



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Palese, Executive Director

DATE: May 6, 2026

RE: Projections Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board with an update on enrollment projections for the 2026–27 school year as of April 29, 2026. These projections are preliminary and are expected to change multiple times before August 2026.

Current estimates indicate we will begin the 2026–27 school year with approximately **40** more students than at the start of August 2025. Based on these early projections, we anticipate starting out the year with several classrooms filled or close to capacity.

The data below reflects the following.

- Several classrooms are **at or very close to capacity**, with only 0–3 openings available in many.
- A few areas still have **some space** (New Directions K–1, New Pathways K–5 Kaneland, SAFE), but some of that depends on pending students.
- We're already making **adjustments based on numbers**, including reducing TA support in a few lower-enrolled high school classrooms.
- There will likely be **some student movement** (especially in New Directions) to balance caseloads.
- Several programs have **pending students or active referrals**, which could quickly fill remaining openings.
- **SAIL Intensive Needs is over capacity** and can't take more students without adding staff; SEA/SAIL may start the year a bit high, depending on pending enrollments.
- Unfortunately, we do not currently have the space to open a new classroom at MJS.

Program/Location/Grade	Total Classrooms	Recommended Capacity per Classroom	Confirmed Students	Pending Students	Current Openings	Additional Information
ABLE Batavia & Kaneland	2	6	5-6	0	1	We do not currently have any new students projected for our ABLE program.
ELS K-2 Kaneland	1	8	6	1	1	We need to cap this classroom at 7 students due to the number of new students with complex needs. This may change after we get through the first 6 weeks. The pending student is a current Mid-Valley student.
ELS 3-5 Kaneland	1	8	7	0	1	
ELS Middle School Central	1	8	7	0	1	
ELS High School Central	1	8	4	1	3	We will be reducing TA support in this classroom next year due to lower enrollment.
New Directions K-1	1	8	2	1	5	We will likely move students to balance out caseloads at MJS.
New Directions 1-2	1	8	8	0	0	All 2nd graders
New Directions 3	1	8	6	1	1	
New Directions 4	1	8	7	1	0	
New Directions 5-6	1	13	10	1	2	
New Directions 7-8	2	8	6	0	4	
New Directions HS	3	10	8-9	4	3	
New Pathways K-5 Central	3	8	8		0	
New Pathways K-5 Kaneland	2	8	5	6	4	
New Pathways K-5 Geneva	2	8	6-7	3	3	
New Pathways MS Geneva	1	8	6	1	1	
New Pathways MS Central	1	8	5	0	3	We will be reducing TA support in this classroom next year due to lower enrollment.
New Pathways HS Geneva	2	8	7	0	2	
New Pathways HS Central	1	8	4	1	3	We will be reducing TA support in this classroom next year due to lower enrollment.
SAFE Schools	1	8	1	3	4	We have 3 open referrals for SAFE Schools Students who would start this year.
SAIL- Intensive Needs	2	6-8	11	0	-10	Given our caseloads and space constraints, we cannot accommodate these students without hiring a new teacher.
SAIL	4	11-13	13-15	2	8	Caseloads could be 13, but classroom space only allows for 11 in some rooms.
SEA/SAIL Hybrid	1	13	11	2	2	
SEA	2	13	16	5	0	Five of these students are pending; if they all come, we are prepared to start out the year with higher caseloads.