



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

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**DATE OF MEETING: January 28, 2025**

**TITLE: Review of Enrollment Projections and Actual Enrollment for Current (2024-2025) School Year**

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**BACKGROUND:**

The processes employed by school districts to project enrollment has varied throughout the years. In the past, Amphitheater Public Schools used growth studies to predict enrollment expectations, but that method became obsolete during the recession that began in 2009 when economic and demographic changes in the community made growth studies applicable to the Amphitheater District boundaries inconsistent with the actual trends.

Amphitheater currently projects student enrollment through studies of student cohort information, expected property development in neighborhoods served by individual schools, and anecdotal data from schools on population trends, etc. Until 2016, it was easier for school districts to plan in advance of the school year because the State of Arizona provided funding to school districts based on each school district's attendance on the 100th day of school for the prior year. Having the benefit of this information, school districts could easily anticipate the precise amount of funding that each would receive in advance of the school year.

Arizona changed to a "current year funding" model in 2016, which required school districts to develop a budget without knowing the precise amount of funding that each will receive from the state for that year. Under the current year funding model, school districts receive funding based on each district's Average Daily Membership ("ADM"), during the first 100 days of the current school year.

The District anticipated that the Average Daily Membership (ADM) for the 2024-2025 budget would be 11,212. Unfortunately, the current projection of the 100<sup>th</sup> day is 10,661. This enrollment drop will result in a revenue shortfall of approximately \$3.6 million dollars.

Two factors are contributing to this enrollment decrease. The first factor is the continuing decline in the birth rates. The second factor is the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.

Arizona's birth rate declined by 33% between 2007 and 2021, according to data from the Arizona Department of Health Services. The general fertility rate in the United States decreased by 3% from 2022, reaching a historic low.

The Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Program has grown to over 79,000 students. Recent data on new participants indicates that the percentage of students who were enrolled in a public school immediately preceding their enrollment in the ESA program has increased from 47% to 57%.

Amphitheater is not unique with these enrollment declines. Mesa Unified School District predicted after an extensive demographic study that a worse case scenario would be a loss of less than 1,000 students for the current year. The actual numbers for Mesa are approximately 1,500 students. Chandler Unified is down approximately 1,000 students in their schools. An opinion article from the Arizona Republic indicates that these enrollment drops are being seen nationally.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is presented solely for the Board's information. No action is requested at this time.

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**INITIATED BY:**

*Scott Little*

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Scott Little, Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 21, 2025

*Todd A. Jaeger*

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Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent

# Average Daily Membership 2005-2025

Year	ADM	Change	%
2005	15,967		
2006	15,884	-83	-0.52%
2007	15,879	-6	-0.03%
2008	15,605	-274	-1.73%
2009	15,455	-150	-0.96%
2010	14,919	-536	-3.47%
2011	14,786	-133	-0.89%
2012	13,770	-1,016	-6.87%
2013	13,623	-147	-1.07%
2014	13,572	-51	-0.38%
2015	13,484	-88	-0.65%
2016	13,164	-320	-2.38%
2017	13,330	166	1.26%
2018	13,067	-263	-1.97%
2019	12,843	-224	-1.71%
2020	12,462	-381	-2.97%
2021	10,110	-2,352	-18.87%
2022	11,204	1,094	10.82%
2023	11,091	-114	-1.01%
2024	11,143	53	0.48%
2025	10,661	-482	-4.33%

