Bedford Central School District

Long Range Planning Study Update
Demographic and Enrollment Analysis
February 2014

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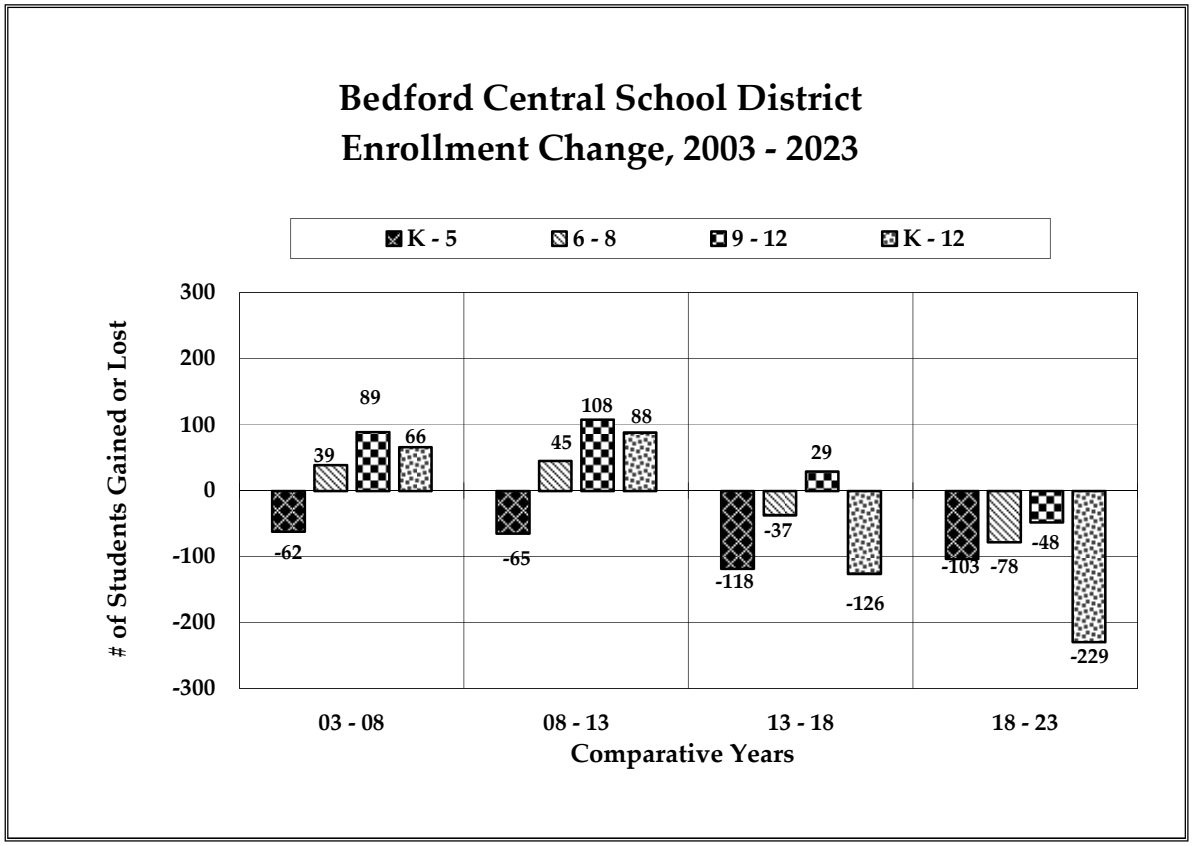

The Bedford Central School District enrollment showed overall growth of 154 students, or 3.7 percent, between 2003 and 2013. The middle and high school grade configurations experienced growth during the last ten years, while the elementary grades experienced losses. Decreases are projected at the elementary and middle grade configurations over the next five years, while increases are expected at the high school grades. All grade configurations are expected to experience losses during the latter half of the projection period. The district enrollment is expected to decrease by 355 students, or 8.1 percent, during the next ten years, with an enrollment of 4,004 students anticipated in 2023.

INTRODUCTION

The Bedford Central School District is committed to meeting the educational needs of its students both now and in the future. Therefore, the district has requested that the Western Suffolk BOCES Office of School Planning and Research conduct a study that will generate enrollment projections through the year 2023. As a result, a review of past projections by Western Suffolk BOCES, along with an assessment of demographic and historical enrollment trends, was made and the following document is a summary of its findings. Using Bedford's mission statement and philosophy as a foundation, the study provides the data necessary for the district to consider a variety of educational issues. The comprehensive Long Range Planning Study Update provides objective data that the Board of Education can use in planning for sound management practices and continued excellence in education. Planning, however, is a dynamic process that evolves as data is evaluated. Therefore, periodic updates will address subtle changes in district trends. This study, in fact, provides an update to the March 2012 study with current analysis of the demographic and enrollment trends affecting the district.

Joan E. Townley, School Planning Coordinator, oversaw all aspects of the study, served as principal researcher and prepared the report. Shu-ling Liu, Research Analyst, served as analyst and forecaster. Barbara Graziano, Program Specialist, assisted in preparing the report. Janice Schwartz, Educational Planning Assistant, provided research assistance and prepared the report for printing.

Dr. Jere Hochman, Superintendent of Schools, provided access to district records. Mark Betz, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Administrative Services, provided direction on the study scope, compiled the necessary data for the study, and acted as district liaison to the study, thus enabling the study to accomplish its objectives.

Additionally, selected references and resources were used, as indicated:

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Brookings Institution

Council for American Private Education (CAPE)

Housing Views - S&P's Blog on the Housing Market

Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors

National Association of Home Builders

National Association of Realtors

National Catholic Educational Association

New York State Education Department

New York State Health Department – Bureau of Vital Statistics

New York State Office of Real Property Services

New York Times

Pew Research Center

Population Reference Bureau

The State of the Nation's Housing 2013, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

Town of Bedford Building Inspector

Town of New Castle Planning Board

Town of North Castle Department of Planning

Town of Pound Ridge Planning Department

U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder

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

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – National Center for Health Statistics

U.S. Housing Market Summary, 2nd Quarter 2013, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research

USA Today

Village of Mount Kisco Building Department

Wall Street Journal

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ENROLLMENT: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

School enrollment growth occurs as a result of more children being born, moving into a community, or returning from non-public schools. The Bedford Central School District has experienced overall growth in district K - 12 enrollment during the historical period 2003 through 2013. This enrollment growth is accounted for by stable birthrates, changing resident characteristics and housing factors.

