NESDEC

New England School Development Council

New Fairfield Public Schools
New Fairfield, CT

School Year 2024-25 Enrollment Projection Report

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NESDEC is pleased to send you this report displaying the past, present, and projected enrollments for your District. It is important to update enrollment projections every year to identify changes in enrollment patterns. Ten-year projections are designed to provide your District with yearly, up-to-date enrollment information that can be used by boards and administrators for effective planning and allocation of resources. We received the enrollment data from the District, and we assume that the method of collecting this data has been consistent from year to year.

Birth data informs Kindergarten enrollment. Each fall, NESDEC secures birth data from State sources, providing a snapshot in time as to actual and provisional births as reported by the State, and then uses this birth data to predict Kindergarten enrollments. We only use Fall birth data to assure consistency in reporting from year to year. Estimated births, which are an average of the previous five years of birth data, are based on this same snapshot. NESDEC acknowledges the variability of the provisional and the estimated birth data, and notes that the projected Kindergarten enrollments may serve as a guide to future planning.

Enrollment projections are more reliable in Years #1-3 in the future. Projections four to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and are useful for planning purposes. In light of this, NESDEC has added a "Spring Update Refresher" enrollment projection at no cost to affiliates. For more information, please refer to the Projection Methodology and Reliability section of this document.

The NESDEC enrollment projection fell within 18 students of the K-12 total, 2,057 students projected vs. 2,039 enrolled. In Grades K-2, 417 were projected vs. 406 enrolled; in Grades 3-5, 456 were projected vs. 458 enrolled; in Grades 6-8, 484 were projected vs. 467 enrolled; and in Grades 9-12, 700 were projected vs. 708 enrolled.

Births increased by 10 from a previous ten-year average of 98 to a projected average of 108. In most districts, Grades 1-8 are very stable in enrollments. However, there have been increases in 8 of the 8 most recent years, leading to a net increase averaging 26 students per year, indicating the in-migration of students in Grades 1-8.

Over the next three years, Grades K-2 enrollments are projected to increase by 35 students, Grades 3-5 enrollments are projected to decrease by 20 students, Grades 6-8 enrollments are projected to increase by 19 students, and Grades 9-12 enrollments are projected to decrease by 38 students, as students move through the grades.

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Historical Enrollment

School District: **New Fairfield, CT**   **10/31/2024**

| Historical Enrollment By Grade																			
Birth Year	Births*	School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2009	85	2014-15	85	139	158	162	174	154	199	209	204	216	213	240	240	268	0	2576	2661
2010	117	2015-16	67	153	130	151	165	173	152	193	198	199	230	213	228	245	0	2430	2497
2011	102	2016-17	77	136	153	138	152	164	172	152	190	201	188	226	211	235	0	2318	2395
2012	100	2017-18	74	150	139	153	137	153	170	180	154	190	190	186	225	206	0	2233	2307
2013	85	2018-19	77	112	157	139	156	141	161	174	184	158	183	189	194	223	0	2171	2248
2014	95	2019-20	89	143	115	152	144	161	139	174	175	189	152	179	185	187	0	2095	2184
2015	95	2020-21	71	119	149	116	153	149	169	144	179	174	181	151	182	194	0	2060	2131
2016	93	2021-22	68	129	137	153	132	159	153	176	160	183	169	178	147	189	0	2065	2133
2017	98	2022-23	76	126	140	142	156	135	169	157	179	160	183	178	182	164	0	2071	2147
2018	110	2023-24	84	146	128	146	138	156	142	173	157	180	160	177	176	191	0	2070	2154
2019	97	2024-25	83	123	151	132	145	146	167	137	174	156	188	163	176	181	0	2039	2122

*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.   ** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Historical Enrollment in Grade Combinations									
School Year	PK-5	K-5	PK-2	K-2	3-5	6-8	PK-8	K-8	9-12
2014-15	1071	986	544	459	527	629	1700	1615	961
2015-16	991	924	501	434	490	590	1581	1514	916
2016-17	992	915	504	427	488	543	1535	1458	860
2017-18	976	902	516	442	460	524	1500	1426	807
2018-19	943	866	485	408	458	516	1459	1382	789
2019-20	943	854	499	410	444	538	1481	1392	703
2020-21	926	855	455	384	471	497	1423	1352	708
2021-22	931	863	487	419	444	519	1450	1382	683
2022-23	944	868	484	408	460	496	1440	1364	707
2023-24	940	856	504	420	436	510	1450	1366	704
2024-25	947	864	489	406	458	467	1414	1331	708

