EVANSTON/SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

TO: District 65 Board of Education

CC: Dr. Angel Turner, Superintendent

FROM: Reeshemay Bennett, Manager of Student Assignment, Registration and Records; Dr. Stacy Beardsley, Asst. Superintendent

DATE: November 4, 2025

RE: 5-Year Enrollment & Projections(2024-25 to 2029-30)

Objective: ___ Information __X_ Discussion ____ Follow-up ____ Decision

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Background

Each year, District 65 assesses current-year enrollments and 5-year projections to determine future staffing, transportation, expenditure, revenue, et. al. needs. The 5-year projection is calculated using the average of the number of actual enrolled students from the previous 3 years to develop the projections from kindergarten and sixth grade. Current year students are rolled forward to the next grade. Historical enrollment and projections reports can be found on our District website.

Limiting the enrollment projections to a 5-year window greatly decreases the error rate to the less than 5% we've been able to maintain over the years. Of note, kindergarten error rates tend to be higher.

As is noted below, administration has provided limited projections due to changing boundaries. Once decisions are finalized by the School Board, administration will produce and publish complete projections.

Enrollment Analysis for 2025-2026 (Count Date 10/1/25)

The numbers for the 2025-26 school year are based on the actual number of students attending a District 65 school on October 1, 2025. District 65 enrollment (excluding Park, Rice, JEH, and SEES students) is 5,630 in comparison to the District 65 projected enrollment of 5,705 (Table 2 in the Appendix). The variance between our actual to projected students is the same as last school year (-1.3%).

The data tables capture data for the past 5 years and it should be noted that the COVID move to remote teaching was in March, 2020 prior to the 2021-22 school year which opened with remote learning. The 2021-22 school year and the 2022-23 school year appear to capture the impact of COVID and remote teaching with enrollment decreasing in all grades except first grade. The 2022-23 school year number captures any students who left District 65 after October 1, 2021 up until September 30, 2022. School years 2023-24 and beyond have smaller negative variances from projections (1.2 - 1.3%). The observations below focus on the three

most recent school years.

Noted trends in the enrollment to projections include:

- Overall enrollment has missed projections by less than 1.4% over the past two years.
- Kindergarten enrollment has been below projections for the past three years.
- First grade has exceeded projections for the past three years.
- Four district schools (Haven, Nichols, Dewey, and Willard) have been below projections for three consecutive years.

When reviewing actuals to projections at the school level (Table 1 in the Appendix), seven schools met or exceeded projections and eight schools had actual enrollment below projections.

Noted school based trends include (focusing on the three most recent school years):

- Bessie Rhodes missed projections by 28.7% or 77 students. This is impacted by the school closing decision and the later decision to close eighth grade at Bessie Rhodes. It also indicates that families are moving to other District 65 schools or out of District.
- In the Nichols feeder pattern, Dewey, Lincoln and Washington met or slightly exceeded projections while Nichols significantly missed their middle school projection with the greatest variance being in the sixth grade. The sixth grade class was in kindergarten when schools moved to remote learning due to COVID. Dewey and Lincoln lost approximately 60 students from total enrollment between count date in 2021-22 and 2023-24. Nichols is experiencing that impact now.
- Orrington (5.9% error rate) and Kingsley (3.6% error rate) were both below projections by 12 students.
- King Arts exceeded projections by 13 students (3.0% error rate)

The projections and actuals in tables 1-4 do not include students at Rice Children's Center, Park School, Family Center or our Early Childhood Center. The addition of these schools increases our current year enrollment to just above 6,000 and is reported here.

	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Family Center & JEC	354	309	309	294
Park	61	57	58	52
Rice	17	20	20	21
Total	**432**	**386**	**387**	**367**

Five-Year Enrollment Projections

District 65 is shifting to new Board approved boundaries next year and the School Board is currently engaged in conversations about potential school closures. As a result, the

administration is providing the grade projected values for overall and grade level enrollments. Administration is not bringing forward a detailed school projection report.

Once a final decision is made on school closures and boundaries for next year, District 65 will define the forecasting model and deliver projections at the school level.

Grade Level Projections

District 65 actual enrollments have been less than projected for the past several years and the trend continues. Table 3, "5-Year Enrollment Future Year Projections (by grade)" shows a projected decline of 525 students between the 2025-26 and 2030-31 school year district-wide. This decrease is greater than predicted by the demography report which indicates a decrease of 345 students.

The McKibbon demography report includes Park, Rice, and SEES students in the calculations so the totals are different from the data set used for our enrollment and projections internal report which has a fixed methodology that has been applied for well over a decade. For this reason, this memo looks solely at the size and direction of the change.

This table is developed using the consistent District 65 methodology for developing projections.

