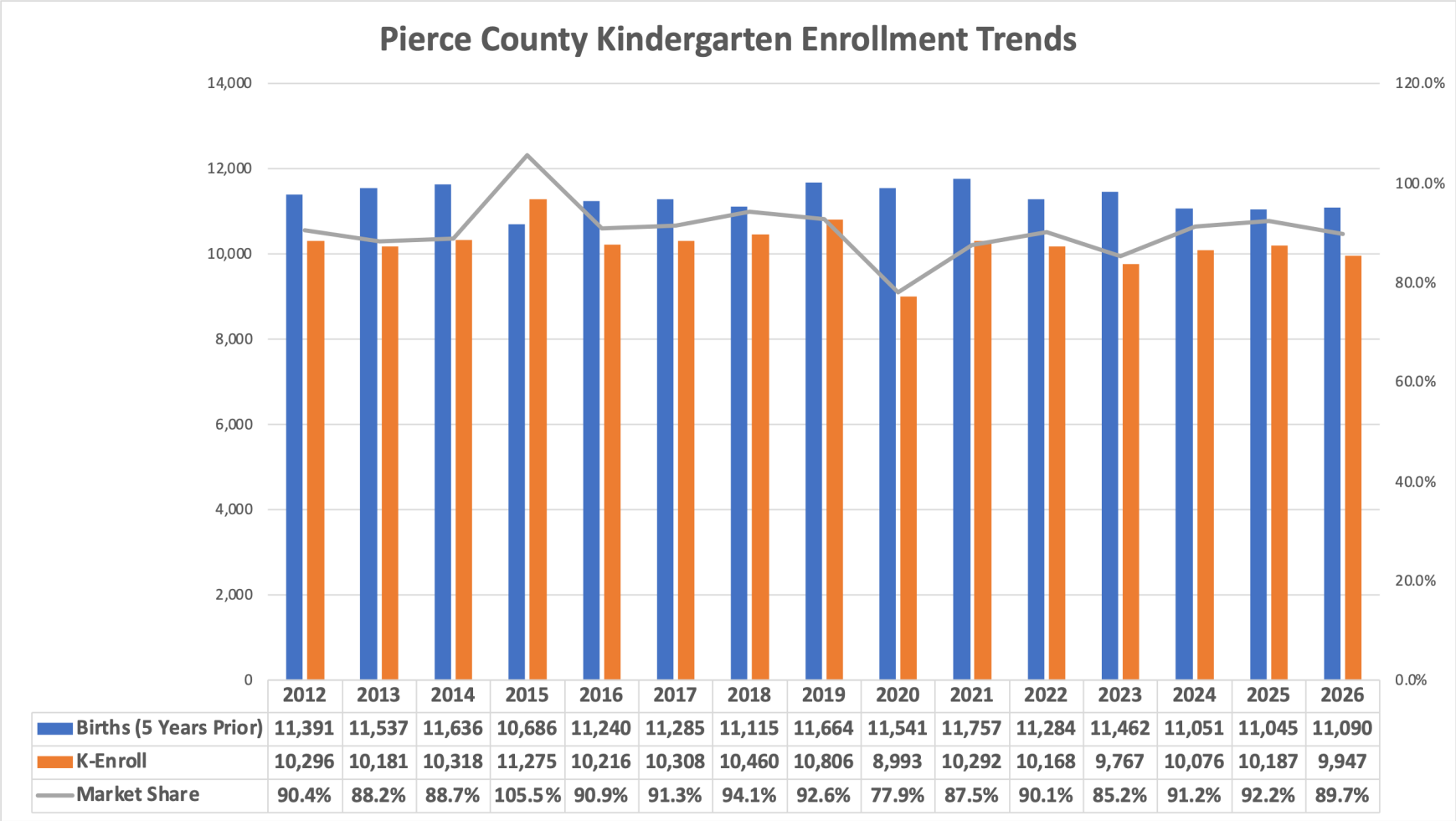
Kindergarten Enrollment Trends

Kitsap County Kindergarten Enrollment Trends



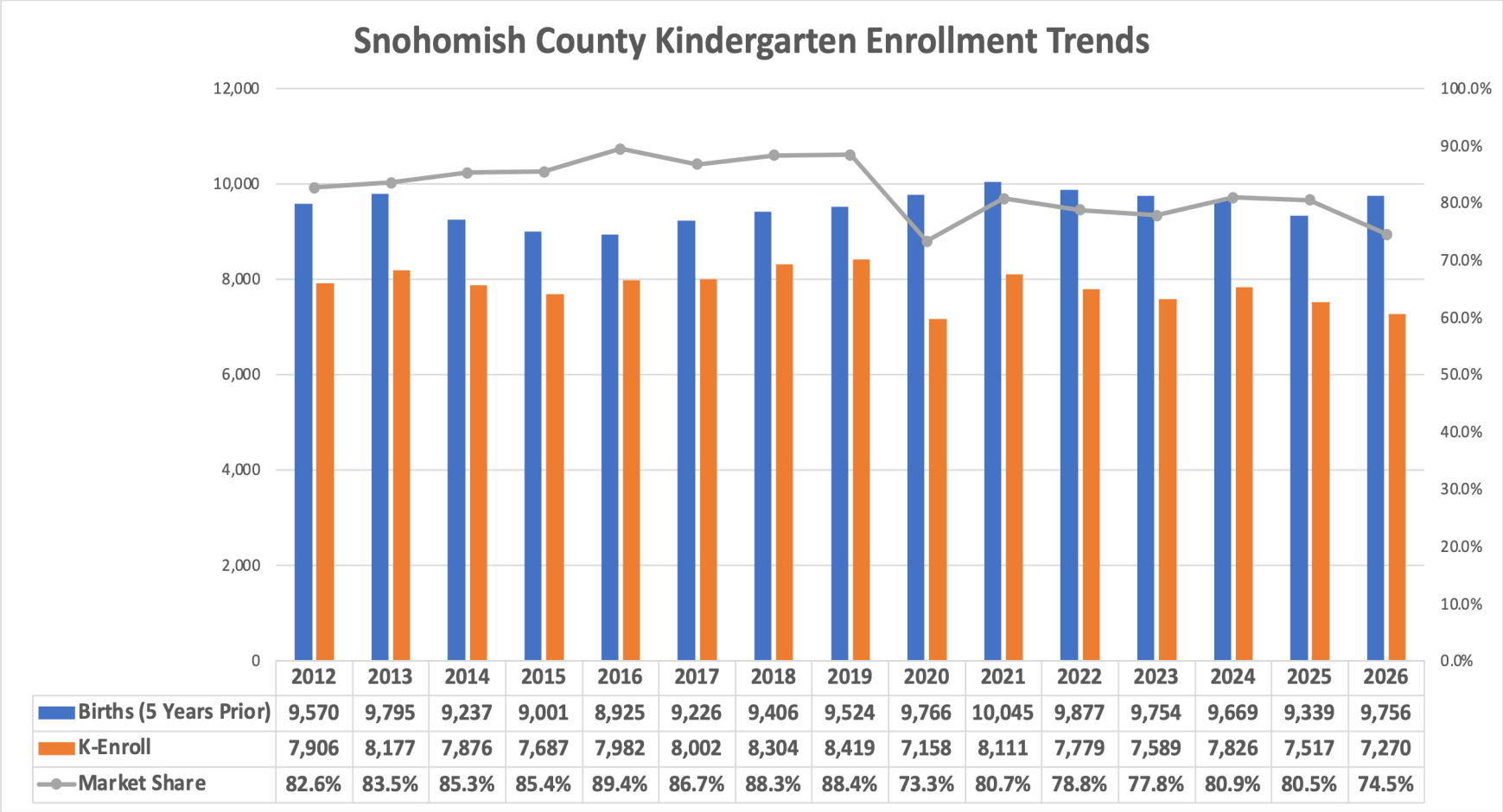
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Births (5 Years Prior)	2,894	3,053	2,905	2,931	2,836	2,993	2,836	3,068	3,060	3,149	2,978	2,994	2,952	2,794	2,735
K-Enroll	2,560	2,602	2,575	2,639	2,565	2,640	2,698	2,765	2,158	2,449	2,424	2,368	2,279	2,227	2,198
Market Share	88.5%	85.2%	88.6%	90.0%	90.4%	88.2%	95.1%	90.1%	70.5%	77.8%	81.4%	79.1%	77.2%	79.7%	80.4%