Historical Percentage Changes			
School Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2014-15	2576		
2015-16	2430	-146	-5.7%
2016-17	2318	-112	-4.6%
2017-18	2233	-85	-3.7%
2018-19	2171	-62	-2.8%
2019-20	2095	-76	-3.5%
2020-21	2060	-35	-1.7%
2021-22	2065	5	0.2%
2022-23	2071	6	0.3%
2023-24	2070	-1	0.0%
2024-25	2039	-31	-1.5%
Change		-537	-20.8%

Grades K-12 Historical Enrollment
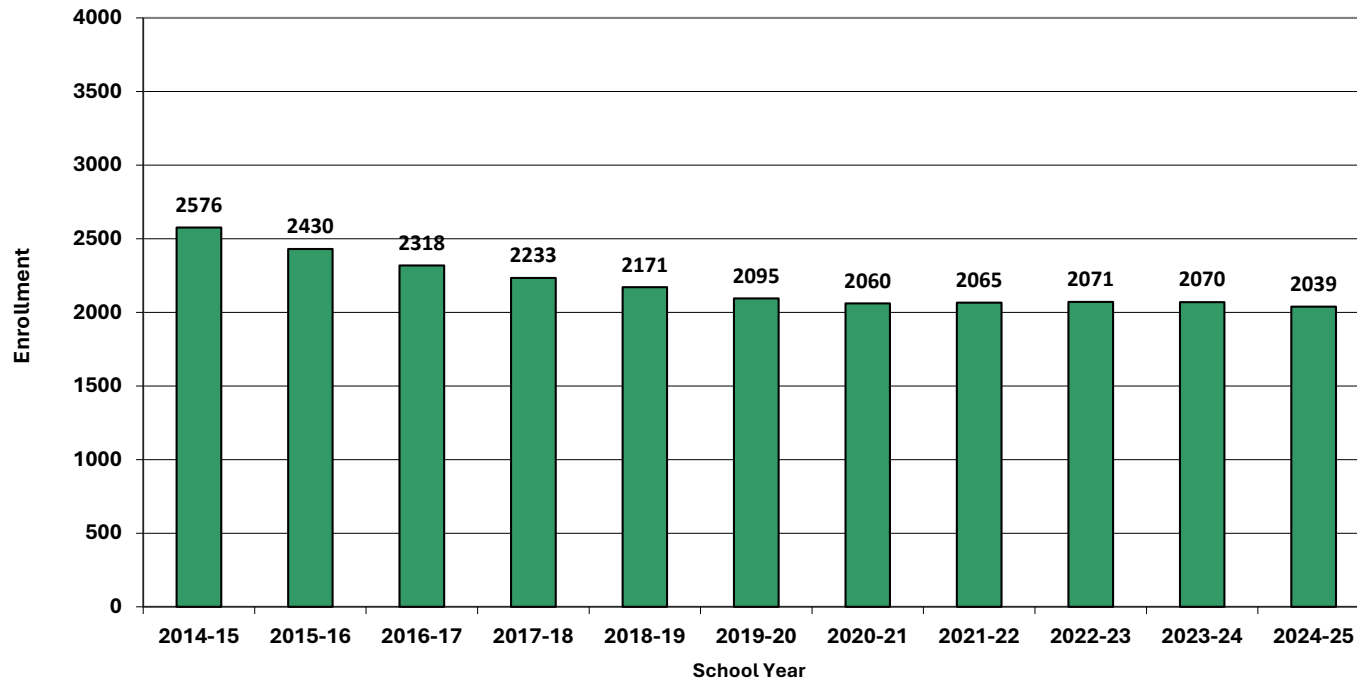
Projected Enrollment