Table 3 | 5-Year Future Year Projections (by grade)										
Year	**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**Total**
2025-26	546	552	607	630	648	616	652	678	701	**5630**
2026-27	560	546	552	607	630	648	616	652	678	**5489**
2027-28	551	560	546	552	607	630	648	616	652	**5362**
2028-29	552	551	560	546	552	607	630	648	616	**5262**
2029-30	554	552	551	560	546	552	607	630	648	**5200**
2030-31	553	554	552	551	560	546	552	607	630	**5105**

Summary

It has become increasingly evident that District 65 is experiencing decreasing enrollments on an annual basis. The eight grade class this year has 701 students and is the only grade level with over 700 students. The kindergarten and first grade levels have less than 600 students. This trend, while impacted by COVID, remote learning and other possible factors is found in State and national data on birth rate data (IDPH Birth Rate Data).

Projections show that the schools are not likely to regain their numbers in the next five years. This decline supports the discussions that are currently being engaged in as part of SDRP 3.

Appendix:

Table 1: 5 Year Enrollments (by School)

Table 1 | 5-Year Enrollments (by school)																				
	2021-22				2022-23				2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			
Location	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate
District	6,829	6,497	-332	-4.9%	6,437	6,200	-237	-3.7%	6,047	5,974	-73	-1.2%	5,857	5,783	-74	-1.3%	5705	5630	-75	-1.3%
Dawes	331	321	-10	-3.0%	311	314	3	1.0%	302	299	-3	-1.0%	290	296	6	2.1%	287	293	6	2.1%
Dewey	416	393	-23	-5.5%	379	349	-30	-7.9%	336	329	-7	-2.1%	335	317	-18	-5.4%	321	329	8	2.5%
Kingsley	338	349	11	3.3%	342	324	-18	-5.3%	326	321	-5	-1.5%	323	332	9	2.8%	335	323	-12	-3.6%
Lincoln	446	413	-33	-7.4%	407	414	7	1.7%	398	378	-20	-5.0%	371	340	-31	-8.4%	335	341	6	1.8%
Lincolnwood	353	330	-23	-6.5%	321	310	-11	-3.4%	303	309	6	2.0%	299	287	-12	-4.0%	282	276	-6	-2.1%
Oakton	388	375	-13	-3.4%	376	373	-3	-0.8%	370	351	-19	-5.1%	370	371	1	0.3%	362	366	4	1.1%
Orrington	329	277	-52	-15.8%	267	257	-10	-3.7%	240	246	6	2.5%	229	224	-5	-2.2%	205	193	-12	-5.9%
Walker	371	376	5	1.3%	372	378	6	1.6%	368	386	18	4.9%	377	350	-27	-7.2%	339	332	-7	-2.1%
Washington	489	482	-7	-1.4%	464	458	-6	-1.3%	434	423	-11	-2.5%	400	408	8	2.0%	388	388	0	0.0%
Willard	428	412	-16	-3.7%	408	372	-36	-8.8%	376	373	-3	-0.8%	363	353	-10	-2.8%	335	327	-8	-2.4%
Chute	632	575	-57	-9.0%	559	546	-13	-2.3%	529	571	42	7.9%	561	572	11	2.0%	587	621	34	5.8%
Haven	816	783	-33	-4.0%	806	683	-123	-15.3%	710	679	-31	-4.4%	681	645	-36	-5.3%	643	635	-8	-1.2%
Nichols	728	686	-42	-5.8%	688	656	-32	-4.7%	662	623	-39	-5.9%	634	612	-22	-3.5%	610	574	-36	-5.9%
Rhodes	275	282	7	2.5%	296	278	-18	-6.1%	287	273	-14	-4.9%	283	255	-28	-9.9%	268	191	-77	-28.7%
King	489	443	-46	-9.4%	441	404	-37	-8.4%	406	413	7	1.7%	415	421	6	1.4%	428	441	13	3.0%

Table 2: 5 Year Enrollments (By Grade)

Table 2 | 5-Year Enrollments (by grade)																				
	2021-22*				2022-23				2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			
Grade	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate
K	722	634	-88	-12.2%	678	597	-81	-11.9%	622	589	-33	-5.3%	607	546	-61	-10.0 %	577	546	-31	-5.4%
1	636	636	0	0.0%	635	664	29	4.6%	597	638	41	6.9%	589	607	18	3.1%	546	552	6	1.1%
2	748	696	-52	-7.0%	636	624	-12	-1.9%	664	671	7	1.1%	638	642	4	0.6%	607	607	0	0.0%
3	727	706	-21	-2.9%	697	690	-7	-1.0%	624	631	7	1.1%	671	665	-6	-0.9%	642	630	-12	-1.9%
4	772	754	-18	-2.3%	706	695	-11	-1.6%	690	677	-13	-1.9%	631	625	-6	-1.0%	665	648	-17	-2.6%
5	757	751	-6	-0.8%	754	718	-36	-4.8%	695	687	-8	-1.2%	677	662	-15	-2.2%	625	616	-9	-1.4%
6	826	773	-53	-6.4%	795	661	-134	-16.9%	718	700	-18	-2.5%	687	681	-6	-0.9%	662	652	-10	-1.5%
7	780	763	-17	-2.2%	773	748	-25	-3.2%	661	657	-4	-0.6%	700	700	0	0.0%	681	678	-3	-0.4%
8	824	784	-40	-4.9%	763	719	-44	-5.8%	748	724	-24	-3.2%	657	655	-2	-0.3%	700	701	1	0.1%