



STR PARTNERS LLC
350 West Ontario Street
Suite 200
Chicago IL 60654
312.464.1444
www.strpartners.com

July 10, 2026

Dr. Amy MacCrindle
Superintendent
Central Community Unit School District 301
275 South Street
Burlington, IL 60109

Re: Summary of Dr. Kasarda's Demographic Study
STR Project No. 25057

Dear Dr. MacCrindle,

The following is a summary of the June 2026 demographic report prepared for Central Community School District 301 by Dr. Kasarda. The intent is to highlight the conclusions related to future enrollment based on population and housing trends in District 301. The information gathered for Dr. Kasarda's analysis was provided by District 301 (historical district information, enrollment data, boundary changes, etc) and local land use experts. The full report has been provided to D30 for reference.

The dominant trend has been continued enrollment growth in District 301 in all but two years of the 21st century. The most recent year of decline was the COVID-impacted 2020–21 school year. However, total enrollment in District 301 rebounded the following year and has continued to increase each year reaching 5,186 students this past fall (2025–26 school year). Recent and anticipated residential development has been/is mostly concentrated in the northeast portion of the district.

Dr. Kasarda provides enrollment projections in the form of three separate series based on assumptions about future birth rates, housing markets, and resulting family migration to District 301 and the elementary school attendance areas.

Series A Enrollment projection assuming future fertility rates remain near present levels (through 2030) and that new housing development and housing turnover and resulting student in-migration would decrease by about 15 percent below than currently anticipated through 2035.

Series B Enrollment projection assuming future fertility rates remain near present levels (through 2030) and that new housing development, housing turnover, and resulting in-migration of families with preschool and school-age children occur as currently anticipated through 2035.

Series C Enrollment projection assuming future fertility rates remain near present levels (through 2030) and that new housing development and housing turnover and resulting student in-migration would increase by about 15 percent above than currently anticipated.

The methodology used to make the three series of enrollment projections is a modified cohort survival procedure. Average cohort progression numbers were computed and adjusted for outliers for each grade transition for the past four years. This was then applied to compute baseline enrollment projections.

The projected enrollment was then adjusted in each year in grades 1 through 12 for possible alterations in housing development and turnover. To obtain the Series B enrollment projections, it was assumed that the new housing developments would be spread out over the next ten years and that housing turnover would modestly pick up if the economy remains relatively healthy and mortgage interest rates do not increase substantially. It is Dr. Kasarda's professional judgment that future enrollment will most closely track Series B.

The following are enrollment projections at each school for Series B (most likely):

- **Country Trails Elementary School** is expected to dip slightly from 734 students this year to 726 students in fall 2026 and then rise to 774 students in school year 2030–31
- Enrollment at **Lily Lake Grade School** should be fairly stable over the next five years at between 270 and 282 students.
- **Prairie View Grade School** is forecasted to see its enrollment decline from 597 students this past fall to 534 students in school year 2028–29 and level off.
- **Howard B. Thomas Grade School's** enrollment is projected to rise each year from 687 students last fall (2025) to 827 students in the school year.
- **Prairie Knolls Middle School**, whose enrollment this year is 837 students, is projected to increase to 876 students in fall 2028 and then fall back 834 students in school year 2029–30. Total enrollment at Prairie Knolls is projected to rebound and climb to 922 students in 2035–36.
- **Central Middle School** should see its total enrollment increase from 441 students in school year 2025–26 to 478 students in school year 2029–30. Following a one-year dip to 433 students in 2030–31, total enrollment at Central Middle School should irregularly rebound to 473 students in 2035–36.
- **Central High School** enrollment is projected to rise from 1,648 students this past fall to 1,889 students in 2033–34, then remain near that number through 2035–36.