School District: **New Fairfield, CT**   **10/31/2024**

Birth Year	Births*		School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2019	97		2024-25	83	123	151	132	145	146	167	137	174	156	188	163	176	181	0	2039	2122
2020	91		2025-26	83	118	129	157	132	149	153	169	138	174	156	189	163	186	0	2013	2096
2021	134		2026-27	83	174	124	134	157	136	156	155	171	138	174	157	189	172	0	2037	2120
2022	99	(prov.)	2027-28	84	129	183	129	134	161	143	158	157	171	138	175	157	200	0	2035	2119
2023	114	(prov.)	2028-29	84	148	135	190	129	138	169	145	160	157	171	139	175	166	0	2022	2106
2024	107	(est.)	2029-30	84	139	155	140	190	132	145	171	146	160	157	172	139	185	0	2031	2115
2025	109	(est.)	2030-31	85	142	146	161	140	195	139	147	173	146	160	158	172	147	0	2026	2111
2026	113	(est.)	2031-32	85	146	149	151	161	144	205	141	148	173	146	161	158	182	0	2065	2150
2027	108	(est.)	2032-33	85	141	153	154	151	165	151	208	142	148	173	147	161	167	0	2061	2146
2028	110	(est.)	2033-34	86	143	148	159	154	155	173	153	210	142	148	174	147	170	0	2076	2162
2029	109	(est.)	2034-35	86	142	150	153	159	158	163	175	155	210	142	149	174	155	0	2085	2171

Note: Ungraded students (UNGR) often are high school students whose anticipated years of graduation are unknown, or students with special needs - UNGR not included in Grade Combinations for 7-12, 9-12, etc.

Based on an estimate of births   Based on children already born   Based on students already enrolled

*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.   ** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations*

School Year	PK-5	K-5	PK-2	K-2	3-5	6-8	PK-8	K-8	9-12
2024-25	947	864	489	406	458	467	1414	1331	708
2025-26	921	838	487	404	434	481	1402	1319	694
2026-27	964	881	515	432	449	464	1428	1345	692
2027-28	963	879	525	441	438	486	1449	1365	670
2028-29	993	909	557	473	436	462	1455	1371	651
2029-30	985	901	518	434	467	477	1462	1378	653
2030-31	1008	923	534	449	474	466	1474	1389	637
2031-32	1041	956	531	446	510	462	1503	1418	647
2032-33	1000	915	533	448	467	498	1498	1413	648
2033-34	1018	932	536	450	482	505	1523	1437	639
2034-35	1011	925	531	445	480	540	1551	1465	620

Projected Percentage Changes

School Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2024-25	2039		
2025-26	2013	-26	-1.3%
2026-27	2037	24	1.2%
2027-28	2035	-2	-0.1%
2028-29	2022	-13	-0.6%
2029-30	2031	9	0.4%
2030-31	2026	-5	-0.2%
2031-32	2065	39	1.9%
2032-33	2061	-4	-0.2%
2033-34	2076	15	0.7%
2034-35	2085	9	0.4%
Change		46	2.3%

