

December 11, 2025

Enrollment Demographics Task Force

Meeting 2
Demographers Report & Guiding Principles

Northshore School District

Agenda

Time	Topic
5:00-5:10p	Welcome & Housekeeping
5:10-5:15p	Timeline Review
5:15-6:00p	Demographers Report
6:00-6:10p	Break
6:10-6:45p	Guiding Principles
6:45-6:55p	Working Group
6:55-7:00p	Next Steps & Exit Ticket

Parking Lot Guidelines

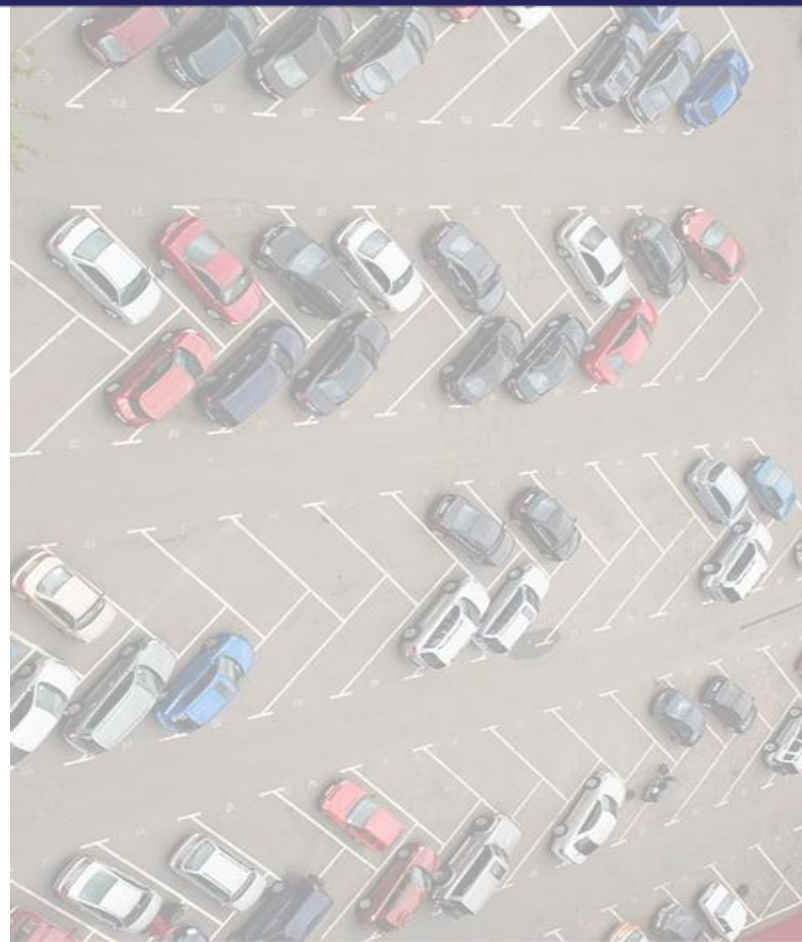
https://bit.ly/EDTFparkinglot

We'll use a "parking lot" to capture unanswered questions or ideas and optimize our meeting time.

How to use:

- During in person meetings, raise your hand for urgent on-topic questions.
- For virtual meetings, use the chat for urgent on-topic questions.
- Submit non-urgent or off-topic questions to the parking lot.