A. BIRTHS

As reported by the *National Center for Health Statistics*, there were 3,952,937 recorded births (preliminary data) in 2012, reflecting stability when compared to the record low of 3,953,590 reported births in 2011. This appears to indicate a leveling off of the steady decline since 2007, when an historic high 4,316,233 babies were born. The birth rate in 2012 was 63.0 births per thousand women aged 15-44, down slightly from 63.2 births in 2011. However, this represents a significant decline since 2007, when there were 69.3 babies born for every thousand women of childbearing age. The birth rate peaked during the Baby Boom years at 122.7 in 1957, almost double today's rate.

Most experts agree that the six year decline in births is closely linked to the economic recession. States that experienced the greatest economic declines were most likely to have experienced larger declines in fertility. In addition, many researchers cite societal trends and changing cultural norms which have affected fertility, including delayed marriages, increased levels of education and employment for women and easy access to contraception.

According to a report issued by *The Pew Research Center*, foreign-born women led the recent decline in births. From 2007 to 2010, births to U.S.-born women decreased 6 percent, while births to foreign-born women declined 14 percent. This reverses a trend of immigrant women accounting for a rising share of U.S. births; in 2007 births to immigrant women accounted for 25 percent of births in this country, compared to 16 percent in 1990. However, by 2010, the share of births to foreign-born women had decreased to 23 percent.

The 2010 birth rate for foreign-born women (87.8) was almost 50 percent higher than the rate for U.S.-born women (58.9). This is due in part to the fact that immigrant women are more likely to be of childbearing age. Between 1990 and 2010, the population of native-born women of childbearing age declined by 1 percent, while the number of immigrant women of childbearing age increased by 85 percent. While foreign-born mothers account for approximately 23 percent of U.S. births, they comprise only 17 percent of the female population aged 15-44.

Among all racial and ethnic groups, Hispanic women continue to have the highest fertility rates (80 births per thousand women aged 15-44), followed by blacks (64 births), whites (59 births) and Asians (56 births). However, total births to Hispanic women (native and foreign-born) dropped approximately 11 percent between 2007 and 2010. A significant portion of the drop in the Hispanic rate can be attributed to a 23 percent decline in births to Mexican-born women during the same period.

Since 2007, birthrates have fallen for younger age groups. In 2012, the birthrate for teens (15-19) dropped to an historic low of 29.4 births. Birthrates to women in their early 20's also declined to a record low; for women in their late 20's, 2010 rates fell to the lowest level since 1976. However, for women in their 30's and early forties, the birth rate increased; the birth trend remained stable for women in their late forties. Due to the decline in birth rates among young women, the average age of first birth has increased from 21.4 years in 1970 to 25.6 years in 2011.

Recent data from the *National Center for Health Statistics* indicate that, although the non-marital birth rate declined 2 percent in 2012, the proportion of births to unmarried women remains at 41 percent. Births to unmarried teens have dropped to an historical low of 17 percent in 2012, compared to 50 percent of unmarried births in 1970. However, the rate of non-marital births to women in their 20's has increased in recent years; in 2012, 61 percent of non-marital births were to women in their 20's. Among racial and ethnic groups, black women have the greatest percentage of unwed births (72.2 percent), while 17.1 percent of births to Asian/Pacific Islander women are out of wedlock.

As indicated in the following chart, New York State experienced a steady decline in births between 1992 and 1997. Subsequently, the number of births fluctuated but overall further declined to the lowest level of the twenty year period in 2012, when 238, 357 births were recorded.

