

2020 Enrollment Projection

Fiscal Years 2020 through 2024

October 30, 2018

Background

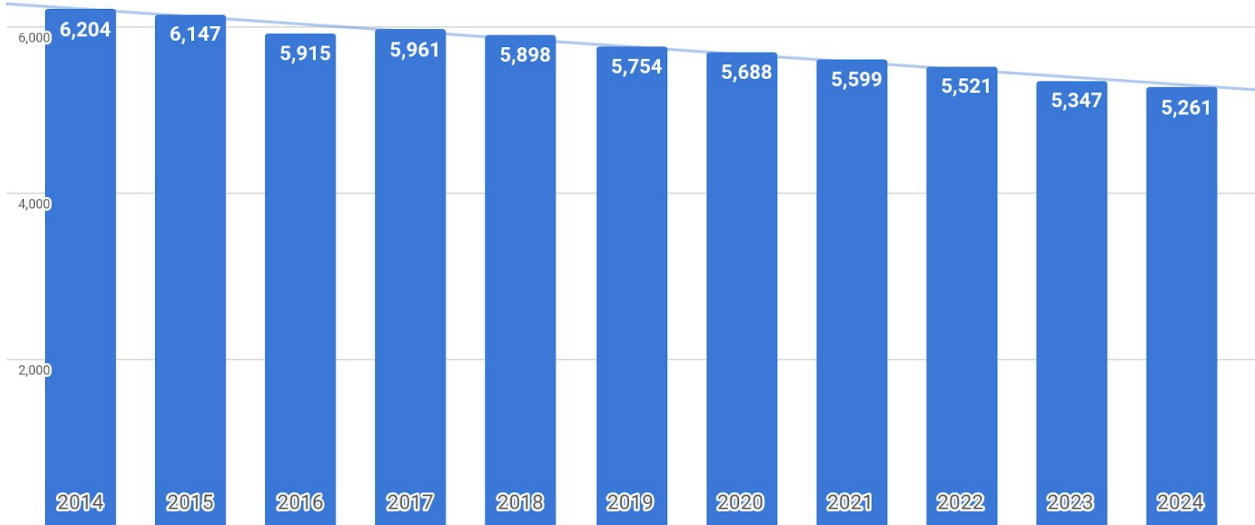
Each year, the District conducts a five-year student enrollment projection. The projection model uses the cohort survival method with ISBE Fall Housing Report data to forecast future enrollment based upon the retention rates of grade-level cohorts and births. A five-year weighted average of historical enrollments is used to anticipate future enrollments relative to students' home and serving schools.

The [full data set for this enrollment projection](#) includes: a summary of historical and projected enrollments for both home and serving schools, a District-level summary, and birth rates.

Enrollment Trends

The District's home school enrollment (official residents) of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students declined by 144 students (-2.4%) to 5,754 in 2019, the second-largest decline in a seven-year trend. The District's serving school enrollment, which reflects students who actually attend its eight regular schools, declined by 196 students to 5,664 (-3.4%).

Historical and Projected Total Enrollment



Kindergarten enrollment increased slightly from 334 to 347 students. Nearly all other grade cohorts declined slightly, reversing a three-year trend where nearly all increased due to move-ins.

Until this year, a three-year trend of student move-ins has partially mitigated the effects of relatively small kindergarten cohorts. Such trends are highly contingent upon the housing market and it is uncertain if it will re-emerge in the near future. Elementary and middle school enrollments will continue to realize declines due to smaller grade cohorts. High school enrollment is projected to remain stable for the next two years at nearly 2,000 students, .

Birth Rates

The Kane County birth rates continued their decline in 2017, down -7.6% from the prior year. However, early trends in the months of January through August suggest that birth rates will increase in 2018. Historical trends indicate that kindergarten enrollments will continue to decline for the next five years.

Average Class Sizes

The enrollment decline in grades K-8 calls for a reduction of approximately 8-10 teaching FTE in the next school year. It is not anticipated that the District's average class sizes will change significantly in 2020.

Projection Accuracy

This projection model utilizes a 5-year weighted historical average of the cohort survival method and birth rates for kindergarteners to predict future student enrollment. The margin of error for the actual 2019 enrollments versus the projection was -1.3%. The largest factor in this discrepancy is a change in the grade level cohort retention – student move outs.

Findings

- Birth rates in Kane County continue to decline, yielding smaller kindergarten enrollments for the next five years.
- It appears that the rate of student move-ins has slowed.
- Elementary and middle school enrollments will decline due to smaller class cohorts.
- High school enrollment is expected to remain stable for the next two years, then begin to decline as smaller class cohorts matriculate.

Historical and Projected Enrollment by Level



Implications

Enrollment is projected to continue to decline over the next five years by roughly approximately 1.5% annually. This trend will require proportional staffing adjustments.