Exhibit A indicates the projected enrollment increase over the next 10 years for pre-kindergarten, elementary (K-5), middle (6-8), high school (9-12), and total district enrollment is as follows:

Exhibit A: Total Enrollment Projections (Series B) per school type (elem, middle, high) and total for the District

Grade Levels	Current Actual Enrollment (2025-2026)	Projected Enrollment (2030-2031)	<i>Delta between 2030-2031 and current</i>	Projected Enrollment (2035-2036)	<i>Delta between 2035-2036 and current</i>
Pre-Kindergarten	151	163	12	168	17
K-5	2,137	2,224	87	2,413	276
6-8	1,250	1,290	40	1,395	145
9-12	1,647	1,858	211	1,881	233
Total for District	5,196	5,537	343	5,857	671

The following Exhibits B through E show the historical enrollment data in black with the compared trajectory of Series A, B, and C. Again, Dr. Kasarda has indicated that Series B is the more likely scenario to use for future planning purposes. Consistent with this recommendation, the Central 301 Core Team's planning assumptions are based on the Series B projection.

Exhibit B: Grades K-5 Enrollment History (2001-02 to 2025-26) and Projections (2026-27 to 2035-36)

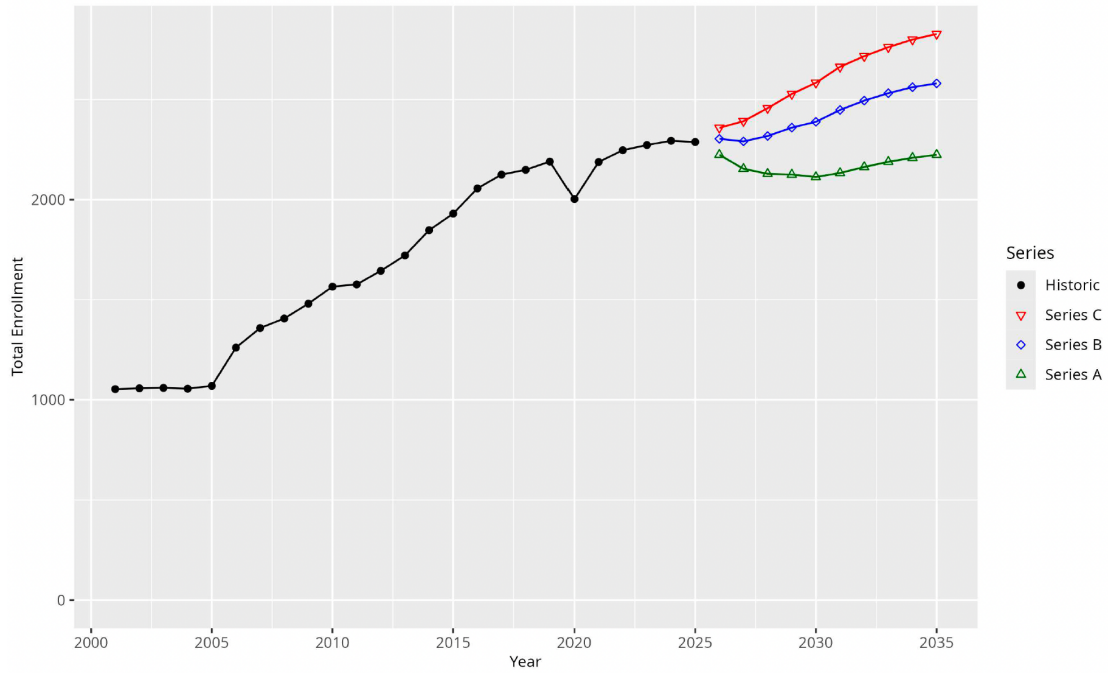


Exhibit C: Grades 6-8 Enrollment History (2001-02 to 2025-26) and Projections (2026-27 to 2035-36)