*Projections should be updated annually to reflect changes in in/out-migration of families, real estate sales, residential construction, births, and similar factors.
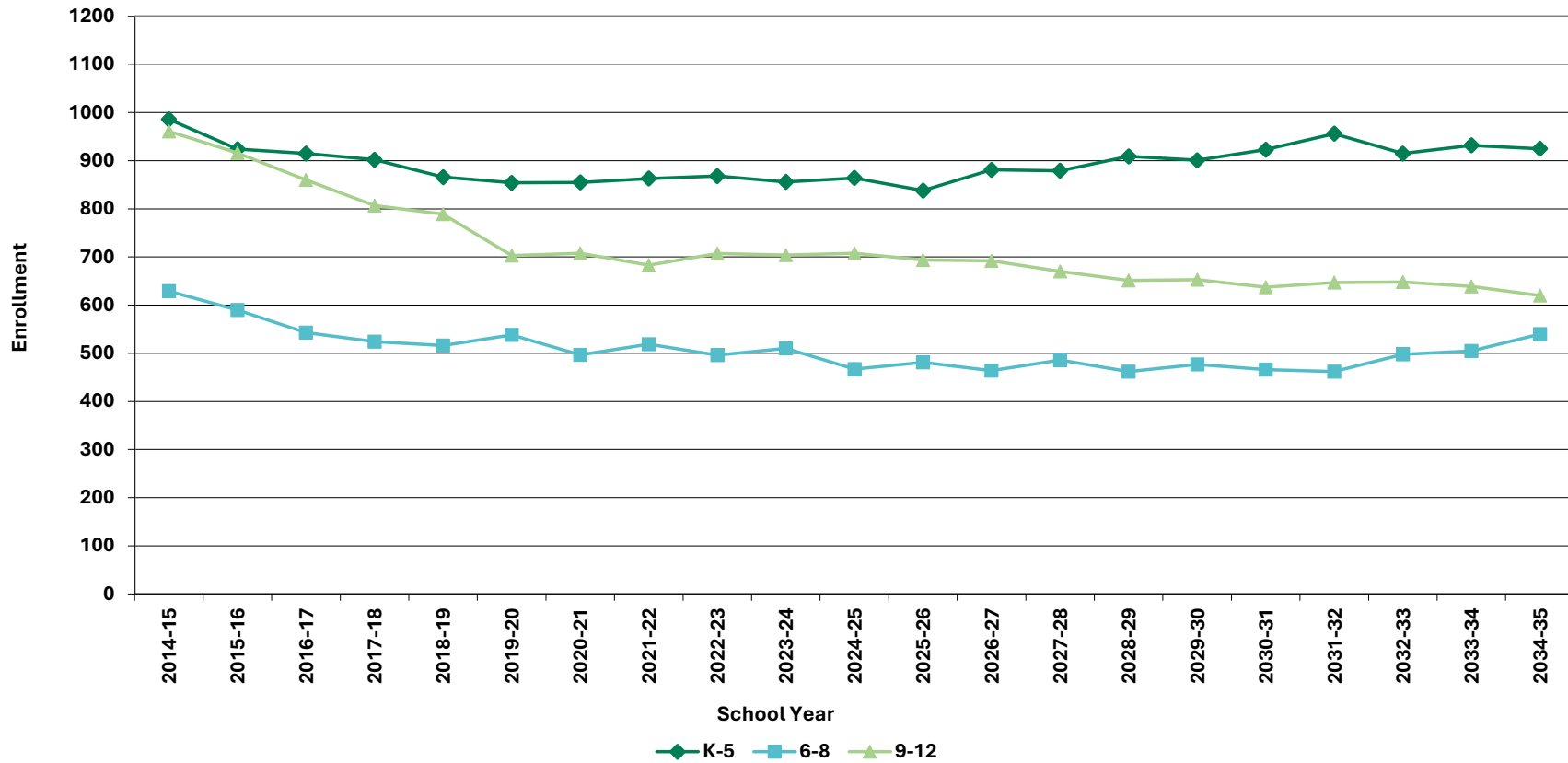
Grades K-12 Projected Enrollment