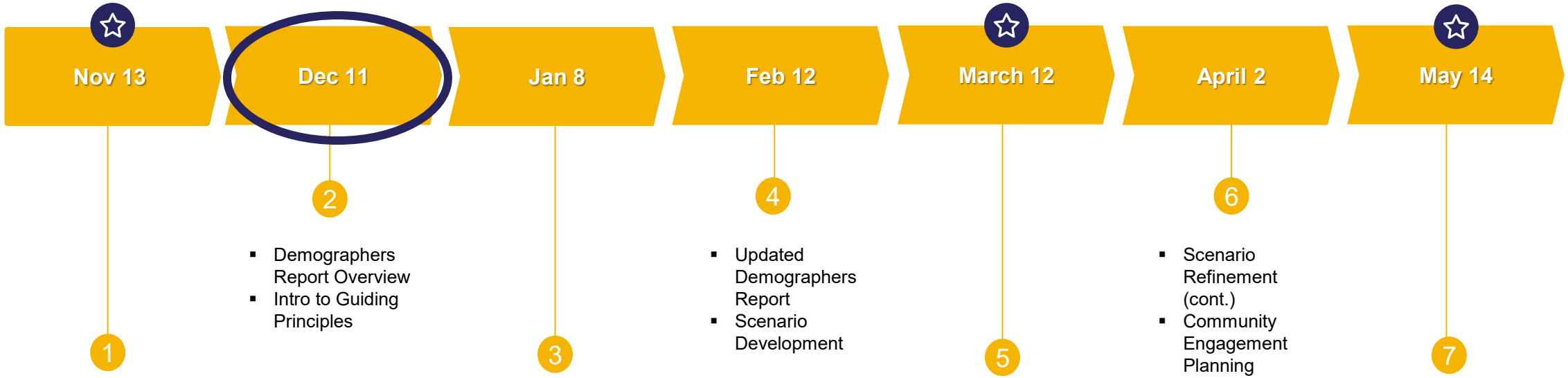
Parking lot questions will be addressed in the Google document by the next EDTF meeting.



Norms

- Do what's best for kids
- Treat each other with respect
- Be open to ideas
- Create space for voices
- Foster positive change
- Avoid hidden agendas
- Listen to learn
- Come prepared
- Assume positive intent
- Trust each other
- Value the opinions of others
- Ask if you don't understand
- Use kind language
- No one person has all the answers
- Have compassion
- Create an inclusive environment
- Consider environmental impact
- Consider accessibility
- ***Understand that not all ideas will be adopted***
- ***Consider the socioeconomic impacts on families***

EDTF Timeline



Draft Boundary Change Timeline

- **November – May 2026:** EDTF Regular Meetings
- **April 2026:** EDTF annual recommendations to Board
- **November 2026:** Preliminary 2028 boundaries shared with Cabinet
- **January – March 2027:** Community Meetings to present boundary adjustments
- **March/April 2027:** Boundary proposal revisions based on feedback
- **April 2027:** EDTF final recommendations to Board
- **June 2027:** Board approves 2028 boundaries

Note: This is a draft timeline and subject to change as scenarios are developed and additional guidance from the School Board is received. This boundary timeline also assumes no boundary changes will take effect until the 2028-29 school year. If there is the need for any changes before then, the district aims to have boundary changes communicated one year before implementation.

Demographers Report

The demographer's report is a yearly report from Les Kendrick that explains how many students the district has now and how many we may have in the future based on a variety of factors.

What is the Demographers Report?

What it includes:

- Trends in enrollment across the Puget Sound region
- Kindergarten numbers and birth trends
- Private school and home-based learning trends
- Northshore's own enrollment history
- Population and housing changes
- A 10-year enrollment forecast
- Factors that may increase or decrease student numbers over time