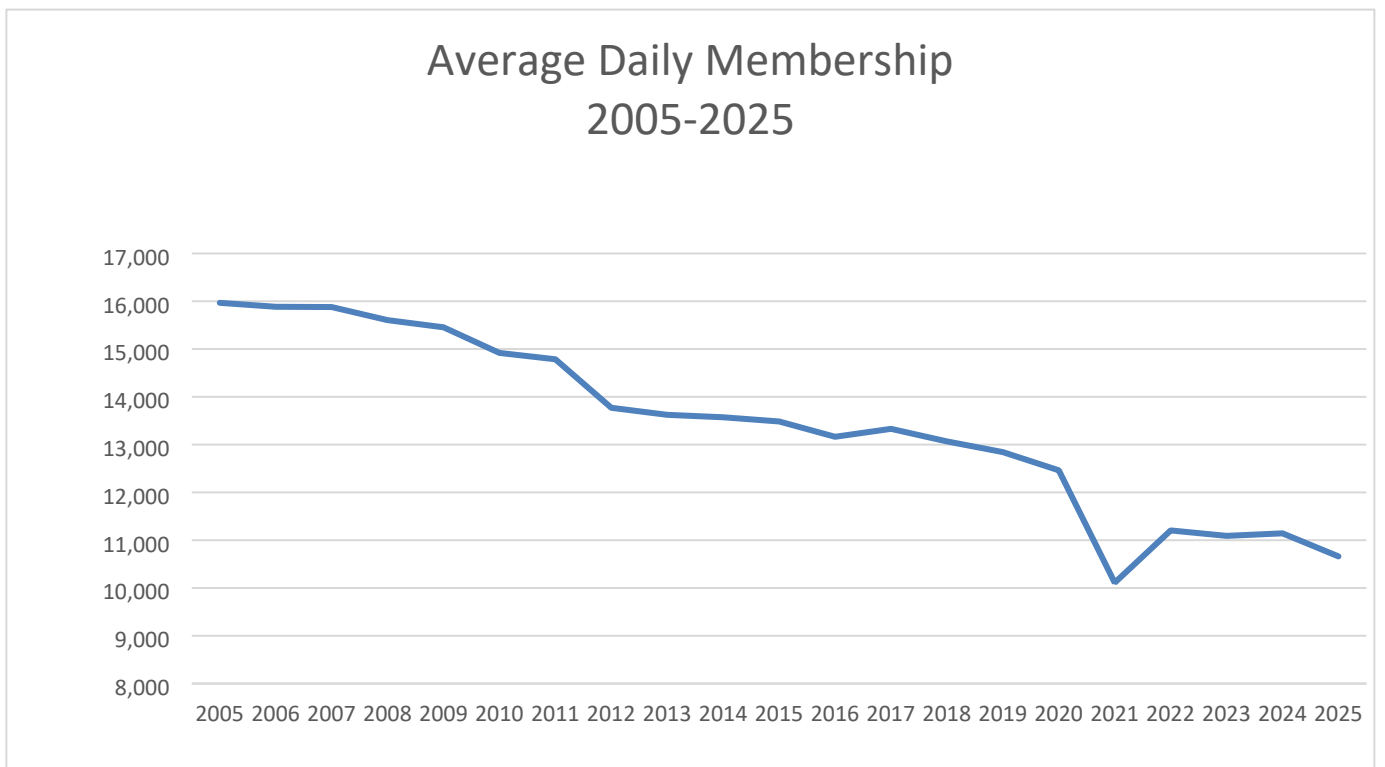
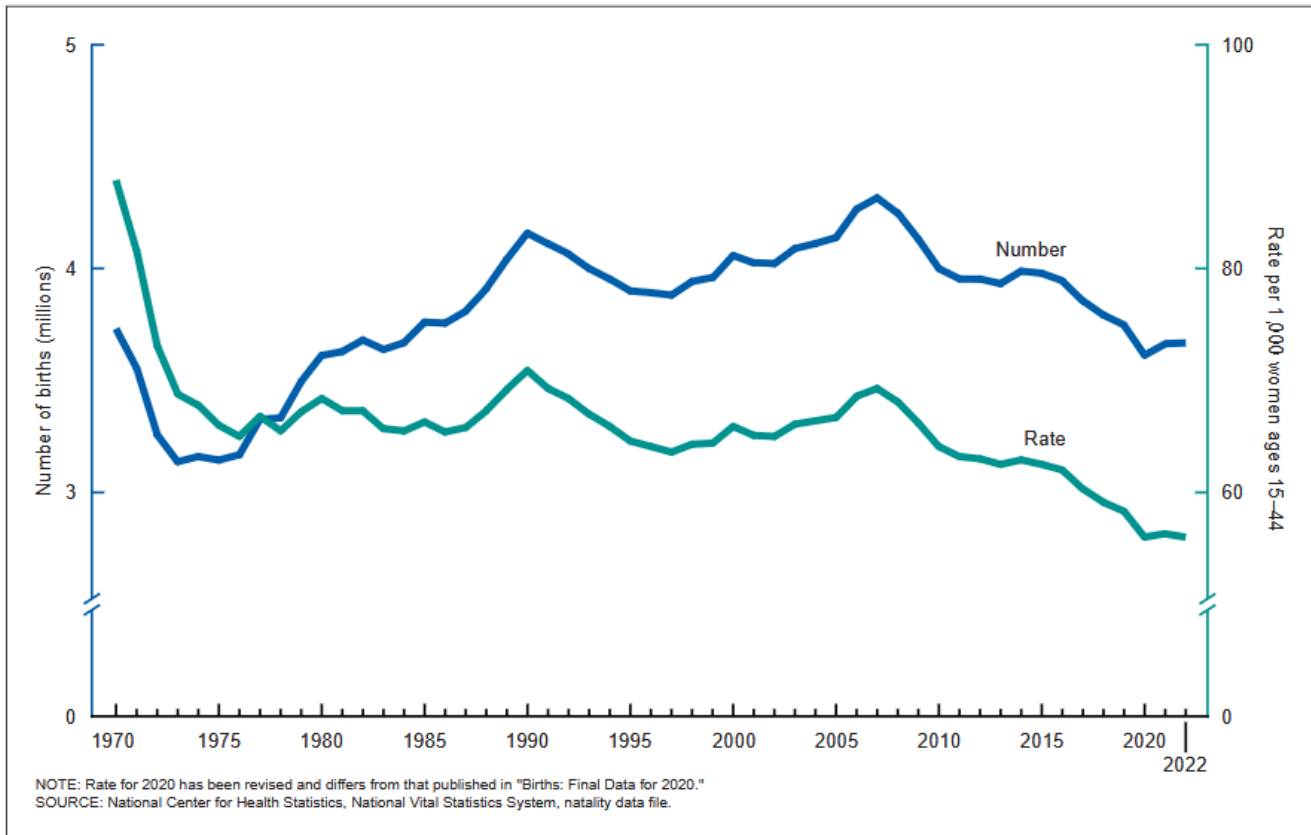


Figure 1. Live births and general fertility rate: United States, 1970–2022



<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr73/nvsr73-02.pdf>