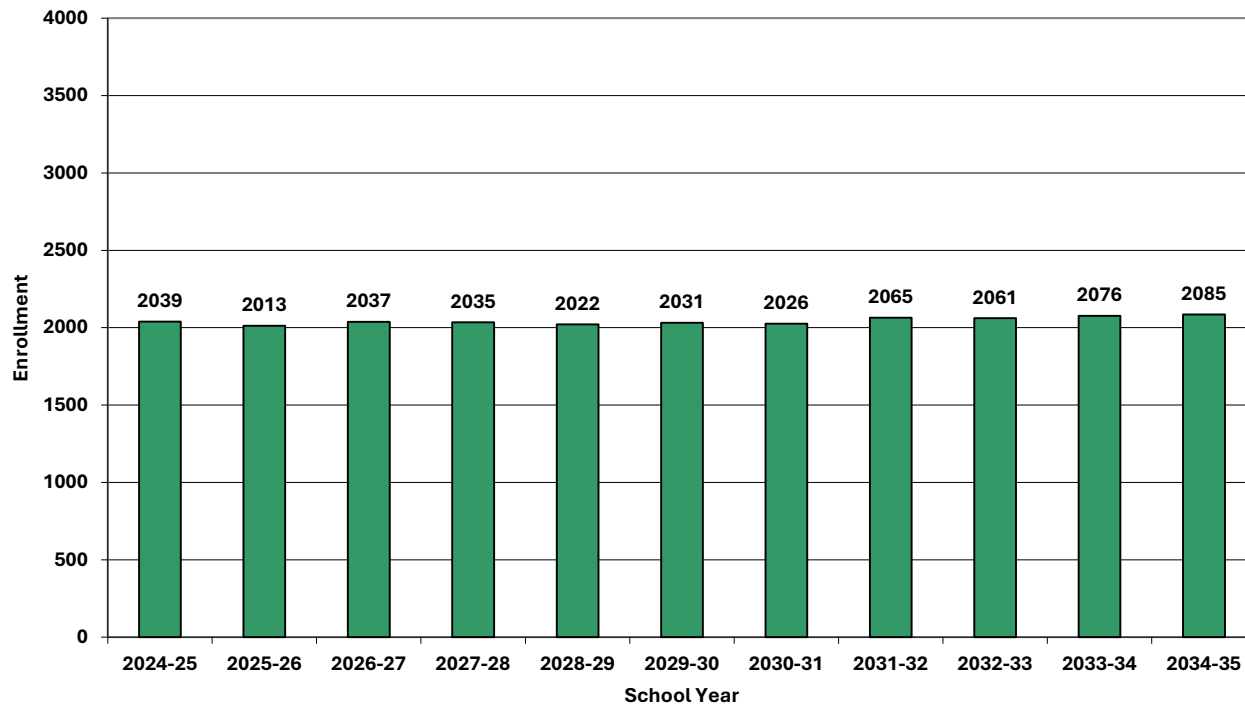
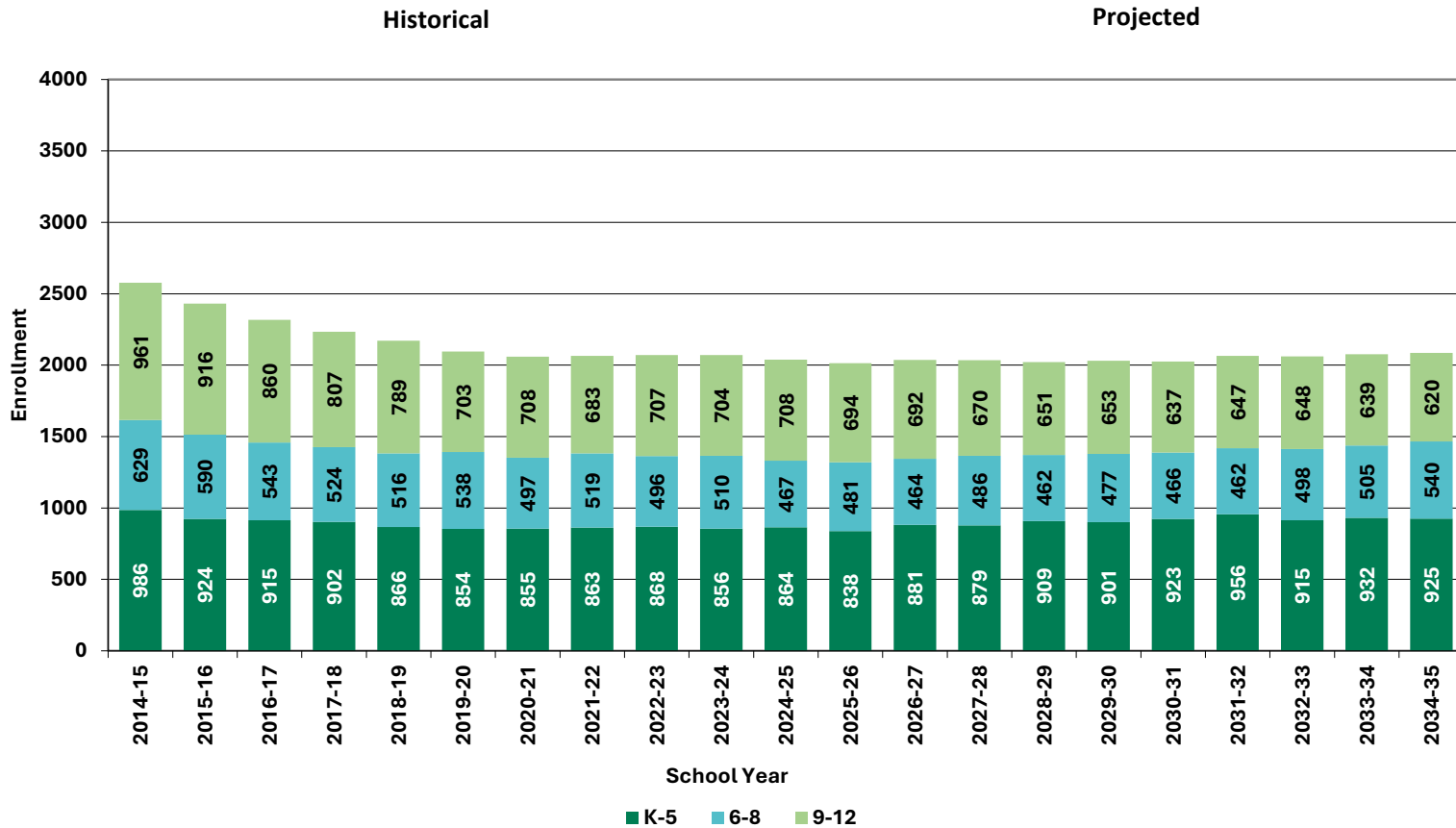# Grades K-12 Historical & Projected Enrollment