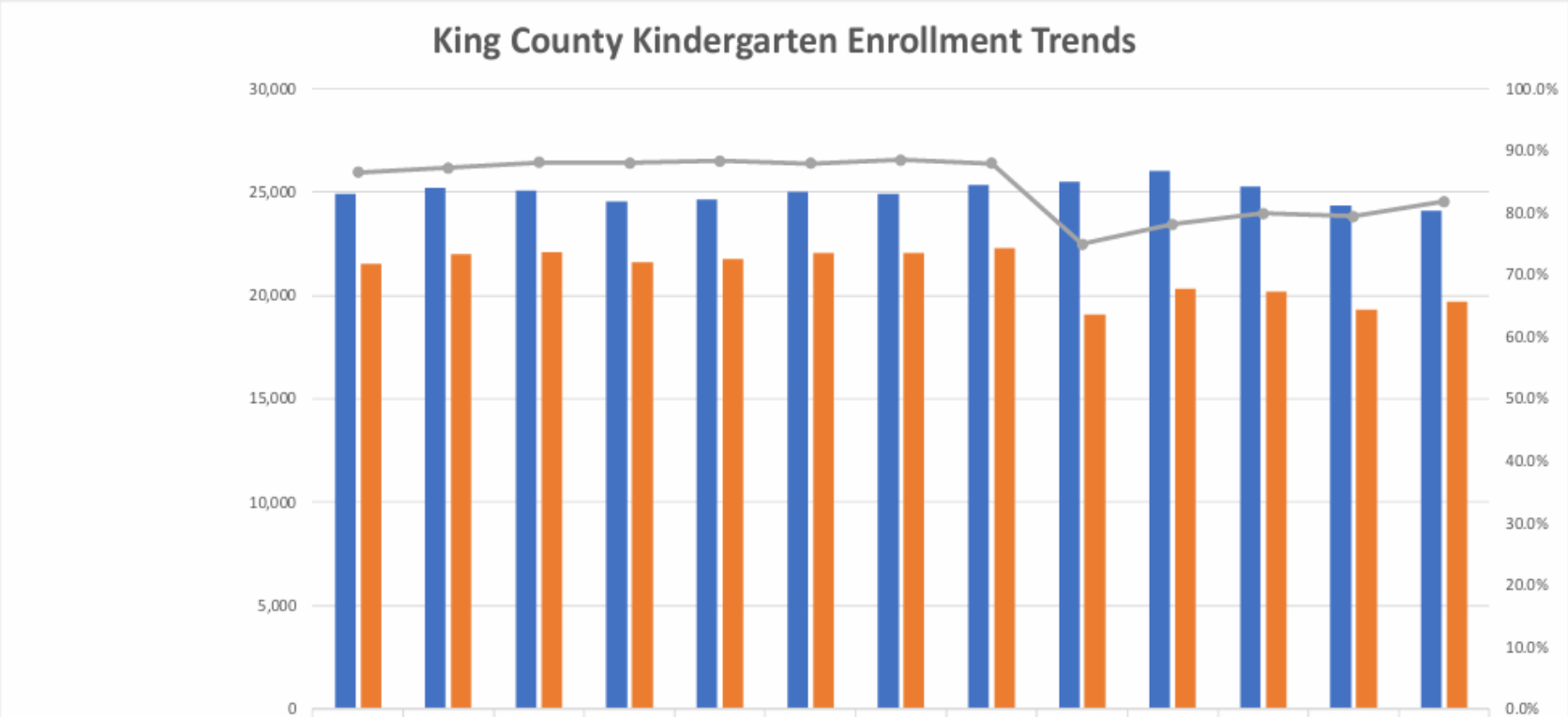
Why it matters:

- Helps us plan school buildings, boundaries, and programs
- Gives us facts to make decisions about future growth
- Supports long-term strategic planning for the district
- Ensures resources are allocated based on the most accurate data

Big Picture Enrollment Trends

- **Regional public-school enrollment:** Still below pre-COVID levels, but grew by 2,900 students in 2024, the largest increase since the pandemic.
- **Kindergarten enrollment:** Still lower than expected across the region, with the biggest drops in King County.
- **King County births and population:** Births have declined for seven years, and population growth has slowed, meaning fewer young children entering kindergarten.
- **Snohomish County births and population:** Births and population growth are more stable, meaning stronger potential for future student growth.
- **Private school enrollment:** Increased during COVID, but is now moving back toward pre-pandemic levels.
- **Home-school enrollment:** Rose during the pandemic, but is now returning to pre-COVID trends.

Kindergarten Enrollment Trends



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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
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
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%

