



New England School Development Council

Celebrating over sixty years of service to education

School
comm.
FYI

TO: Wayne R. Ogden, Superintendent of Schools, Franklin, Ma
FROM: Ellen W. Kelly, Donald Kennedy, Ed.D., Demographic Team
DATE: January 29, 2007
RE: Enrollment Projections

We are pleased to send you the enclosed documents displaying the past, present, and projected enrollments for the Franklin School District. We have used the figures given to us by the district and we assume that the method of collecting the enrollment data has been consistent from year to year.

NESDEC's enrollment projection totals from fall of 2005 were within 0.4% of the actual total for this fall. After experiencing steady and significant growth for the past decade, the district enrollment appears to be leveling out and beginning to decline. Last year we noted that the decline in the number of births, for 2003, at 436, was the lowest figure in the last 10 years. This year we see that the number births for 2004 is even lower at 414. These figures are impacting the five-year-out projection totals.

If your district has need for further assistance in the area of long range facilities planning, we would urge you to call so that we might discuss our planning services which include our Demographic and Long-Range Enrollment Projection Studies.

We have enclosed suggestions for interpreting the printout and a brief description of the modified cohort survival methodology used in preparing the projections. As always, we would be delighted to hear from you regarding ways in which we might make the enrollment forecasts more useful to you. Please don't hesitate to call or email us at ep@nesdec.org. Best wishes for the remainder of the school year.

60th
Anniversary
1946-2006

SUGGESTIONS FOR ANALYZING YOUR ENROLLMENT REPORT

Historical Public Enrollments

1. After the "YEAR" column can be found the "BIRTHS" column. The number of births to residents for each of eleven years is displayed. Note any trends, e.g., have births been decreasing? increasing? leveling off? Kindergarten and Grade 1 enrollments are normally quite responsive to these fluctuations.
2. Look down the K and 1 columns and note the direction of the trend. This affords a comparison of these classes over a ten-year period. Add the K and Grade 1 enrollments of the first school year recorded, and compare them with the sum of the current K and Grade 1 enrollments.
3. Take the first K class and follow it diagonally to trace its movement to Grade 1, 2, etc. up to its current 10th grade status. This comparison (which can be accomplished for other classes also) gives some measure of the effects of migration in your school district. If a sixth grade class today is larger than it was as a K class six years ago, then in-migration has probably occurred; if it is smaller, then out-migration has probably occurred.
4. Compare each K class with the previous year's graduating class. Note which is larger and by what amount one surpasses the other. Larger graduating classes generally reflect declining enrollments; larger K classes generally indicate increasing enrollments.
5. In the "Grade Combinations" section, note the trends of elementary, middle school/junior high, and high school enrollments. A significant and consistent trend in these summaries usually results in the corresponding trend for projected enrollments. If enrollments are leveling off in the elementary grades after a period of decline, then the secondary enrollments might be expected to continue to decline for several years until the leveling off experience has had time to take hold at the secondary grades.

Enrollment Projections

1. Note the trends exhibited in the total K-12 (or 1-12) projection for the next five years as well as the projections for various grade combinations. The trends on this page should generally exhibit a continuation of the trends mentioned above for historical enrollments, although the rate of change may be quite different.
2. Look at the births in the most recent years and note whether the trend is up, down, or level.
3. Make similar comparisons as appropriate on this page as were suggested for the "Historical Public Enrollments" page.

PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

The cohort survival technique is the most frequently used method of preparing enrollment forecasts. NESDEC uses that technique, but modifies it in order to move away from forecasts which are wholly computer or formula driven. Such modification permits the incorporation of important, current town-specific information into the generation of the enrollment forecasts. Basically, percentages are calculated from the historical enrollment data to determine a reliable percentage of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades. For example, if 100 students enrolled in Grade 1 in 2001-02, increased to 104 students in Grade 2 in 2002-03, the percentage of survival would have been 104% or a ratio of 1.04. Such ratios are calculated between each pair of grades or years in school over several recent years.

After study and analysis of the historical ratios and based upon a reasonable set of assumptions regarding births, migration rates, retention rates, etc., ratios most indicative of future growth patterns are determined for each pair of grades. The ratios thus selected are applied to the present enrollment statistics for a pre-determined number of years.

The ratios used are the key factors in the reliability of the projections, given the validity of the data at the starting point. The strength of the ratios lies in the fact that each ratio encompasses collectively the variables that account for increases or decreases in the size of a grade enrollment as it moves on to the next grade. Each ratio represents the cumulative effect of the following factors:

1. Migration, in or out, of the schools;
2. Retention in the same grade;
3. Drop-outs, transfers, etc.;
4. Births and deaths;
5. New house construction.

GENERAL COMMENT

Projections can serve as useful guides to school administrators for educational planning. In this regard, the projections are generally most reliable when they are closest in time to the current year. Projections six to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments, and are useful for facility planning purposes. However, they should be viewed as subject to change given the possibility for change in the underlying assumptions. Annual updates allow for the identification of any recent changes in historical trends.

In light of this, NESDEC urges all school districts to have updated enrollment forecasts developed by NESDEC each October. This service is available at no cost to affiliated school districts.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY GRADE*

BIRTH YEAR	BIRTHS	SCHOOL YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ungrad	PK-12 TOTAL
2001	449	2006-07	199	454	515	469	480	484	490	539	465	492	406	372	389	347	1	6102
2002	482	2007-08	199	472	455	515	464	480	484	494	531	472	433	394	364	377	1	6135
2003	436	2008-09	199	427	473	455	510	464	480	488	487	539	415	420	385	353	1	6096
2004	414	2009-10	199	406	428	473	450	510	464	484	481	494	474	403	411	373	1	6051
2005	444 (est.)	2010-11	199	435	407	428	468	450	510	468	477	488	435	460	394	399	1	6019
2006	431 (est.)	2011-12	199	423	436	407	424	468	450	515	461	484	429	422	450	382	1	5951
2007		2012-13			424	436	403	424	468	454	507	468	426	416	413	437		
2008		2013-14				424	432	403	424	472	447	515	412	413	407	401		
2009		2014-15					420	432	403	428	465	454	453	400	404	395		
2010		2015-16						420	432	407	422	472	400	439	391	392		
2011		2016-17							420	436	401	428	415	388	429	379		

PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS IN GRADE COMBINATIONS*

SCHOOL YEAR	K-2	K-5	K-6	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	9-12
2006-07	1438	2692	3431	4388	1986	1496	957	2471	1514
2007-08	1442	2870	3364	4367	1981	1497	1003	2571	1568
2008-09	1355	2809	3297	4323	1994	1514	1026	2599	1573
2009-10	1307	2731	3215	4190	1923	1459	975	2636	1661
2010-11	1270	2698	3166	4131	1943	1433	965	2653	1688
2011-12	1266	2608	3123	4068	1910	1460	945	2628	1683
2012-13					1897	1429	975	2667	1692
2013-14					1858	1434	962	2595	1633
2014-15					1750	1347	919	2571	1652
2015-16					1733	1301	894	2516	1622
2016-17					1685	1265	829	2440	1611

*PROJECTIONS SHOULD BE UPDATED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT DATA
 ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Years	Total	Diff.	%
2006-07	6102		
2007-08	6135	33	0.5%
2008-09	6096	-39	-0.6%
2009-10	6051	-45	-0.7%
2010-11	6019	-32	-0.5%
2011-12	5951	-68	-1.1%

TOTAL
 CHANGE 2006-2011 -151 -2.5%