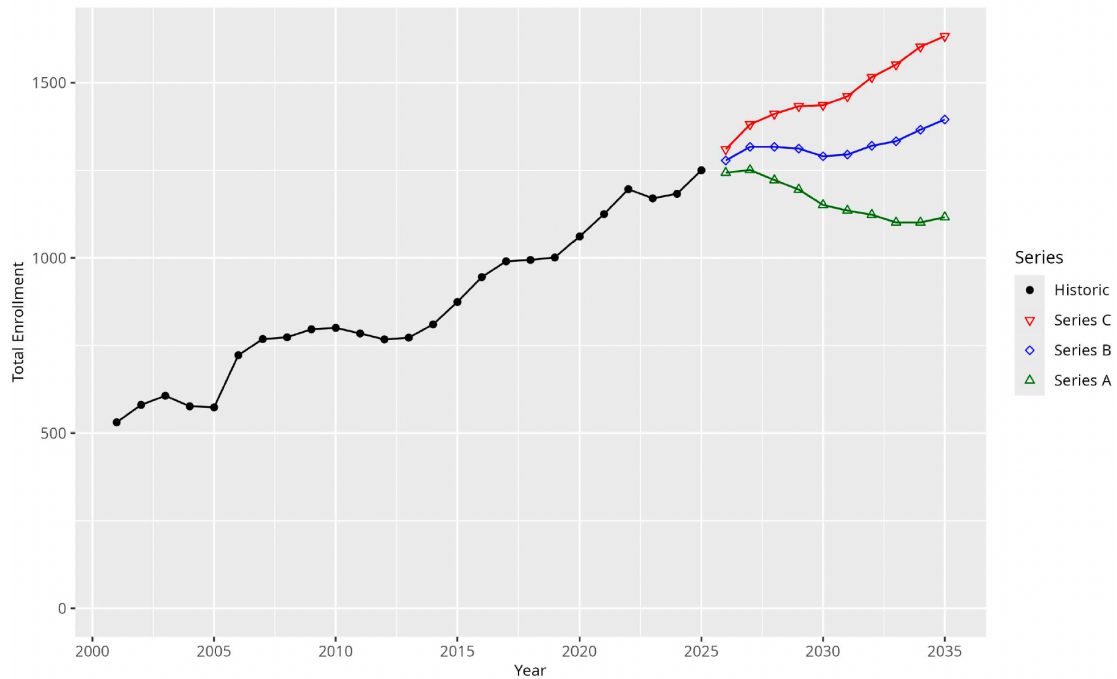


Exhibit D: Grades 9-12 Enrollment History (2001-02 to 2025-26) and Projections (2026-27 to 2035-36)