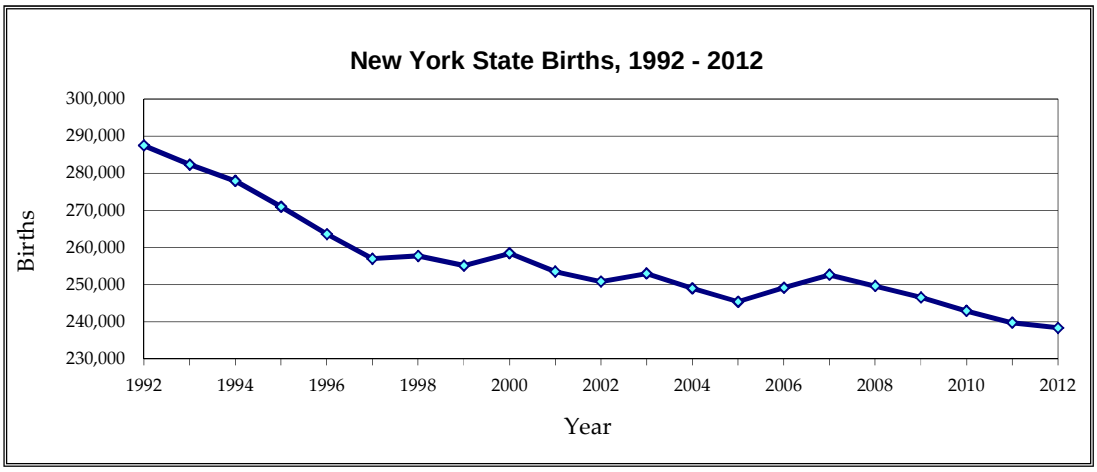

Figure 1 - New York State Births, 1992 – 2012
Note: 2012 data are preliminary

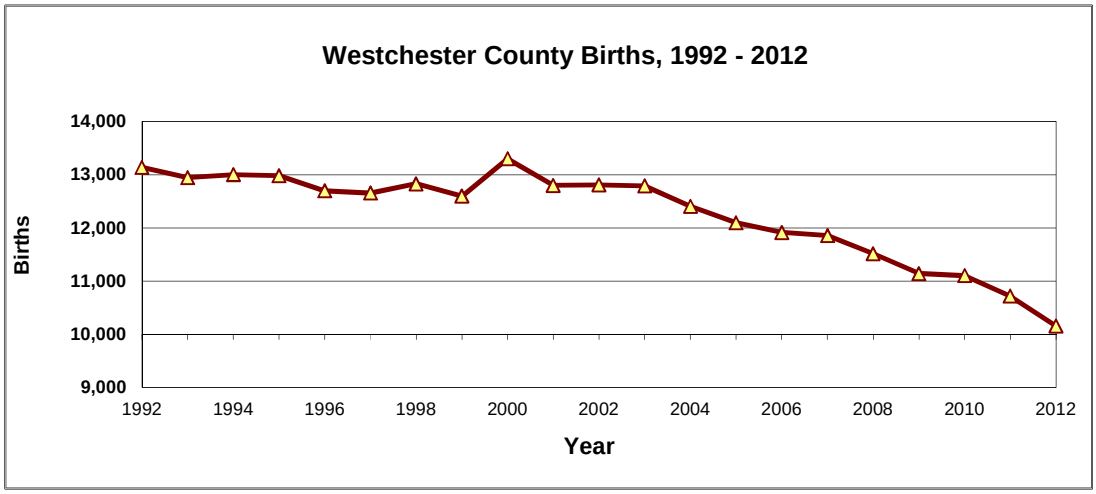

Figure 2 - Westchester County Births, 1992 – 2012
Note: 2012 data are preliminary

Figure 2 shows births were relatively stable in Westchester County between 1992 and 1999, with an increase of almost six percent noted in 2000 (millennium babies). However, since 2000 births have decreased 23.6 percent, to the historical low (1992 - 2012) of 10,157 births in 2012. Births within the Bedford School District have also declined. While 421 births were reported in 2003, only 311 babies were born in 2012.

B. POPULATION

The Census Bureau estimates that there were 316,668,567 people living in the United States on New Year's Day, 2013. This is an increase of 2.3 million people since January 1, 2012, reflecting a modest gain of 0.7 percent, compared to the 2.1 percent increase since the 2010 Census and a 9.7 percent increase between 2000 and 2010. According to *Census Bureau* officials, "The U.S. population will be slower growing, considerably older and more racially and ethnically diverse by just past mid-century."New York State noted a gain of 192,157 residents, or about 1.0 percent, between 2010 and 2012, while the population of Westchester County increased 1.3 percent during the same period, with a gain of approximately 12,557 residents.

Upon further analysis, the population of the Bedford School District increased by 1.3 percent between 2010 and 2012, with an estimated 29,023 residents living within the district in 2012. Approximately 379 more people reside in the district since the Census population of 28,644 was noted in 2010.

Recent data issued by the *Census Bureau* indicate that historic changes are occurring in the demographics of the population of this country. It was reported that minorities accounted for more than half (50.4 percent) of the babies born in the twelve month period ending July 2011; a year later, for the first time, racial and ethnic minorities comprised approximately half the toddler (under age 5) population.

Currently, 14 states, including New York, have majority-minority toddler populations; New York's toddler population is 47.1 percent white. Projections indicate that, in another five years, minorities will comprise more than half of the U.S. population under 18 years of age. Overall, minorities account for 37 percent of the nation's total population, reflecting an increase of 1.9 percent between July 2011 and 2012. The *Census Bureau* projects that the U.S. will become a majority-minority nation by 2043; non-Hispanic whites will remain the largest group, but no single group will comprise a majority. Four states (Hawaii, California, New Mexico and Texas) and the District of Columbia had majority-minority populations in 2012.

Westchester County continues to become more diverse, as well, with a 140 percent increase in the Hispanic population since 1990. According to recent data from the *U.S. Census*, in 2012 the county had a greater percentage of Hispanic residents (22.8 percent) than New York State (18.2 percent) and the U.S. (16.9 percent). The Asian segment also segment experienced significant gains, increasing 60 percent since 1990. In 2012, the population in Westchester County was 56.3 percent white, 22.8 percent Hispanic, 15.8 percent black and 6.0 percent Asian.

These changes can be attributed to several factors. Non-Hispanic whites, the largest population group, last year experienced a natural decrease, which occurs when the number of deaths exceeds the number of births in a given year; this is reflective of the aging of this ethnic segment, as well as lower birth rates to white women compared to minority women. "This is the tipping point presaging the gradual decline of the white population, which will be a signature demographic trend of this century," said William Frey of the Brookings Institute. In 2012, non-Hispanic whites comprised 63.0 percent of the population; this segment is projected to peak in 2024. Hispanics make up the next largest demographic group at 16.9 percent; the Hispanic segment is expected to more than double by 2060. The black and Asian shares of the population are expected to increase as well, from 13.1 to 14.7 percent and from 5.1 to 8.2 percent, respectively, by 2060. The Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population is expected to double and the number of people identifying themselves as two or more races is projected to triple during the same period.

Hispanics are currently the largest minority group, comprising approximately 53 million people, or 16.9 percent of the population. Hispanic growth accounted for more than 50 percent of the nation's population increase between 2000 and 2010. Asians, however, have recently become the fastest growing minority group (18.9 million), with a reported growth rate of 2.9 percent in 2012, compared to the Hispanic growth rate of 2.2 percent. More than 60 percent of the growth in the Asian population in 2012 can be attributed to international migration, whereas natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 76 percent of the Hispanic growth.

The past decade saw a large increase in the foreign-born population, with a 30 percent increase between 2000 and 2011. The foreign-born share of the population has more than doubled since the 1960's, from 5.4 percent of the population to approximately 13 percent in 2011. It is expected that immigrants will continue to play a significant role in U.S. population growth. According to recent Census Bureau projections, by the 2050's, international migration will surpass natural increase as the primary driver of population growth. This would be the first time since 1850 that natural increase would not be the leading cause of population growth.

