

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting "Item for Consideration"

New Business Item 6a • Date: February 9, 2026

IBRC Enrollment Projection Proposal

Category:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Student Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

Facts of this Matter:

The Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC), an arm of Indiana University's Kelly School of Business, has provided demographic studies for Zionsville Community Schools periodically, every two to three years, since 1998. IBRC's projections have exhibited extremely high accuracy. We estimate their projections have averaged in the 90-95% correct range over the last 25+ years we have been using their services, with several individual years reaching accuracy levels of 96 -98%. During this time, IBRC's work has provided vital data which has been the keystone for most of our financial, operational, and logistical planning processes. In fact, it is fair to say that the IBRC studies have become basic tools in ZCS that are used in assessing the future impacts of almost every situation or development of any kind.

The most recent demographic study by IBRC was completed throughout the summer and early fall of 2024 and delivered in early 2025. While this study's results are still in use, we must acknowledge that a number of changes, such as developments approved in the past 12-15 months, make it increasingly important to have an updated analysis. Since we are at the point that we would normally desire to have the study updated, acting now to commission a new study is reasonable and prudent.

Attached is a proposal from IBRC to perform a new Ten-Year Enrollment projection. If approved now, the study results would be available in early 2027. This timing coincides with our planning processes for the 2027-2028 school year and would be extremely valuable to have in hand at that time the board considers future staffing, financial, and facilities recommendations. The proposal should enhance our strategic planning for the next several years.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

The IBRC's studies have repeatedly proven their quality and reliability. The expertise of the IBRC in this area of demography is unmatched, and far beyond our abilities to perform this work in-house. Contracting out this work to IBRC, as we have done for many years now, is a logical way to obtain this crucial data. This proposal is timely in regard to our normal update cycle for these studies.

In the past, we have shared these studies widely within our community and on our website. They are excellent communication tools for explaining the current population and growth trends in our school district. This information in the past also has helped shaped some policy and planning decisions of other

public bodies in our community and helps them to understand the effects upon our school districts of issues they face.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

None identified.

Financial Implications, if any:

The IBRC's fixed-fee charge to produce the annual enrollment projections by grade level for each ZCS school is \$26,500, invoiced and payable in two equal installments of \$13,250: the first upon acceptance of this agreement, the second upon delivery of the final report. This fee includes the presentation of preliminary findings to ZCS.

Opinion/Recommendation:

Request approval of the proposal and commission of the study as described with detailed results by school attendance areas.

Suggested Wording for a Motion:

I move to approve the IBRC study as proposed, totaling \$26,500, paid from the Operations Fund in two equal installments of \$13,250.