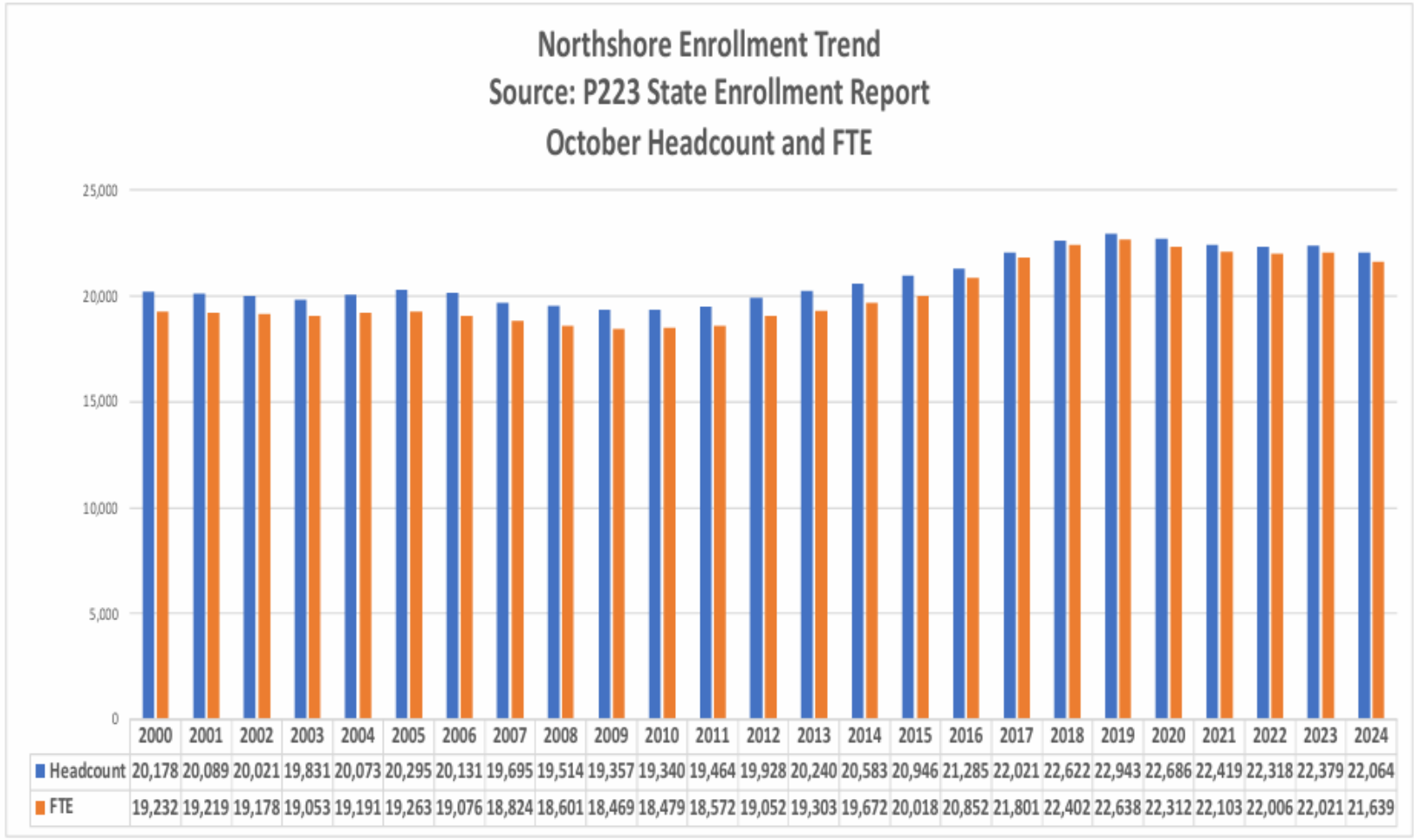
What to look for:

- **Births:** County birth data shows how many children will be eligible for kindergarten five years later.
- **K Enrollment:** The number of K students who actually enroll each year.
- **Market Share:** The percentage of local births that turn into kindergarten enrollment used to compare trends over time.

Deep Dive into NSD Enrollment Trends

- **Overall enrollment:** Northshore's enrollment decreased by 327 students from fall 2023 to fall 2024, which was a larger decline than expected.
- **K enrollment:** K numbers remain below pre-COVID levels, meaning fewer young students are entering the system. This is expected to improve as the housing market and home sales recover.
- **Private and home-based schooling:** Home-based instruction numbers have mostly returned to pre-pandemic levels. Private school enrollment, for schools in the District boundary area, continues to be higher than it was before the pandemic.
- **Student movement (in and out of the district):** Both in-migration and out-migration have been lower in the past two years compared to the years before the pandemic. Although, fewer continuing-grade students left the district last year, fewer new students entered the district at continuing grades compared to before COVID. This should improve once the real estate market becomes more active.