However, there have been changes in the origins of the foreign-born population. In 1960, 75 percent of the immigrants in this country were born in Europe, compared to 12 percent in 2012; in 1960, 9 percent and 5 percent of immigrants came from Latin America and Asia, respectively, compared to 53 percent and 28 percent in 2010. Among the foreign-born of Hispanic origin, Mexican immigrants claim the greatest share (64.6percent), followed by those of Puerto Rican birth (9.5 percent).

The country has also seen significant changes in the age structure of population. Between 2000 and 2010 the population under age 18 grew at a rate of 2.6 percent, while the age 18 - 44 segment grew at a rate of only 0.6 percent. These compare to the significantly greater growth rates of the age 45 - 64 segment (31.5 percent) and the age 65 and older segment (15.1 percent). In 2012 the median age in this country was 37.4 years; this is an increase of more than two years from the 2000 median age of 35.3 years. The median age, however, varies by racial and ethnic group. The highest median age is 42.3 years for non-Hispanic whites, compared to the youngest median age of 27.6 years for Hispanics; the median age is 35.9 years for Asians and 32.9 years for the black segment. This data supports assertion that the population is aging.

C. HOUSING

Recent national data from various indicators show that the battered housing market is finally undergoing a recovery. Sales have increased, prices are rising and housing starts and completions are up. According to the *National Association of Realtors*, there were 5.09 million sales recorded in 2013, reflecting a 9.1 percent increase when compared to 2012. This was the strongest performance since 2006, when sales reached a high of 6.48 million sales at the conclusion of the housing boom. Nationally, the median price of an existing home in 2013 was $197,100, which is 11.5 percent greater than the 2012 median price of $176,800. Housing starts were up in 2013, with approximately 923,400 units started last year, reflecting an 18 percent year-to year increase; however, this is well below 2007 levels, when there were nearly 1.4 million housing starts.

In the Hudson Valley Region (Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Rockland Counties), sales gained momentum in 2013, halting the annual sales decreases that began in 2004. The *Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors* reported sales of 13,781 residential units in 2013, reflecting a 20.0 percent increase when compared to 2012. As shown in the following table, Westchester County saw a 20.9 percent increase in year over year home sales, while the median sale price increased 1.4 percent during the same period.

Table 1 - Home Sales in Westchester County

	2013		2012		Change	
	# Sales	Median Price*	#Sales	Median Price*	# Sales	Median Price*
Westchester County	8,536	$812,108	7,063	$800,790	20.9%	1.4%

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors
*Single-family homes

Several factors have contributed to the rebound of the housing market. Recent record low mortgage rates spurred buying and helped to drive up prices. In addition, steady, if not dramatic, employment growth and low levels of inventory stimulated the recovery.

Despite the positive indicators, many experts point to a number of weaknesses in the market and cite the challenges to sustaining a healthy recovery. After mortgage rates dropped to a low of 3.31 percent in November 2012, rates have risen to the current rate of 4.33 percent (January 2014). Although still low by historical standards, rising mortgage rates could dampen the sales momentum and have a negative effect on home prices. Additionally, while lowered inventory levels have had a positive effect on housing prices, a continued shortage of homes for sale could hinder the recovery. Housing supplies remain below historical norms; the *National Association of Realtors* reported that housing inventory fell 9.3 percent in December 2013 to 1.86 million units, representing a 4.6-month supply, down from a 5.1-month supply in November 2013.

Sales to first time home buyers, which historically have averaged 40 percent of home sales, accounted for only 27 percent of sales in December (2013). Although the young adult population has been growing, the rate at which members of this group have set up their own households has declined. Some are still struggling to obtain good paying jobs and many are burdened with high levels of student debt. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, approximately 40 percent of 25-year olds are carrying student loan debt, with an average balance of $25,000. This generation is also delaying marriage and children, thereby changing the patterns of household formation. An analysis by the *Wall Street Journal* indicates that the number of "missing households" has grown by about 2.4 million people, an increase of four percent, over the past year, consisting mainly of adult children living at home with their parents.

While rising home prices and an improving job market have reduced the number of underwater homeowners and delinquent borrowers, according to *Core Logic*, approximately 15.5 percent of residential homeowners are still holding underwater mortgages. Homeowners carrying loans with negative or minimal equity are generally reluctant or unable to sell and buy other homes. In addition, potential buyers are encountering continued tightened lending standards. These conditions can hinder the recovery by limiting both the supply of homes and the pool of potential buyers.

Despite the fact that the combination of low mortgage rates and lower prices have made owning a home more affordable than at any time since the 1970's, the home ownership rate fell for the eighth straight year in 2012, from 66.1 to 65.4 percent. The decline continued in 2013, falling to 65.3 percent in the third quarter. Homeownership rates have fallen more sharply for black and Hispanic households, resulting in a widening gap between white and minority ownership. The home ownership rate for blacks (43.9 percent) has dropped to the lowest level since 1995. The homeownership rates for whites (73.5 percent) and Hispanics (46.0 percent) are the lowest in a decade. Additionally, homeownership rates for households in the 25-54 year old range were at the lowest point since 1976, when record keeping began. However, rates for homeowners aged 65 and older increased in 2012 to the highest level yet recorded.

As homeownership rates have declined, the rental market has continued to strengthen. Nationally, rents increased an average of three percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, while the vacancy rate decreased to 8.7 percent in 2012, the lowest level since 2001. The number of renter households grew by 1.1 million in 2012 and accounts for approximately 35 percent of all households. Last year (2012) saw the completion of

approximately 186,000 new rental units. However, since 2007, conversions of single-family homes to rentals have contributed significantly more to the rental inventory than new construction.