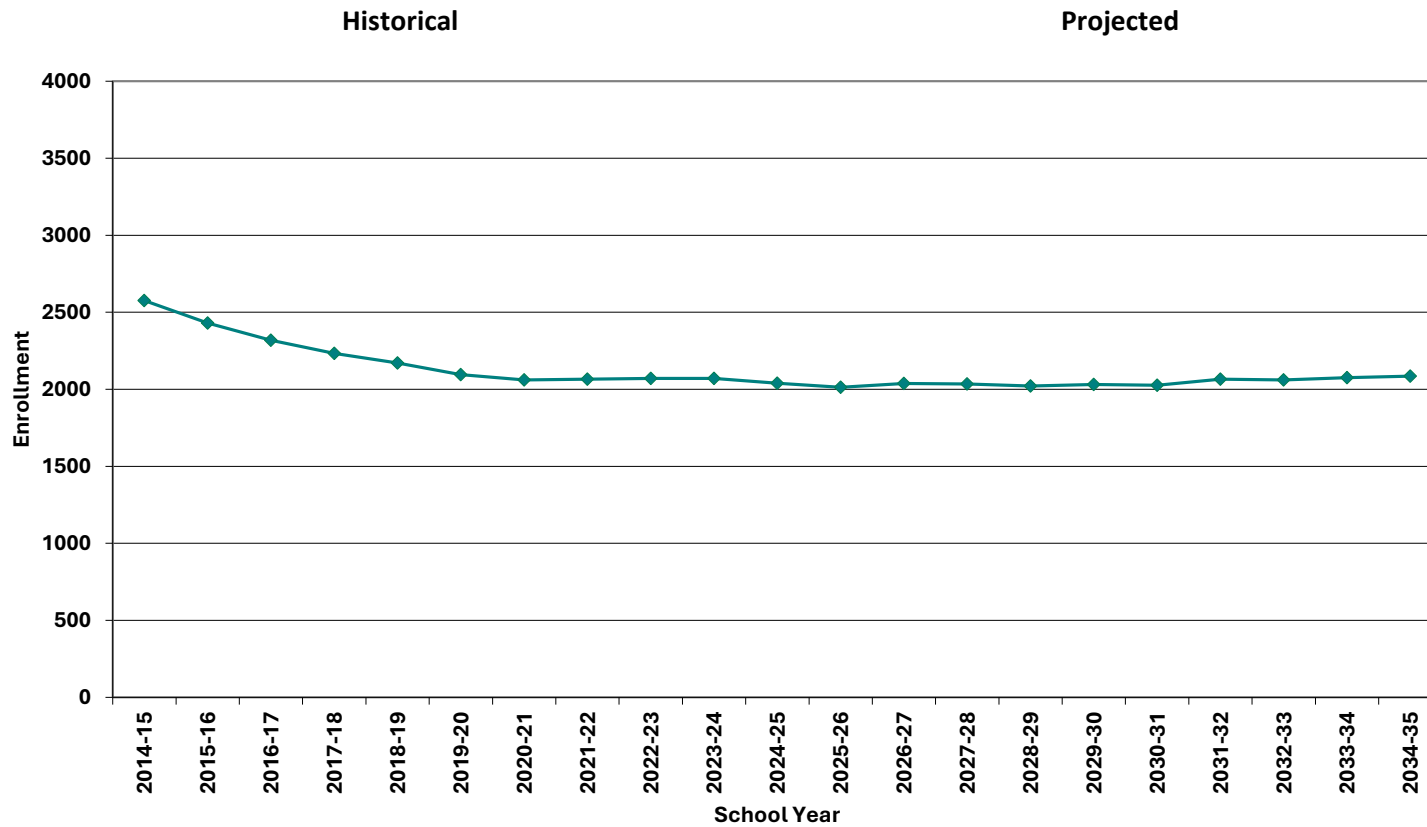
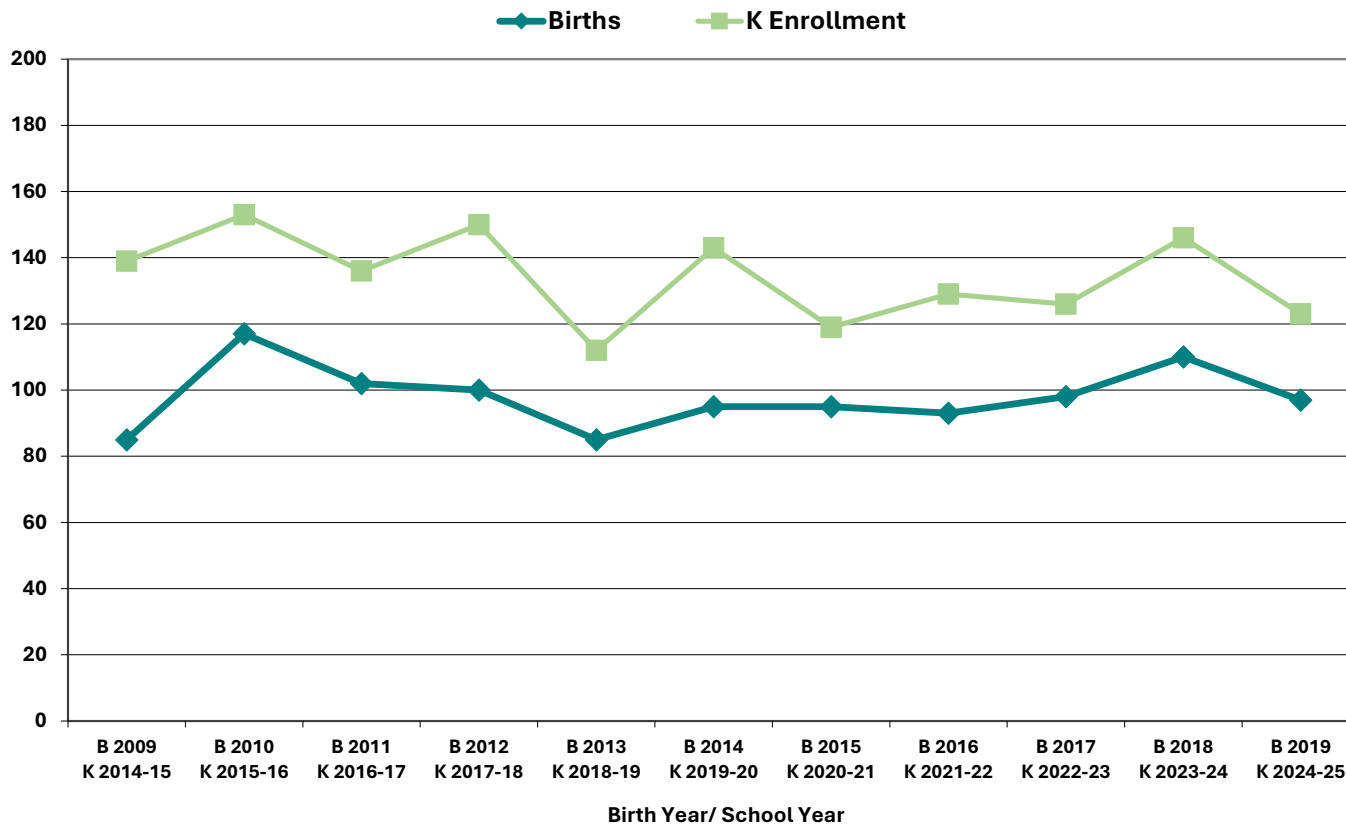# Historical & Projected Enrollments in Grade Combinations

