



**WEST CHICAGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

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Responding to the Needs of the School Community

Objectives

- To review the results of Dr. Kasarda's Enrollment Study that demonstrate that declining enrollment is impacting building usage
- To review the recommendation of the Facilities Committee.
- Recommend the transition of Pioneer School to a preschool beginning in fall of 2023.



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Housing & Population Trends

- Housing and Population Trends
 - In 1950, the city of West Chicago had fewer than 4,000 residents.
 - Between 1950 - 2009 the city experienced a flurry of single family housing construction.
 - The median price was \$95,300 which attracted large numbers of young families with children.
- This resulted in considerable growth in the District's preschool and school age children, as well as, increasing the city's population to 23,469 in 1990.

District 33 Enrollment Study - Housing & Population Trends

- New housing construction continued into 2010 contributing to West Chicago's population growth reaching 27,086.
- Housing development slowed substantially after 2005 as the city approached build-out and due to the impending housing crisis that began in 2007.
- Housing development came to a near standstill in 2007 and has remained minimal through July 2022.



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Housing & Population Trends

- Existing housing sales tapered as well during the 2008-2012 recession and remained relatively modest after 2012. The median sales prices of existing housing units climbed through 2021.
- As a result, preschool-age and school-age populations in West Chicago declined between 2010 and 2020, as did the total population.
- Births to West Chicago's residents dropped considerably between 2010 and 2020 as well.

West Chicago Elementary School District 33 Demographic Trends and Enrollment Projections, Dr John Kasarda 2022 - page 4-5



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Housing & Population Trends

- There has been a substantial increase in West Chicago's residents age 60 and over between 2010 and 2020.
- If favorable conditions in the housing market return, it should lead to a increased turnover of existing housing units occupied by “empty nesters” to younger families with school age children.
 - This would counter, to some extent, the lower preschool populations and births.

District 33 Enrollment Study - Enrollment Trends & Student Migration

- Enrollment trends mirror new housing construction, housing turnover, and resulting family migration patterns to West Chicago over the past half century.
- Enrollment climbed from 1,490 students in 1959-60
 - to 2,928 students in 1973-74
 - after which it slipped back to the 2,300 - 2,400 range in the first half of the 1980's (recession and double digit mortgage interest rates contributed to this)



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Enrollment Trends & Student Migration

- The district resumed its growth in the mid-1980s rising up to 5,009 students (including those served by the Birth to 3 Program) in the 2011-12 school year.
- K-8 enrollment peaked at 4,472 students in 2014-15, but has seen an annual decline to 3,066 students in fall 2022.



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Enrollment Trends & Student Migration

- Total district enrollment, including Birth to 3 and PreK students, peaked at 5,241 students in 2016-17. This was due to the exceptionally high number of pre-K students served.
- Since then, the total district's enrollment (including Birth to 3 and pre-K) has declined to 3,475 this year.



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Determinants of Enrollment Change

- District 33's growth, stability, or decline is affected by four basic factors:
 - The difference between the size of the kindergarten class that enters each September and the size of the previous June's graduating eighth grader class.
 - The net migration/transfer of school-age children as they progress through the grades over the years.
 - The change in pre-K students served.
 - The change in the Birth to Age 3 children served.



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District 33 Enrollment Study - Determinants of Enrollment Change

Example of Enrollment Change from 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year.

416 Eighth Graders replaced by 314 kindergarteners	-102
Students migrated out of District 33	-185
Pre-K decline	-112
Birth to 3 Decline	-35
Total	-434



District 33 Enrollment Study - Determinants of Enrollment Change

- Since September 2016, District 33 consistently experienced enrollment losses by smaller kindergarten classes replacing graduating eighth grade classes AND a negative student migration/transfer.
- Considerable enrollment declines in recent years have been exacerbated by major drops in both pre-K and the Birth to 3 Program.



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District 33 Enrollment Study - The Enrollment Future of District 33

“My analysis of births to West Chicago residents, trends in District 33 kindergarten enrollments, likely future housing turnover of empty-nest households, and consequent student migration/transfer patterns leads me to forecast continuing total District enrollment declines for the next five years, followed by modest increases thereafter.” Dr. John Kasarda



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District 33 Student Enrollment

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
K	314	343	331	342	344	351	362	357	362	356	361
1	343	299	328	316	327	329	337	348	343	348	342
2	280	334	290	319	307	318	322	330	341	336	341
3	320	265	319	275	304	292	304	308	316	327	322
4	317	306	251	305	261	290	280	292	296	304	315
5	378	300	289	234	288	244	278	268	280	284	292
6	361	366	288	277	222	276	232	266	256	268	272
7	367	349	354	276	265	210	268	224	258	248	260
8	386	358	340	345	267	256	206	264	220	254	244
PK	267	265	274	276	281	290	286	290	285	289	287
Totals	3333	3185	3064	2965	2866	2856	2875	2947	2957	3014	3036
% Change		-4.44%	-3.80%	-3.23%	-3.34%	-0.35%	0.67%	2.50%	0.34%	1.93%	0.73%

Data Source: Dr. Kasarda's D33 Enrollment Student Table 53, 2022



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Why Pioneer? Pioneer Enrollment Projections

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
K	38	45	44	43	47	45
1	44	39	46	45	44	48
2	48	43	38	45	44	43
3	41	46	41	36	43	42
4	42	39	44	39	34	41
5	45	39	36	41	36	31
Totals	258	251	249	249	248	250
% Change		-2.71%	-0.80%	0.00%	-0.40%	0.81%

Data Source: Dr. Kasarda's D33 Enrollment Student Table 41, 2022



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Facility Committee Recommendations

The Facility Committee recommended prioritizing both air conditioning and a preschool space.

- Current preschool classrooms are split between 3 different locations - 2 of which are rentals
- Learning environments between the 3 locations varies in quality.
- The district cannot control the quality of the learning environment of rental spaces.



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Why Pioneer? Changing Demographics

Losing the monolingual population at Pioneer

- No current monolingual kindergarten
- 4th grade monolingual class of 8 students
- Remaining monolingual classes between 13-16



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2023-2024 School Year

- Incoming kindergarten students will be enrolled at other schools in the district depending upon their home address.
- Remaining sections of 1st - 5th grade will continue at Pioneer.
- Specials and other support staff will most likely be on carts.
This will be determined by the building administrator.
- Trinity Preschool classrooms and Winfield Preschool classrooms will move into Pioneer School.



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Sample Floor Plan



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2024-2025 School Year

- ALL remaining sections at Pioneer are enrolled at their designated school based on their home address.
- Classes from the ELC move to Pioneer School.
- Pioneer Elementary School will become the Pioneer Early Childhood Program



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How Will Human Resources Support the Pioneer Staff?

- **No Pioneer certified/classified staff will be need to be released or rified as a result of this change.**
- The transfer process will include HR seeking staff's preferred position for the 23-24 school year, as well as a second or third preference so that we can get staff in a desirable position.
- HR will be at Pioneer on Friday, January 20th all day.
- HR will return for a second day on Friday, February 3rd
- HR will set up individual meetings with staff members during the 23/24 school year to finalize transfers for the 24/25 school year.
- No staff member's step and lane will be impacted



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Next Steps

- Requesting a Board vote at the February 2, 2023, Board of Education Meeting.



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Thank You.



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