An additional consequence of the recent recession is an increase in the number of cost-burdened households, that is, those who are paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing. According to the *American Community Survey*, in 2011, 37 percent of households were cost burdened, while 17.9 percent of U.S. households were severely cost burdened, that is, paying more than half of their income toward housing. This is the result of various factors, including recession induced unemployment or under-employment, rising rents and burdens incurred during the boom years when buyers stretched to afford homes at inflated prices. New York is one of five states with a high percentage (30 percent or more) of severely cost burdened households.

As shown in Table 2, housing sales in the Bedford School District peaked in 2005 when 455 units were sold. Sales have since decreased, with 242 units reported as sold in 2012; however, the market appears to be stabilizing at a lower level. The median selling price in 2012 was $640,500, a decrease of almost 30 percent when compared to the peak selling price of $910,000 in 2007.

Table 2 - Home Sales in the Bedford School District 2002 - 2012

Year	Number Sold	Median Price
2002	371	$650,000
2003	382	$600,000
2004	423	$770,000
2005	**455**	$715,000
2006	347	$825,000
2007	341	**$910,000**
2008	228	$655,000
2009	165	$610,000
2010	198	$687,225
2011	217	$700,000
2012	242	$640,500

Source: NYS Office of Real Property Services

The Towns of Bedford, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle and Pound Ridge and the Village of Mount Kisco Planning/Building Departments were contacted regarding the status of previously reported projects, as well as any new developments before the Planning Boards. The Town of Bedford reported that two new projects have come before the Board, consisting of a total of two units. The Towns of New Castle and North Castle reported that there were no new developments before the Board. The Town of Pound Ridge reported that only one new proposal has come before the Board; it is a 2-lot subdivision. The Village and Town of Mount Kisco reported that there are no new proposals before the Board.

Table 3 indicates the current status of new housing within the Bedford School District boundaries. Any subdivisions that have been withdrawn or completed since the previous report have been deleted from the table.

Table 3 - Approved and Proposed Housing in the Bedford School District

Project Name	Location	# of Units	Status
Town of Bedford			
Seven Springs*	Oregon Rd.	8	Approved; none built
Twin Lakes*	Twin Lakes Dr.	16	Approved, 7 built
Green Ridge	Rte. 137 & Millertown	19	Approved - 13 built & 13 occupied
Penwood	Rte 172 & McLain St.	44	38 CO's
Curra	Bedford Ave. & North St.	3	Approved - 2 built & occupied (+2 new)
Chestnut Ridge	Chestnut Ridge Rd.	4	Approved - none built
Spiegel	Rte. 172 @ Fox La.	4	Approved, none built
Morsch	Haines Rd.	1	Approved
Shulman	Old Post Rd. at Jefferson Lane	1	Approved
Wood	Wood Rd.	1	New building permit
Town/Village of Mount Kisco			
Sutton Manor*	No. Bedford Rd.	47 Senior units	Completed
Woodcrest @ Leonard Park*	Rte. 172	34 SF Townhouses 90 Senior Condos	Completed
Westchester Residence and Club	Kisco Ave.	129 Assisted living units	Proposed
Town of New Castle			
Ferrovecchio*	Hollow Rd.	13	Approved - 9 built
Mannix	Sheather Rd.	4	1 original + 3 built
Gordon	Sarles St.	2 (1 existing)	Approved
Bayswater Parcel #IV*	Sheather Rd.	1	Expired
Bayswater Parcel #V*	Tripp St.	1	Expired
Boesky	Sarles St./ Elm Dr.	3	Approved
Town of North Castle			
Scott*	Mianus River Rd.	4	Preliminary subdivision approval granted

Project Name	Location	# of Units	Status
Firth	122 Hickory Kingdom Rd.	2	Existing building lot subdivided into 2 lots; Approved – 1 existing house; 1 lot placed in conservation easement
Town of Pound Ridge			
DelSavio*	Joshua Hobby Rd.	10	2 lots developed
Manjuck	Upper Shad Rd.	5	Approved - 3 built & 3 occupied
High Ridge Estates*	High Ridge Rd.	4	Approved – 4 lots developed
Bedford Bldg & Remodeling*	Westchester Ave.	1 (+1 existing)	Built
Costello	Long Ridge Rd.	1 (+1 existing)	Approved
Dobkin	Old Church La.	1 (+1 existing)	Approved
Mianus Hills*	Long Ridge Rd.	2 (+1 existing)	1 completed, 1 under review by Planning Board for site plan approval
Old Pound Estates	Old Pound Rd.	6 (+1 existing)	Approved
Burbank	225 Westchester Ave.	2	Approved - 1 built
Brokaw*	43 S. Bedford Rd.	3 lots	Approved; 1 built; new lots not developed
Kagan*	39 Old Stone Hill Rd.	3	Approved; 1 lot in conservation; 1 being built
Oceanos Navigation*	High Ridge Rd./ Rolling Meadow La.	15 lots, 12 proposed residences	Denied – in litigation
London	82 Pound Ridge Rd.	2 lots	Approved (currently for estate purposes)

Source: Towns of Bedford, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, Pound ridge; Village of Mount Kisco

Bold: reported for the first time

*: change in status or number built since the last report

D. NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

As reported by the *National Center for Education Statistics*, non-public school enrollment in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 increased from 5.9 to 6.3 million students between 1995 and 2001. However, projections indicate that, for the 2013-14 school year, private school enrollment will have declined to 5.2 million students, or approximately 9.4 percent of all elementary and secondary school students.

In 2009-10, the highest percentages of private school enrollment were in the Northeast (14 percent), and the Midwest (11 percent), while non-public schools in the West and the South enrolled smaller numbers (eight and nine percent, respectively). In 2012-13, non-public schools in New York State enrolled 390,000 K-12 students, or 12.7 percent of school age children. This is a decrease from 2000-01, when 495,738 students, or 14.9 percent of New York State school age children, attended private schools. In the region north of New York City, during the 2010-11 school year, less than ten percent of students attended non-public schools in Sullivan County (9.0 percent), Ulster County (6.7 percent) and Putnam County (3.5 percent). Approximately 10 percent of Dutchess County students, 14.1 percent of Westchester County students and 17.6 percent of Orange County students attended non-public schools. Rockland County has the largest percentage of students (35.9) attending private schools in New York State.