Historical   **Projected**

Historical & Projected Enrollments in Grade Combinations

Historical   Projected

K-5   6-8   9-12

School Year

Birth-to-Kindergarten Relationship

School Year	9-12 CTE	K-12 Non-Public	K-12 Choice-In	K-12 Choice-Out	K-12 Out District SPED	K-12 Homeschool
2020-21	48	n/a	0	15	< 10 **	39
2021-22	57	n/a	0	25	< 10 **	25
2022-23	43	n/a	0	17	< 10 **	14
2023-24	43	n/a	0	18	< 10 **	14
2024-25	44	n/a	0	18	10	19

* Data provided by District.

"n/a" signifies that information was not provided by District.

** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Building Permits Issued		
Year	Single-Family	Multi-Units
2020	9	0
2021	5	0
2022	1	0
2023	1	0
2024	4 to date	0 to date

*Building permit data from HUD.

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New England's PK-12 Enrollments Trends

From 2022 to 2031, the US Department of Education anticipates changes in PK-12 enrollment of -1.8% in the South, -9.7% in the West, -5.0% in the Midwest, -9.1% in the Northeast, and a total of -5.5% nationwide.

State	Fall 2022 PK - 12	Fall 2031 Projected	PK-12 Decline	% Change 2022-2031
USA	49,618,464	46,889,600	-2,728,864	-5.5%
CT	513,513	465,200	-48,313	-9.4%
ME	173,853	162,900	-10,953	-6.3%
MA	923,349	857,100	-66,249	-7.2%
NH	168,909	156,600	-12,309	-7.3%
RI	137,449	127,900	-9,549	-6.9%
VT	83,654	77,300	-6,354	-7.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics,

Enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by region, state,

and jurisdiction: Selected years, fall 1990 through fall 2031, Table 203.20,

Report Generated Dec. 2023, NESDEC 2.8.24

Although most New England Districts are seeing a decline in the number of births, NESDEC's experience indicates that the impact on enrollment varies from District to District. Almost half of New England Districts have been growing in PK-12 enrollment, and a similar number are declining (often in rural areas), with the other Districts remaining stable.

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Projection Methodology and Reliability

PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

Cohort component (survival) technique is a frequently used method of preparing enrollment forecasts. NESDEC uses this method, but modifies it in order to move away from forecasts that are wholly computer- or formula-driven. Such modification permits the incorporation of important, current district-specific demographic information into the generation of enrollment forecasts (such as in/out-migration of students, resident births, HUD-reported building permits, etc.). Percentages are calculated from the historical enrollment data to determine a reliable percentage of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades. For example, if 100 students enrolled in Grade 1 in 2023-24 increased to 104 students in Grade 2 in 2024-25, the percentage of survival would be 104%, or a ratio of 1.04. Ratios are calculated between each pair of grades or years in school over several recent years.

After study and analysis of the historical ratios, and based upon a reasonable set of assumptions regarding births, migration rates, retention rates, etc., ratios most indicative of future growth patterns are determined for each pair of grades. The ratios thus selected are applied to the present enrollment statistics to project into future years. The ratios are the key factors in the reliability of the projections, assuming validity of the data at the starting point.

RELIABILITY OF ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Projections can serve as useful guides to school administrators for educational planning. Enrollment projections are more reliable in Years #1-3 in the future and less reliable in the "out-years." Projections four to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and are useful for planning purposes, but they should be viewed as subject to change given the likelihood of potential shifts in underlying assumptions/trends, such as student migration, births as they relate to Kindergarten enrollment, and other factors.

Projections that are based upon **the children who already are in the district** (the current K-12 population only) will be the most reliable. The second level of reliability will be for those children already **born into the community but not yet old enough to be in school.** The least reliable category is the group for which an estimate must be made **to predict the number of births**, thereby adding additional uncertainty. See these three multi-colored groupings on the "Projected Enrollment" tab.

Annual updates allow for early identification of recent changes in historical trends. When the actual enrollment in a grade is significantly different (higher or lower) from the projected number, it is important (yet difficult) to determine whether this is a one-year aberration or whether a new trend may have begun. **In light of this possibility, NESDEC urges all school districts to have updated enrollment forecasts developed by NESDEC each October.** This service is available at no cost to affiliated school districts.