BATAVIA
PUBLIC
SCHOOL
DISTRICT 101

BPS 101

2022 Enrollment Projection

For fiscal years 2022 through 2026
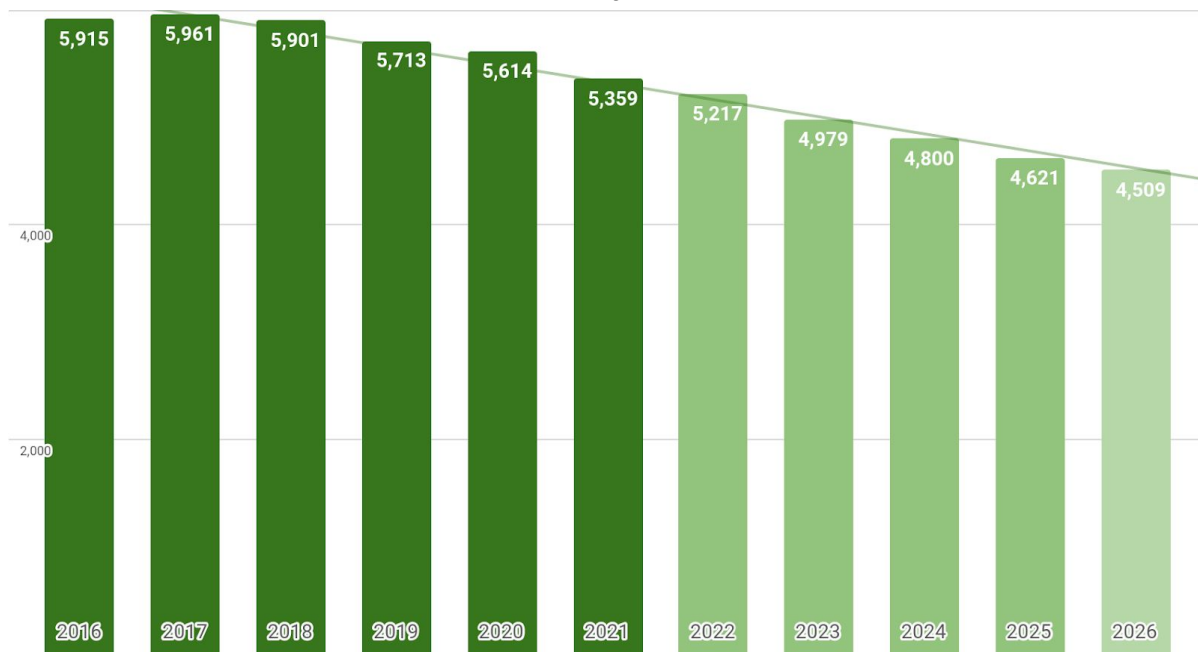
October 13, 2020

Background

Each year, the District conducts a five-year student enrollment projection for budget and staffing purposes. The projection herein utilizes the cohort survival method to forecast future enrollment, which is based upon live births in Kane County, historical enrollment data, and retention rates of grade-level cohorts.

Enrollment Trends

The District's home school enrollment (official residents) of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students declined by 255 students (-4.5%) to 5,359 in 2021, a nine-year trend now accelerated by COVID-19 pandemic. The District's serving school enrollment, which reflects students who actually attend its eight regular schools (both in-person and remotely), declined by 258 students to 5,261 (-4.8%).

Fig. 1: Historical and Projected Total Enrollment

Year	Enrollment
2016	5,915
2017	5,961
2018	5,901
2019	5,713
2020	5,614
2021	5,359
2022	5,217
2023	4,979
2024	4,800
2025	4,621
2026	4,509

Kindergarten enrollment decreased from 373 to 299 students. With the exception of first, fourth and eleventh grades, all cohorts shrank from the prior year. The largest losses were in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten cohorts, but were particularly sharp in second grade.

Elementary and middle school enrollments will continue to realize declines due to smaller grade (birth) cohorts. As these smaller cohorts matriculate, high school enrollment will begin to decline to approximately 1,900 students in 2022, which will begin a downward trend that will continue to 1,550 in 2026.
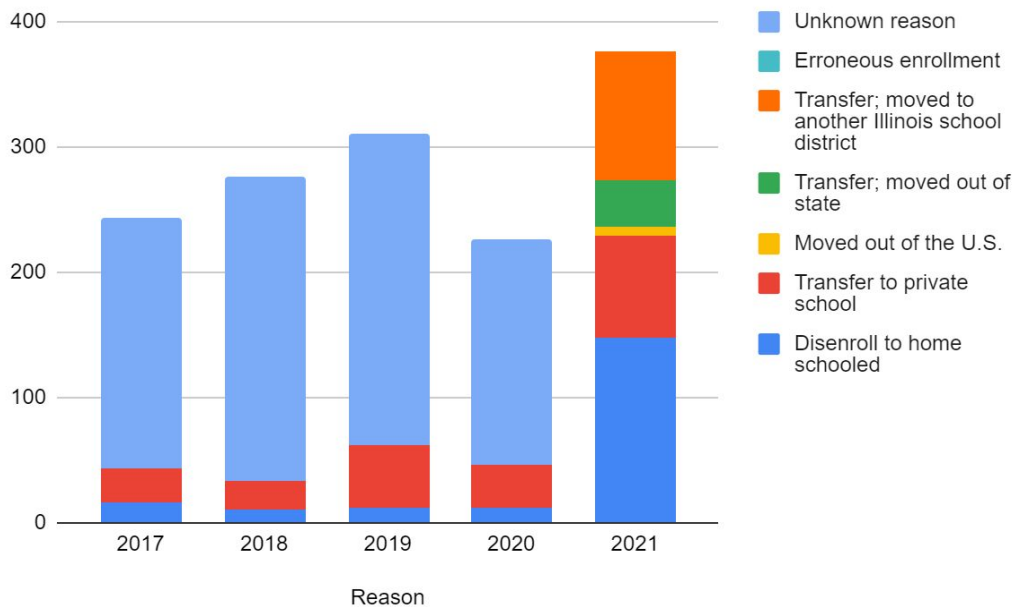
Fig. 2: Historical and Projected Enrollment by Level