The Bedford School District reported that currently 672 students, or 13.4 percent of district students, attend private schools. This number has declined since 2007, when 807 students, or 15.8 percent, attended non-public schools.

Nationally, in 2011, the majority of private schools (68 percent) had a religious orientation, enrolling 80 percent of private school students. Historically, Catholic schools enrolled the largest share of private school students; however, Catholic school enrollments have been particularly hard hit in recent years, decreasing from 45 percent of private school students in 1995 to 39 percent in 2009. According to the *National Catholic Education Association,* since 2000, approximately 2,090 Catholic schools have closed or consolidated, with a loss of 651,298 students (24.5 percent). The Archdiocese of New York (which includes three New York boroughs and seven northern counties) closed 22 elementary schools and two high schools at the end of the 2012-13 school year due to financial difficulties and declining enrollments; this was in addition to the closure of 26 elementary schools and four high schools at the end of the 2010-11 school year. The number of students enrolled in Conservative Christian and other religiously affiliated schools also declined between 1995 and 2009. However, the number of students enrolled in unaffiliated or non-religious schools increased from 611,000 to 823,000 students, an increase of approximately 35 percent, during the same period.

The decline in private school enrollments has been attributed to several factors, including rising tuition costs, increased homeschooling and, primarily in urban areas, growth in the number of charter schools. Although the decline was evident prior to the recent recession, during the economic downtown many families faced with job losses or pay cuts found it increasingly difficult to continue making private school tuition payments.

There is limited data available on homeschool enrollments, however, according to the *National Center for Education Statistics*, the homeschooled population grew from 850,000 students in 1999 to 1.5 million students in 2007. More recent estimates suggest that over 2 million children were home schooled in 2011. In addition, recent studies have indicated that, during the last decade, charter schools have contributed to the decline in private school enrollments in urban Catholic schools. Charter schools offer a tuition-free alternative to traditional public schools and often offer an education based on private school models. A recent study by *Abraham M. Lackman* estimates that approximately one third of the charter school students in New York State are former Catholic school students. In the 2012-13 school year there were 78,140 students enrolled in 209 charter schools in New York State (159 in New York City); 29 additional

charter schools are scheduled to open for the 2013-14 school year. Currently there are two charter schools in operation in Westchester County, located in Yonkers and Mount Vernon.

E. ENROLLMENT PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

This study, like the previous *Western Suffolk BOCES* study update completed in March 2012, utilizes fall enrollment data provided by the Bedford Central School District. The methodology employed in preparation of projections requires the use of statistics, and number rounding of fractions to the next highest whole number (e.g., 31 could equal 31.33 or 30.82). Therefore, individual numbers may not always add up to the presented total.

The Cohort Survival Technique was used to project the district's enrollment patterns for the next ten years. Three basic inputs were necessary:

1. Actual enrollment by grade for 2003 - 2013 for the district *[Appendix A-2]* and each school *[Appendix A-9, A-11, A-13, A-15, A-17, A-20, A-21].*
2. Grade-to-grade retention (migration) ratios for each two-grade transition to grades 1 - 12 for the past five - eight years for the district *[Appendix A-2]* and each school *[Appendix A-9, A-11, A-13, A-15, A-17, A-20, A-21]. .*
3. Projected kindergarten entering cohorts based on the number of live births in Westchester County, with consideration given to town and village births, five years before each year projected *[Appendix A-4].*

The Cohort Survival Model takes into consideration the normal community processes that affect school enrollment, which include:

1. The number of births and fertility rates
2. Normal in and out migration
3. Transfers to and from non-public schools
4. Population variations
5. Resident family characteristics

The enrollment projections contained within this report are based on assumptions generated through the demographic analysis. This analysis led to the following assumptions:

1. Population will continue to grow, although more slowly, as the turnover of fewer existing homes bring fewer younger families into the community. The turnover of approximately 200 - 300 homes each year is anticipated to continue.
2. The level of births and subsequent future kindergarten classes will decrease somewhat from recent levels relative to housing turnover, new housing construction, and continued changes in the population.
3. Non-public school enrollment will continue to remain at approximately 13 - 15 percent, as has been experienced in the last few years.

The Cohort Survival Model is very accurate in forecasting future enrollment patterns, but the occurrence of certain conditions would warrant modifications in these projections. These conditions include:

- A level of new housing activity which is significantly higher or lower than that experienced by the district during the past three years.
- A significant change in the level of housing turnover from activity during the past three years.
- Expansion, consolidation, closing or the establishment of new non-public schools.
- Economic conditions that affect employment, finance, and housing in a manner dissimilar to the past three - five years.
- Major sociological changes or changed values/attitudes affecting anticipated family size and birthrate.
- Household characteristics that significantly differ from the past three - five years, including number of persons per household and age of household occupants.

It is important for the reader to understand the nature of enrollment projections. Regardless of the methodology employed to produce projections, all outcomes fall into three categories of reliability:

Category 1 - Those projections based on students already enrolled in the system are the most reliable projections.

Category 2 - Those projections based on documented births are slightly less reliable than those of Category 1.

Category 3 - Those projections based on estimates of future births are the least reliable.

Therefore, the most reliable projections are those calculated for the periods closest in time. Projections for periods further out in time are less reliable, particularly those beyond five years from the year of the study. The five-year period (2014 - 2018) projections are those best used in district planning and decision-making. That is because this first period consists mainly of Category 1 projections.

It is noted that the overall enrollment projections produced by Western Suffolk BOCES generally fall within a 4 percent margin of error. The greatest discrepancies in projections occur in the smallest subsets of those projections. For example, the projections for the district as a whole are likely to be the most accurate, and the projections of a building's particular grade level in a specific year are likely to be the least accurate. It is advised that updates to projections be continued on a periodic basis to maintain modifications warranted by subtle shifts in migration trends and demographic factors.

