



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Palese, Executive Director

DATE: February 4, 2025

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 January 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 **47** more students than at the start of August 2025. Based on these early projections, we anticipate only minor adjustments to our overall classroom count, as outlined below. At this time, we do not anticipate opening any new classrooms and will likely reduce the number of Case Managers in our SEA program by one.

2026-27 Student Enrollment Information						
District	Actual Students August 2025	February Confirmed for 2026-27	February Pending for 2026-27	February Confirmed & Pending 2026-27	August 2025 vs. February 2026 Projections	Additional Information
D101	38	31	7	38	0	Pending are SEA/SAIL
D301	86	87	8	95	9	Pending are ELS/New Pathways, SEA/SAIL referrals not yet submitted
D302	52	61	6	67	15	Pending are ELS/New Pathways and SEA/SAIL
D303	41	41	1	41	0	No current referrals for 2026-27
D304	37	48	13	61	24	This number will likely drop - several SEA students.
Other Districts	7	6	0	6	-1	
MVSE Classrooms	261	287	35	308	47	
DHH Program	97	97			TBD	DHH student projections are not ready yet.
Total Students	358	384				

Recommended Classroom Capacity & Classroom Openings (based on the needs of current students served)						
Program/Location/Grade	Total Classrooms	Recommended Capacity per Classroom	Projected Students per Classroom	Current Openings	Additional Information	
ABLE Batavia & Kaneland	2	6	5-6	1	We do not currently have any new students projected for our ABLE program.	
ELS K-2 Kaneland	2	8	6	2	3 of these students are pending	
ELS 3-5 Kaneland	1	8	7	1		
ELS Middle School Central	1	8	5	3		
ELS High School Central	1	8	7	1	We rarely get new HS students in ELS.	
New Directions K-1	1	8	2	4	While it is too early to make firm projections for the New Directions Elementary Program, we anticipate adjusting grade levels based on enrollment trends. We typically see higher enrollment in grades K-2 compared to grades 3-4. Therefore, we recommend increasing classroom capacity in grades K-1 from six to eight students, with the addition of one support staff member in both K-1 and 1-2 due to student needs in the earlier grades.	
New Directions 1-2	1	8	6	2		
New Directions 3-4	1	8	7	1		
New Directions 3-4	1	8	6	2		
New Directions 5-6 (Co-taught)	1	13	12	1		
New Directions 7-8	2	8	6-7	3		
New Directions HS	3	10	8	6		
New Pathways K-5 Central	3	8	8	0	All D301 pending students would need to go to D302 or D304 classrooms.	
New Pathways K-5 Kaneland	2	8	6	4	This number could change with D301 referrals.	
New Pathways K-5 Geneva	2	8	5-6	5	This number could change with D301 referrals.	
New Pathways MS Geneva	1	8	5-6	3	We rarely see middle schoolers moving in at New Pathways.	
New Pathways MS Central	1	8	7	1		
New Pathways HS Geneva	2	8	6-7	3		
New Pathways HS Central	1	8	5	3		
SAFE Schools	1	8	4	4		
SAIL- Intensive Needs	2	8				
SAIL	4	13			Too early to project for our Transition Programming. However, if we do acquire additional space next year, we will be able to have standard class sizes of 8 and 13. At this time, our numbers indicate that we would need one less classroom with the additional space. One Case Manager is retiring at the end of the 2025-26 school year.	
SEA & SEA/SAIL Hybrid	3	13				
Total for Transition Program	9	107(total)	100	7		