Pandemic Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the District and the delivery of instruction. As a result, the District has realized a significant increase in students exiting and withdrawing from school, particularly transfers to private schools and homeschooling. Historical data on the reasons for exit and withdrawal are not reliable or complete, so comparisons to prior years should be considered carefully.

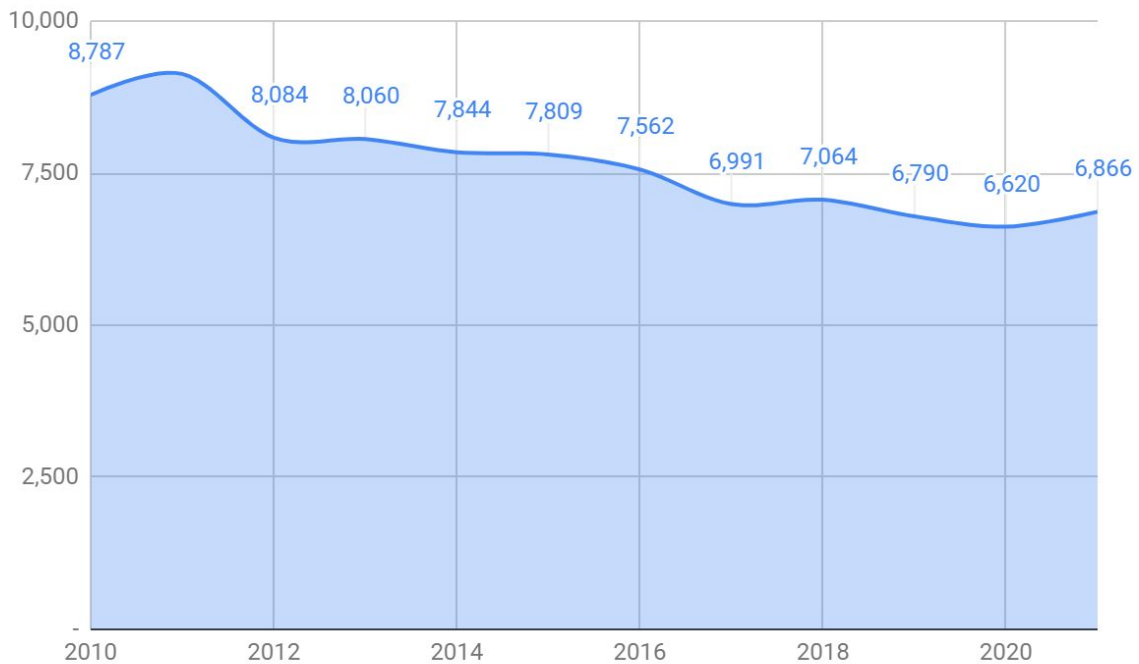## Fig. 3: Exit Enrollment and Withdrawal Reasons by Year

Birth Rates

The Kane County birth rates decreased by 3.9% in 2019 and the trend is expected to continue in 2020. The five-year weighted average anticipates a moderate increase of births in 2021.

Since kindergarten enrollments are highly correlated with the birth rate five years prior, kindergarten cohorts are expected to continue to shrink for the next five years. It is still unclear if the pandemic will have a significant impact on births.

Fig. 4: Kane County Live Births by Year

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; the need for a proportional staffing adjustment for high school enrollment is likely to be negligible. The District's average class sizes are not expected to change significantly in 2022, and average section sizes are anticipated to be below their respective targets.

Projection Accuracy

The methodology for this projection utilizes a five-year weighted average, which has yielded the best fit from projected to actual enrollments in recent years. In comparing 2021 actual

enrollments to those that were projected in 2020, the margin of error is -1.8%, significantly higher than recent years. It appears likely that this reliability variance was mostly due to the pandemic. It is unclear how the pandemic might affect the reliability of future projections.

Findings

- Birth rates in Kane County continue to decline and will likely result in smaller kindergarten cohorts each year through at least 2026.
- Most cohorts recognized losses in the current year, particularly pre-kindergarten through second grades due to the pandemic.
- Home sales and students moving into the District are unlikely to offset the significant decline in birth rates, resulting in smaller cohorts at the elementary level.
- Overall, enrollments will continue to shrink at all levels due to shrinking birth rates and the continued matriculation of smaller cohorts.

Implications

Enrollment is projected to continue to decline over the next five years by roughly approximately -2.0% to -4.0% annually. This trend will require proportional staffing adjustments.