F. ACCURACY OF PREVIOUS PROJECTIONS

A comparison was made between the enrollment projections presented in the *March 2012 Western Suffolk BOCES study* and the actual enrollment observed in the 2012/13 school year.

As shown in Appendix A-1 and Table 4 , the *March 2012 study* projected the 2012/13 K - 12 enrollment at 4,354 students, while there were actually 4,409 students enrolled. This projection was within 55 students of the true enrollment, reflecting a projection within 1.2 percent of the actual enrollment.

The K - 5 grade configuration was projected within 17 students of the actual enrollment. The 6 - 8 grade configuration was projected within 4 students of the actual enrollment, while the 9 - 12 grade configuration was projected within 76 students. It should be noted that the high school enrollment data may reflect credit accumulation and programmatic reporting issues.

The inspection of the variations in the enrollment, particularly in the grade-to-grade migration, revealed continuing fluctuations, particularly at the high school, due to credit accumulation and retention reporting. There were negative migrations to all elementary and middle grades this year, in 2013/14. However, on average, there were stable or positive migrations to all grades except to the eleventh and twelfth grades. In general, housing turnover and non-public school attendance factors produce variations in the overall grade-to-grade enrollments and have been taken into account in the current update. The subtle changes used in projection methodology as updates are conducted yield data which are accurate for enrollment and facilities planning.

Table 4 - Projection Accuracy of March 2012 Western Suffolk BOCES Study

Grades	2012/13 Actual	2012/13 Projected	Difference	Accuracy
K - 5	2,004	2,021	17	100.8%
6 - 8	1,010	1,014	4	100.4%
9 - 12	1,395	1,319	-76	94.6%
K - 12	4,409	4,354	-55	98.8%

G. DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

The Bedford Central School District educates students within grades Pre-K, K - 12 in seven district schools. The pre-kindergarten program is housed at Mount Kisco Elementary School. The elementary grades (K - 5) are housed in five schools: Bedford Hills Elementary School, Bedford Village Elementary School, Mount Kisco Elementary School, Pound Ridge Elementary School and West Patent Elementary School. The middle grades (6 - 8) are housed in the Fox Lane Middle School, while the secondary grades (9 - 12) are housed at Fox Lane High School.

Table 5 presents the current and projected enrollment through 2023 for the district and each grade configuration. It is shown that the elementary grades (K - 5) are expected to reach a projection period peak of 1,943 students next year, in 2014. The middle grades are expected to enroll the greatest number of students the following year, in 2015, with 1,010 students. The secondary grades (9 - 12) are expected to reach their projection period peak enrollment of 1,479 students in 2015, as well. The overall K - 12 district enrollment is projected to peak in 2015 with 4,396 students.

Table 5 - Bedford CSD Enrollment

		K - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	K - 12
Current	**2013**	1,940	1,016	1,403	**4,359**
Projected	**2014**	1,943*	1,004	1,440	**4,387**
	2015	1,907	1,010*	1,479*	**4,396***
	2016	1,889	981	1,446	**4,316**
	2017	1,846	1,000	1,422	**4,268**
	2018	1,822	979	1,432	**4,233**
	2019	1,803	976	1,411	**4,190**
	2020	1,768	957	1,408	**4,133**
	2021	1,749	942	1,409	**4,100**
	2022	1,736	926	1,375	**4,037**
	2023	1,719	901	1,384	**4,004**

Note: It is noted that the sum of the numbers may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

* = denotes peak enrollment during 2014 - 2023

K - 12 enrollment *[Appendix A-2, A-6]* consisted of 4,205 students in 2003. Enrollment then increased in five of the next nine years resulting in the peak enrollment of 4,409 students in 2013. A decrease this year led to the current enrollment of 4,359 students. An overall gain of 154 students, or 3.7 percent, is noted over the last ten years. Decreases are anticipated in eight years of the ten year projection period, resulting in 4,004 students in 2023. This represents a loss of 355 students, or 8.1 percent, when compared to the current 2013 enrollment.

The projected enrollment changes can be attributed to the following factors:

- First, the kindergarten reached over 300 students in all of the last ten years, ranging between 303 and 346 students. The kindergarten enrollment is expected to decrease during the projection period, due to lower birth numbers as reported by the New York State Health Department. The kindergarten cohorts are expected to range between 274 – 298 students during the next ten years *[Appendix A-4].* These projections also reflect the declining number of births within the school district in recent years.
- Second, the kindergarten class was larger than the twelfth grade of the previous year in nine years of the historical period, with gains of 3 - 125 students each year. This trend is expected to reverse during the next ten years; displacement losses of 5 - 94 students are anticipated beginning in 2015. This is the result of some of the larger kindergarten cohorts moving through the grades and graduating from the high school and being replaced by smaller incoming kindergarten groups *[Appendix A-8].*
- Third, the district displays the **average** tendency to gain or maintain students in transition to all but eleventh and twelfth grades, with the greatest average gains noted in movement to the tenth grade which is most likely due to returns from private schools, credit accumulation and retention recording *[Appendix A-2].*
- Fourth, increases occurred in the average grade level size of grades 5 - 12 during 2008 through 2013 as compared to 2003 - 2008. Gains are projected to occur in grades 9 – 12 during 2013 - 2018. Grade level growth is expected to continue only in grade 12 between 2018 and 2023 *[Appendix A-8].*

H. ENROLLMENT OF GRADE CONFIGURATIONS

Pre-Kindergarten Program

Pre-kindergarten enrollment, housed at the Mount Kisco Elementary School, has ranged between 58 and 62 students since 2010 *[Appendix A-2].* The number of students in pre-kindergarten will be maintained at 59 students during the projection period.