NSD Kindergarten Enrollment Trends

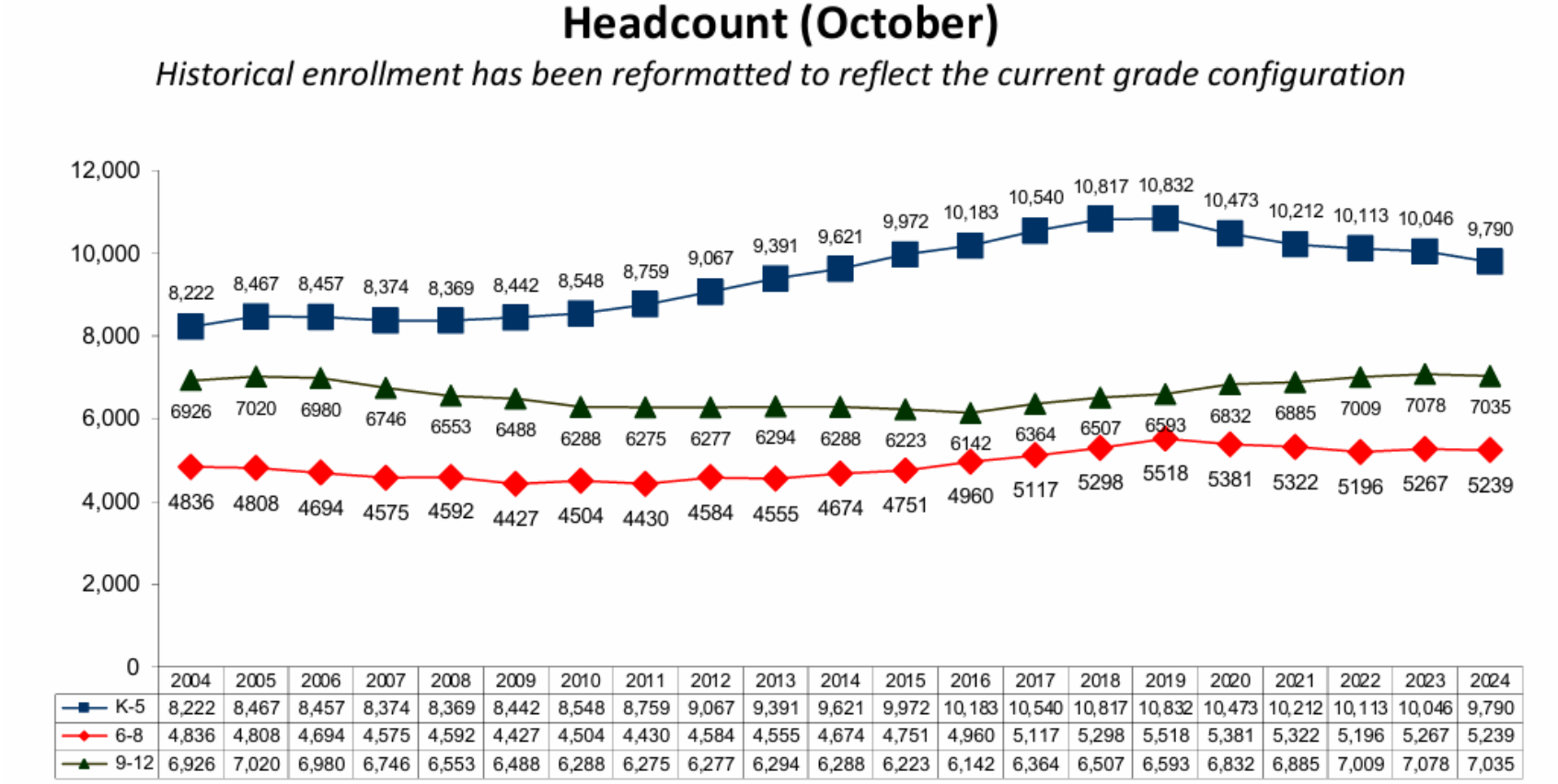


	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Headcount	20,178	20,089	20,021	19,831	20,073	20,295	20,131	19,695	19,514	19,357	19,340	19,464	19,928	20,240	20,583	20,946	21,285	22,021	22,622	22,943	22,686	22,419	22,318	22,379	22,064
FTE	19,232	19,219	19,178	19,053	19,191	19,263	19,076	18,824	18,601	18,469	18,479	18,572	19,052	19,303	19,672	20,018	20,852	21,801	22,402	22,638	22,312	22,103	22,006	22,021	21,639