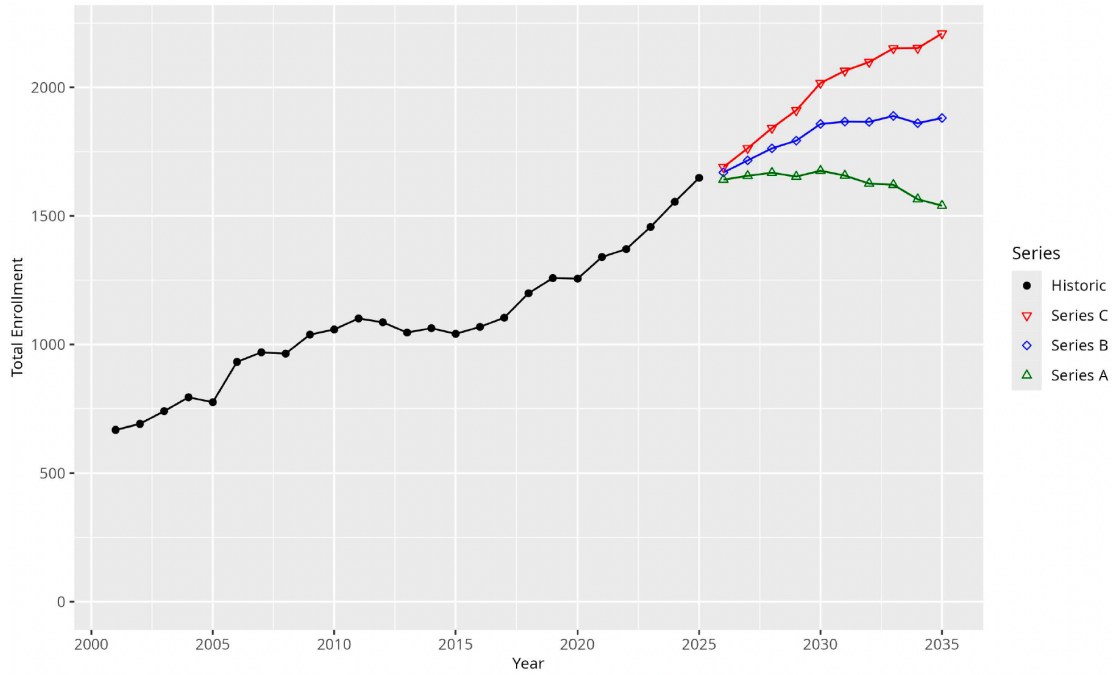
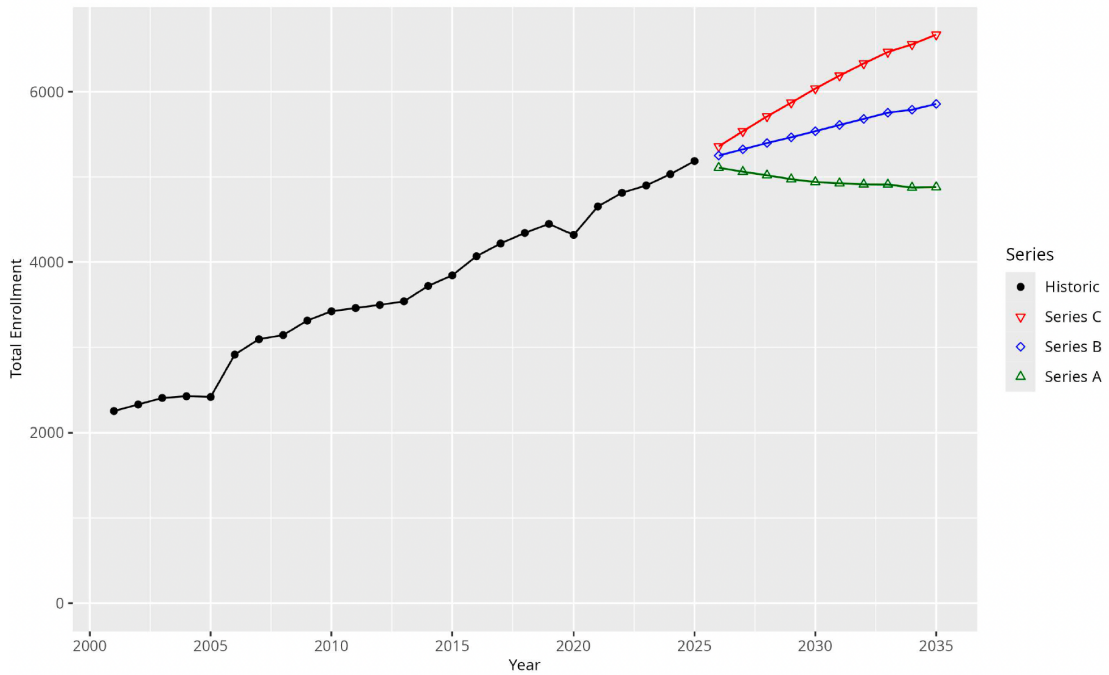


Exhibit E: Total Enrollment History (2001-02 to 2025-26) and Projections (2026-27 to 2035-36)



The following is the conclusion directly from Dr. Kasarda's report:

"No demographer has a crystal ball, so all projections entail risk. In this report, I have assembled the best information presently available and applied professional techniques and judgment to generate the enrollment projections for Central Community School District 301 and its individual schools. Given the dynamics of the District 301 housing market and uncertainties in timing and scale of development of approving projects, these projections should be monitored and updated regularly to ensure that policy decisions are based on the latest and most reliable figures. At this time, it is my hope that the enrollment projections and other demographic information contained in this report will be helpful to District 301's Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and concerned citizens as plans are made for future space and staff needs in the district."

Please feel free to review the full report for tables and charts as well as further details from Dr. Kasarda. We believe the information presented represents an approach that acknowledges continued growth at a reasonable rate. This allows the District to explore options to address an increase of enrollment while also anticipating potential future growth at a varying rate, thus guiding the design team to accommodate future phases of work.

Sincerely,
STR Partners LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Costanzo", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jennifer Costanzo AIA, LEED AP
Principal