Kindergarten Enrollment Trends



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Births (5 Years Prior)	11,391	11,537	11,636	10,686	11,240	11,285	11,115	11,664	11,541	11,757	11,284	11,462	11,051	11,045	11,090
K-Enroll	10,296	10,181	10,318	11,275	10,216	10,308	10,460	10,806	8,993	10,292	10,168	9,767	10,076	10,187	9,947
Market Share	90.4%	88.2%	88.7%	105.5%	90.9%	91.3%	94.1%	92.6%	77.9%	87.5%	90.1%	85.2%	91.2%	92.2%	89.7%

Kindergarten Enrollment Trends

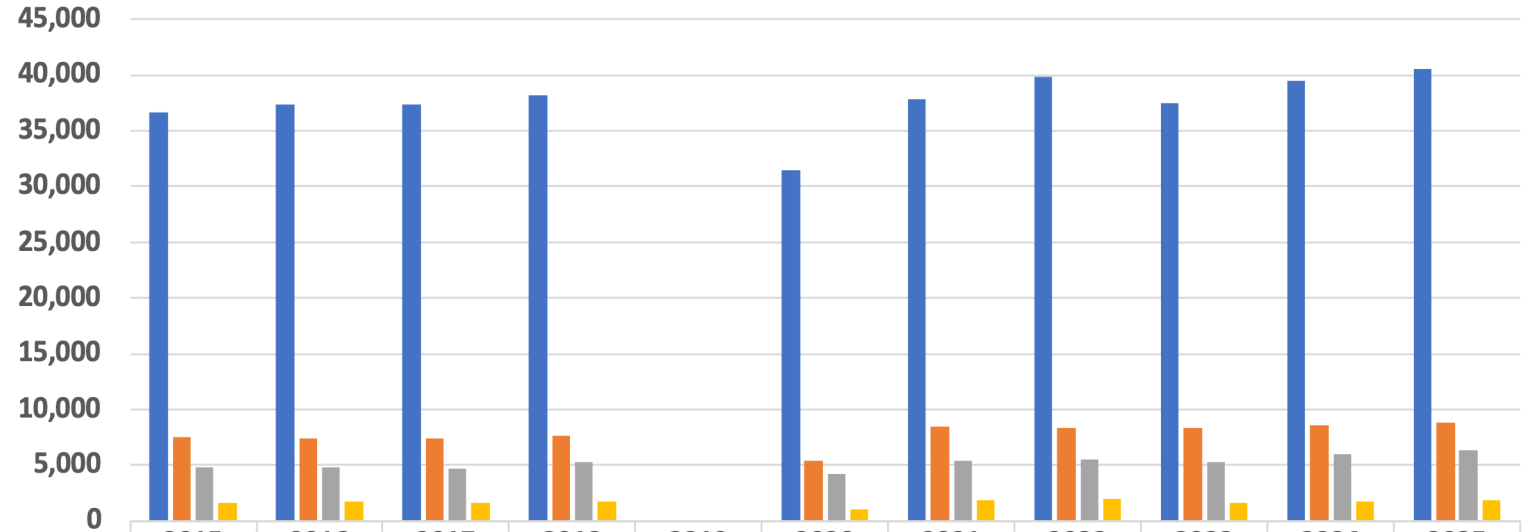


	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Births (5 Years Prior)	9,570	9,795	9,237	9,001	8,925	9,226	9,406	9,524	9,766	10,045	9,877	9,754	9,669	9,339	9,756
K-Enroll	7,906	8,177	7,876	7,687	7,982	8,002	8,304	8,419	7,158	8,111	7,779	7,589	7,826	7,517	7,270
Market Share	82.6%	83.5%	85.3%	85.4%	89.4%	86.7%	88.3%	88.4%	73.3%	80.7%	78.8%	77.8%	80.9%	80.5%	74.5%

