

2023 Enrollment Projection

Fiscal years 2023 through 2027

November 16, 2021

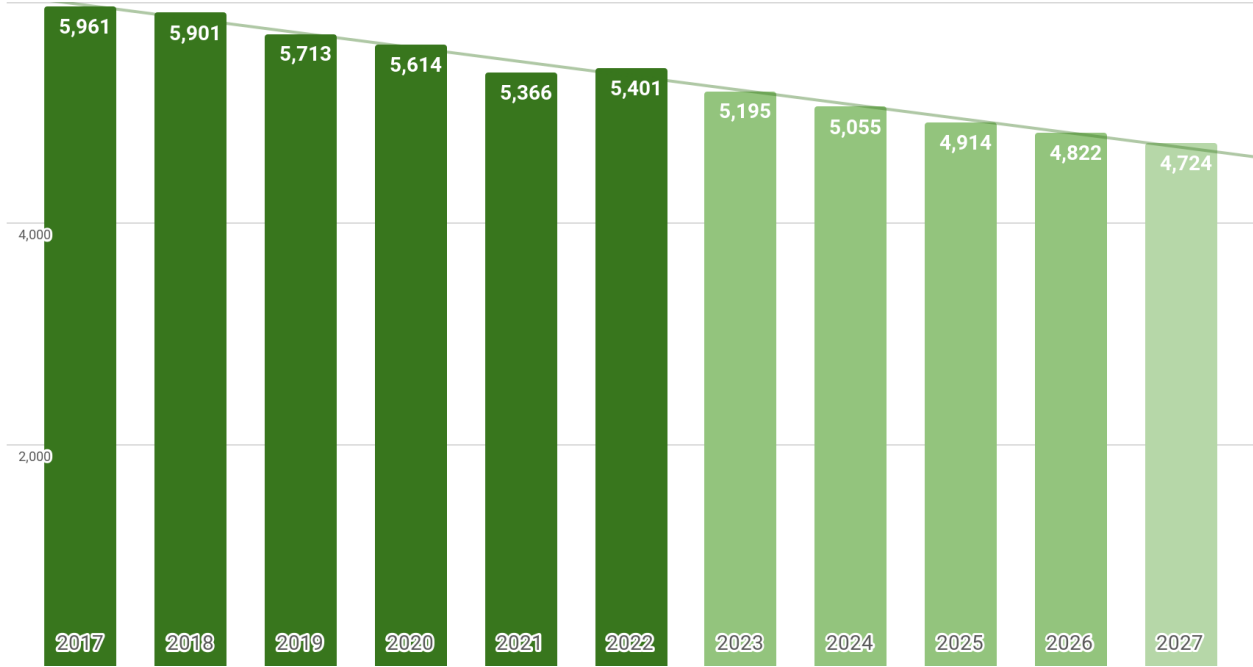
Background

Each year, the District conducts a five-year student enrollment projection for budget and staffing purposes. This projection utilizes the cohort survival method to forecast future enrollment, 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 increased by 35 students (0.7%) to 5,401 in 2021. The District’s serving school enrollment, which reflects students who actually attend its eight regular schools, increased by 47students to 5,333 (0.9%).