What to look for:

- **Headcount:** All students enrolled in the district.
- **FTE:** A way to count students based on how many classes they take. One student taking a full schedule counts as 1.0 FTE.
- **Comparing the two:** A lower FTE means fewer seats are needed than the headcount suggests

NSD Enrollment Trends by Grade Levels

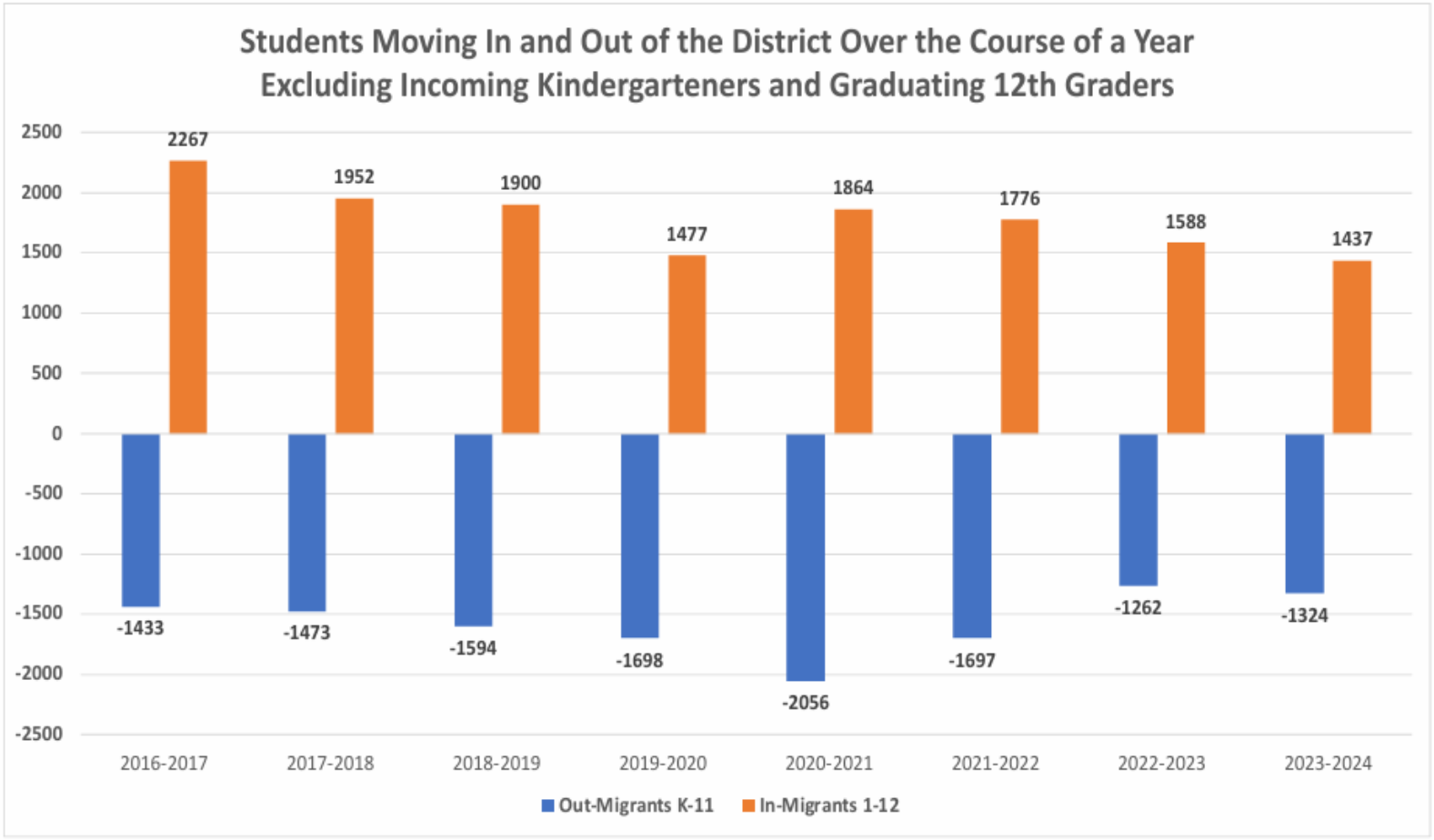


	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
K-5	8,222	8,467	8,457	8,374	8,369	8,442	8,548	8,759	9,067	9,391	9,621	9,972	10,183	10,540	10,817	10,832	10,473	10,212	10,113	10,046	9,790
6-8	4,836	4,808	4,694	4,575	4,592	4,427	4,504	4,430	4,584	4,555	4,674	4,751	4,960	5,117	5,298	5,518	5,381	5,322	5,196	5,267	5,239
9-12	6,926	7,020	6,980	6,746	6,553	6,488	6,288	6,275	6,277	6,294	6,288	6,223	6,142	6,364	6,507	6,593	6,832	6,885	7,009	7,078	7,035

What to look for:

- Middle and high school numbers grow as earlier K classes move up

NSD In and Out Migration



What to look for:

- Two enrollment dynamics matter: new kindergarteners, graduating 12th graders, and student movement in and out across all grades.
- This chart removes kindergarten and 12th grade and shows student movement in and out at all other grades.

Key Data for the Task Force to Watch

Birth Trends

- King County births down past 7 years → fewer future kindergarteners
- Snohomish County births stable → more potential growth in certain areas

Housing Trends

- Fewer home sales → fewer new families entering the district
- New housing is mostly apartments/townhomes → lower student yield
- More single-family homes possible with future urban growth boundary changes

Future Enrollment Outlook

- Growth expected to return in 2027.
- Near-term growth matches the region; long-term growth may be stronger.
- Snohomish County areas likely to see more growth.
- Early-stage projects unlikely to add students until 2029+.


Break

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles provide a shared framework to help the group make clear, consistent, and equitable decisions.