Private School Data

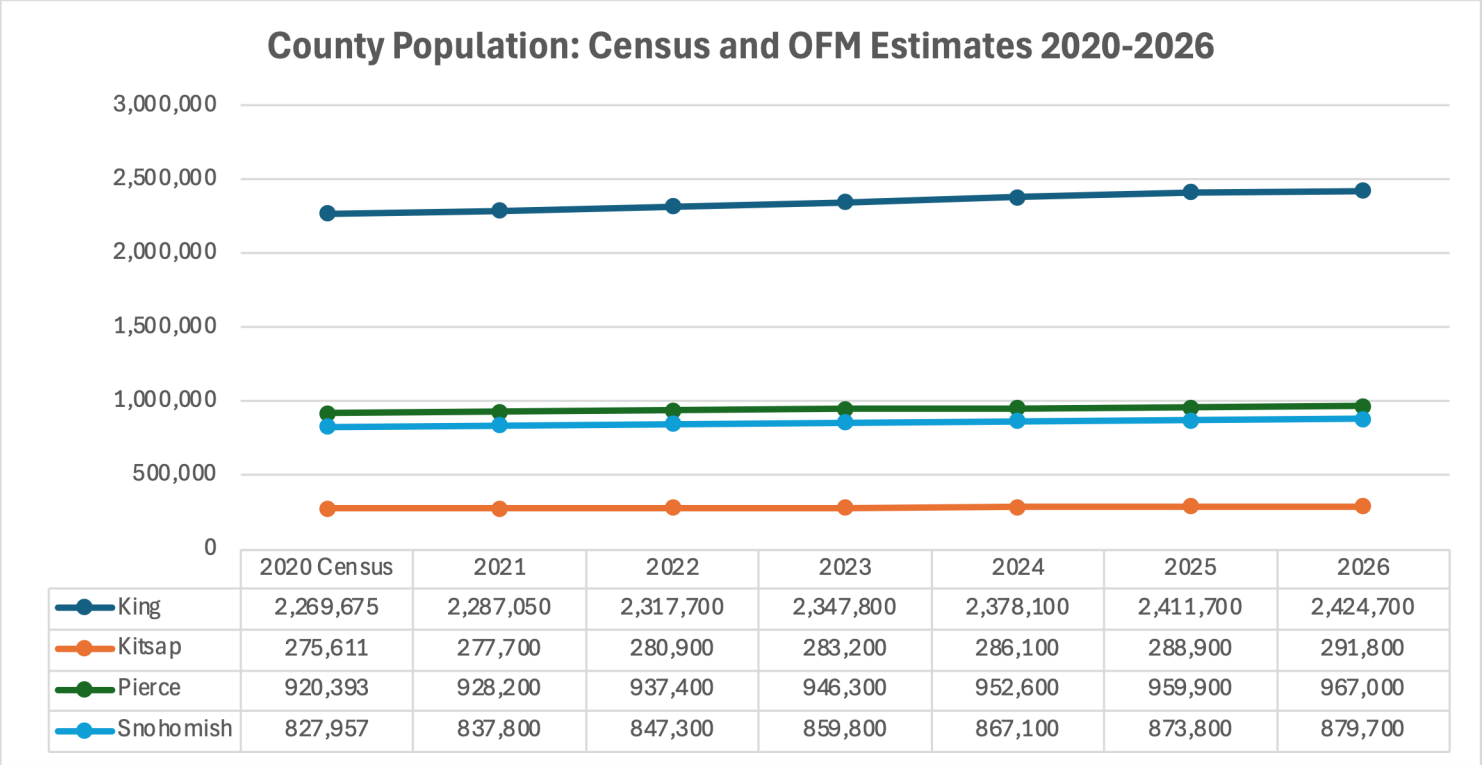
Note: Data not available for 2019

Private School Enrollment Data K-12 Only
OSPI and Washington State Board of Education



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
King County	36,606	37,395	37,314	38,224		31,511	37,890	39,886	37,503	39,445	40,576
Pierce County	7,509	7,431	7,388	7,698		5,449	8,489	8,330	8,302	8,600	8,820
Snohomish County	4,775	4,827	4,678	5,291		4,214	5,401	5,572	5,298	5,968	6,383
Kitsap County	1,664	1,706	1,647	1,714		1,091	1,821	2,019	1,602	1,742	1,851

County Population



	2020 Census	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
King	2,269,675	2,287,050	2,317,700	2,347,800	2,378,100	2,411,700	2,424,700
Kitsap	275,611	277,700	280,900	283,200	286,100	288,900	291,800
Pierce	920,393	928,200	937,400	946,300	952,600	959,900	967,000
Snohomish	827,957	837,800	847,300	859,800	867,100	873,800	879,700

Net Change in the Population from Year to Year						
	2020-2021	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**	**2023-2024**	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**
King	17,375	30,650	30,100	30,300	33,600	13,000
Kitsap	2,089	3,200	2,300	2,900	2,800	2,900
Pierce	7,807	9,200	8,900	6,300	7,300	7,100
Snohomish	9,843	9,500	12,500	7,300	6,700	5,900