Fig. 1: Historical and Projected Total Enrollment

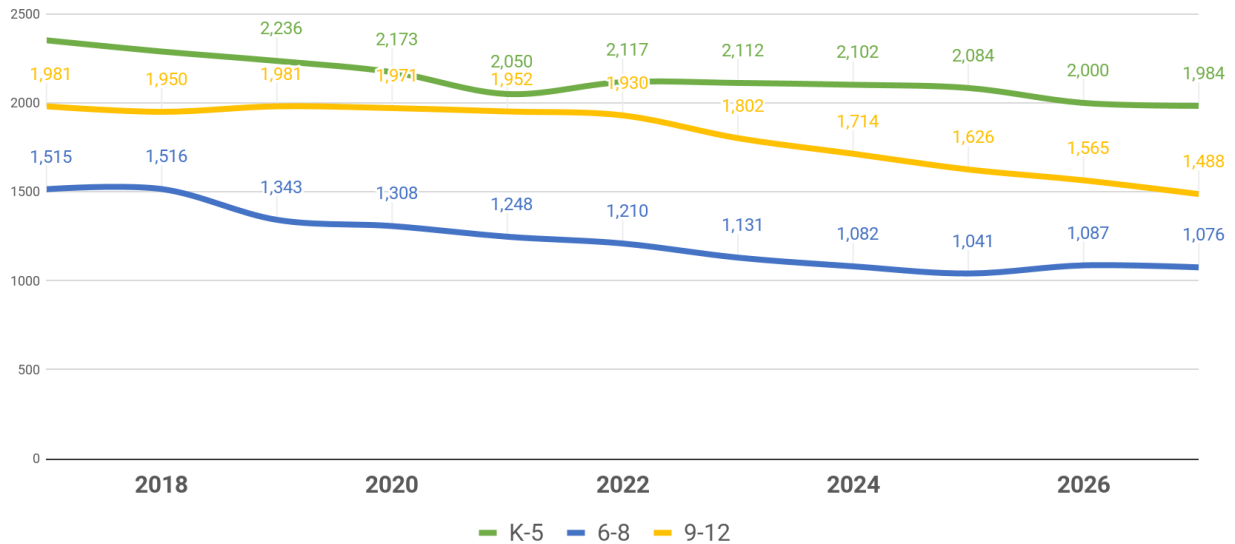


The majority of enrollment increases for the current school year were in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grades, as many of these students had opted out of remote and hybrid instruction in 2021. Enrollment increased from 116 to 144, 300 to 372, and 337 to 393 for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grades, respectively. Cohort retention at other grades were stable or modestly positive and slight reductions at fifth, eighth, ninth, and tenth grades were realized.

Elementary and middle school enrollments will continue to decline due to smaller grade (birth) cohorts. As these smaller cohorts matriculate, middle and high school enrollments are likely to

continue a downward average trend of 2% through 2027.

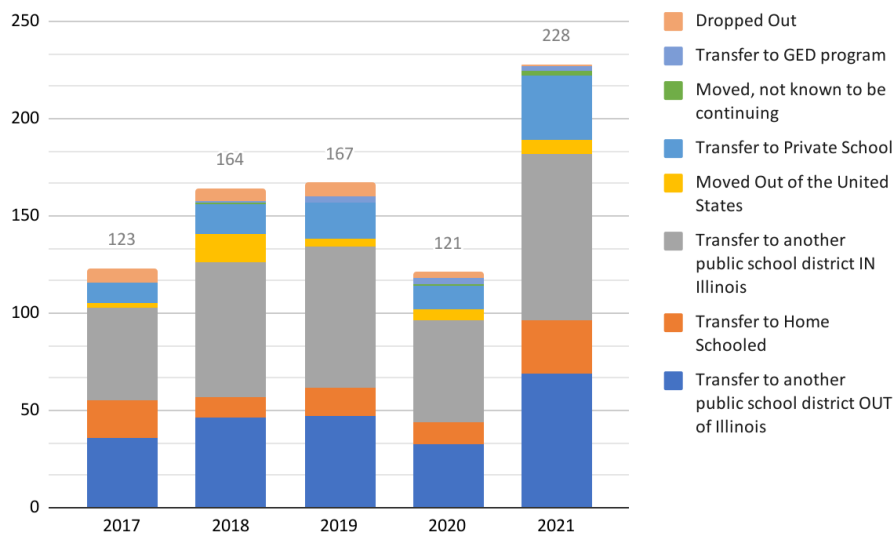
Fig. 2: Historical and Projected Enrollment by Level



Pandemic Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on delivery of instruction and, accordingly, student enrollment. While the District offered remote and hybrid instruction during the 2021 school year, student transfers to private schools and homeschooling increased significantly. Preliminary analysis indicates that many, if not most, of these students returned to the District for the 2022 school year.