Guiding Principles (from 2020 Boundary Work)

Instructional Considerations

- Support existing instructional programs
- Enable schools to offer a comprehensive academic program
- Allow schools to respond to changing academic needs
- Address district program placement

Demographic Considerations

- Minimize disparate impact on school's current ethnic, linguistic or socio-economic composition
- Utilize school infrastructure/capacity equitably
- Evaluate demographic trends/projections including population density

Operational Considerations

- Address fiscal responsibility
- Maximize operational efficiencies (e.g., custodial, building maintenance, transportation)
- Ensure all school populations are appropriate for their infrastructure
- Minimize use of portable classrooms

Geographic Considerations

- Include natural boundaries (e.g., major arterials, highways, water) if applicable
- Support keeping neighborhood students together

Small Groups – Guiding Principles

Time: 20 minutes

Overview: These principles were last updated for the opening on Ruby Bridges in 2020. As we plan for the 2028–29 boundary adjustments, we want to ensure the principles align with current needs and values.

In small groups: Discuss the following questions regarding the principles:

- Which principles should remain?
- Which should be updated?
- What new priorities should be added?
- Anything unclear or overlapping?

Scenario Development Working Group

Purpose: Dive deeper into enrollment trends, capacity, and program placements and develop draft boundary scenarios for the full EDTF to review.

Meeting Structure: 90-minutes | 2x a month on Tuesdays | 1pm – 2:30pm | In-person

Goals:

- Reviewing detailed enrollment, demographic, and program data
- Exploring opportunities and constraints
- Building initial draft scenarios
- Identifying questions or data needs for the full EDTF

Next Steps

- Review timeline
- Exit Ticket

See you on January 8!

For any questions prior to the next meeting, please reach out to ashley@betteredpartners.com

EDTF Timeline