Fig. 3: Exit Enrollment and Withdrawal Reasons by Year

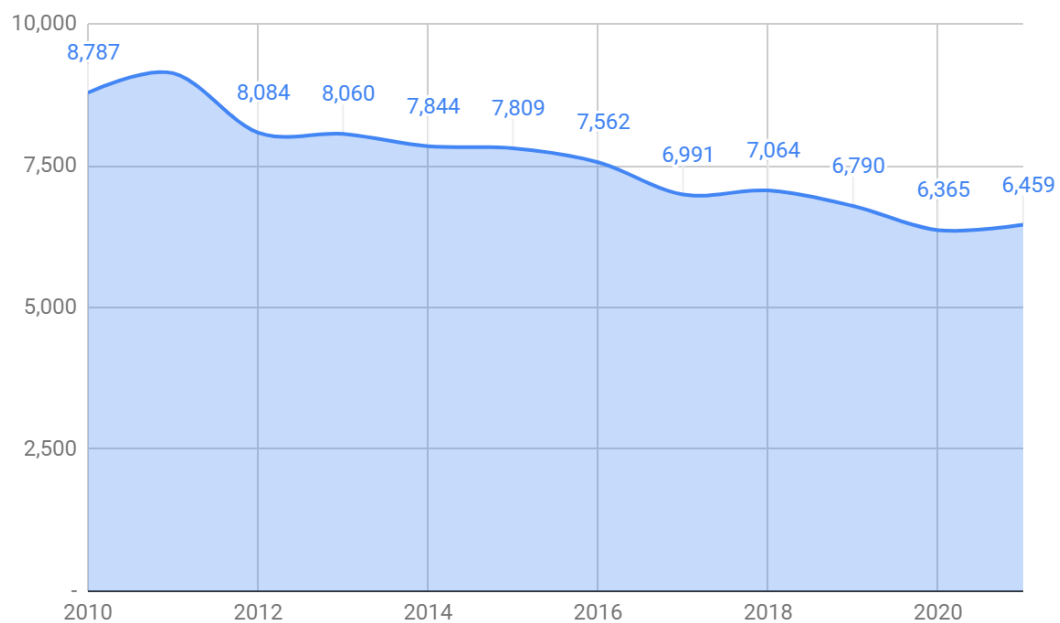


Birth Rates

The Kane County birth rates decreased by 6.3% in 2020, continuing a nine year trend that is expected to persist through 2021. The five-year weighted average suggests that birth rates may stabilize in 2022.

Since kindergarten enrollments are highly correlated with the birth rate five years prior, kindergarten cohorts are expected to continue to shrink for the next four years, beginning to increase again in 2027 if birth rates stabilize.

Fig. 4: Kane County Live Births by Year



Average Class Sizes

Enrollment declines call for a reduction of approximately five elementary and two middle school teachers in 2023; the need for staffing adjustments at the high school is likely to be negligible. Given average annual turnover, staff reductions may be accomplished through attrition and retirements. Accordingly, the District's average class sizes are not expected to change significantly in 2023, with anticipated average section sizes below targets.

Projection Accuracy

This projection methodology utilizes a five-year weighted average, which in recent years, has yielded best-fit of projected to actual enrollments. The variance between 2022 actual enrollments to 2021 projected is 2.8% (five-year average -0.2%), with more students than anticipated. The current enrollment is more comparable to the 2020 projection, and the variance is primarily driven by delayed entrance of students in pre-kindergarten through first grades as a result of the pandemic.

Findings

- Student enrollment has increased slightly over the prior year due to recent home sales and students returning from homeschooling and private schools.
- Birth rates in Kane County continue to decline and will likely result in smaller kindergarten cohorts each year through 2026 and possibly stabilizing in 2027.
- Recent home sales and new development is unlikely to offset birth rate declines.
- Overall, enrollments will continue to shrink due to declining birth rates and matriculation of smaller cohorts.

Implications

Enrollment is projected to continue a declining trend over the next five years by an average of -2%, prompting proportional staffing reductions.