This program currently consists of four (4) sections; the average section size is 14.8 students. The maintenance of the enrollment at 59 students would require four sections, with an average of 14.8 students per section throughout the projection period *[Appendix A-14].*

ELEMENTARY GRADES ENROLLMENT (K - 5) *[Appendix A-3, A-7]*

The elementary grades enrolled 2,067 students in 2003; this was the peak enrollment of the historical period. Decreases in seven of the next ten years culminated in the current enrollment of 1,940 students in 2013. An overall loss of 127 students, or 6.1 percent, is noted over the ten year historical period. Anticipated losses in most years of the projection period are expected to result in 1,719 students in 2023. Because of these losses, an overall decrease of 221 students, or 11.4 percent, is expected over the next ten years.

Bedford Hills Elementary School *[Appendix A-9, A-10]* housed 332 students in kindergarten through fifth grade in 2003; this enrollment was maintained the following year and was the historical peak enrollment. Subsequently, enrollment fluctuated but overall remained relatively stable, with a loss of 23 students noted over the last ten years.

The projection period peak enrollment of 309 students is expected next year in 2014 and the following year in 2015; this is the same number of students as are currently enrolled. Losses are anticipated in seven of the remaining eight years of the projection period, leading to the expected 2023 enrollment of 274 students. This represents a loss of 35 students, or 11.3 percent, over the next ten tears. The kindergarten enrollment is expected to range between 46 - 53 students each year and average approximately 16.7 percent of the district kindergarten enrollment.

This school shows the average tendency to lose students in transition to first grade, maintain students to third grade and gain students in movement to second, fourth and fifth grades. An unusually low transition to first grade is noted this year. The incoming kindergarten will be smaller than the exiting fifth grade class in nine of the next ten years. Together, these factors will produce the projected enrollment pattern.

Bedford Hills Elementary School currently houses eighteen (18) instructional sections, with three sections each of grades K - 5. The average section size for this school is 17.2 students, ranging from 15.0 students in first grade to 21.0 students in second grade. The projected enrollment indicates the need for 12 - 17 sections throughout the projection period in order to maintain class sizes of no greater than 23 students in grades K - 2 and 25 students in grades 3 - 5.

Bedford Village Elementary School *[Appendix A-11, A-12]* housed 437 students in grades K - 5 in 2003. Enrollment increased in the next two years, reaching a peak of 477 students in 2005. Subsequently, losses in seven of the next eight years led to the current enrollment of 353 students in 2013. This represents a loss of 84 students, or 19.2 percent, over the last ten years.

Enrollment is expected to decrease in nine of the next ten years. The projected 2023 enrollment of 269 students represents a loss of an additional 84 students, or 23.8 percent of the current student population. The kindergarten enrollment is expected to range between 44 - 51 students each year and average approximately 16.2 percent of the district kindergarten enrollment.

This school displays the average tendency to lose students in transition to all grades. The entering kindergarten is expected to be smaller than the exiting fifth grade class of the prior year in five of the next ten years. These factors will result in the projected enrollment pattern.

Bedford Village Elementary School currently houses nineteen (19) instructional sections, with 2 - 3 sections each of grades K - 5. In addition, there are two sections for self-contained special education students. The average section size for the school is 20.0 and ranges from 17.3 students in first grade to 21.3 students in second and fifth grades. The projected enrollment indicates the need for 14 - 19 sections throughout the projection period in order to maintain class sizes of no greater than 23 students in grades K - 2 and 25 students in grades 3 - 5.

Mount Kisco Elementary School *[Appendix A-13, A-14]* housed 512 students in grades K - 5 in 2003. Enrollment fluctuated during the historical period, including a significant increase in 2010, to the historical peak enrollment of 563 students this year in 2013. A gain of 51 students, or 10.0 percent, is noted over the last decade. In addition, beginning in 2010, 58 - 62 children attended the Pre-kindergarten program at this school.

Enrollment is expected to rise to the to the projection period peak of 583 K - 5 students in 2015. Losses are expected in the remaining eight years of the projection period, resulting in 526 students in 2023. This represents a loss of 37 students when compared to the current enrollment. The kindergarten enrollment is expected to range between 85 - 98 students each year and comprise an average of approximately 31.0 percent of the district kindergarten enrollment. It should be noted that an additional 59 students are expected to attend the Pre-kindergarten program at this school each year.

This school displays the average tendency to gain or maintain students in transition to first, third and fourth grades and lose students in movement to second and fifth grades. The incoming kindergarten is expected to be smaller than the exiting fifth grade class of the prior year in eight of the next ten years. This will minimize any gains in transition and result in the projected enrollment pattern.

Mount Kisco Elementary School currently houses twenty-eight (28) sections for the instruction of 4 - 5 each of grades K - 5. There are also four additional Pre-kindergarten sections. The average section size for the school is 20.2 students, ranging from 19.2 students in kindergarten, second and third grades to 22.8 students in fourth grade. The projected enrollment indicates a need for 24 to 27 sections throughout the projection period in order to maintain class sizes at no greater than 23 students per class in grades K - 2 and 25 students in grades 3 - 5. In addition, four sections will be required each year for the pre-kindergarten program.

Pound Ridge Elementary School *[Appendix A-15, A-16]* housed 400 students in kindergarten through fifth grade in 2003. Enrollment rose to 413 students in 2007 and then remained relatively stable through 2011, ranging between 400 and 414 students. Decreases over the last two years led to the current enrollment of 367 students; this represents a loss of 33 students since 2003.

This school is expected to experience losses in all of the next ten years. The projected 2023 enrollment of 322 students represents a loss of 45 students, or 12.3 percent of the current student population. The kindergarten enrollment is expected to range between 50 - 58 students each year and average approximately 18.3 percent of the district's kindergarten enrollment.

This school displays average trend to gain students in transition to grades 1 - 3 and lose students in transition to fourth and fifth grades. The incoming kindergarten class is expected to be smaller than the exiting fifth grade class of the prior year throughout the projection period. This will minimize any gains in transition and result in the projected enrollment pattern.

Pound Ridge Elementary School currently houses eighteen (18) instructional sections, with 3 sections each of grades K - 5. The average section size for this school is 20.4 students, ranging from 18.7 students in kindergarten and first grade to 22.0 students in fifth grade. The projected enrollment indicates the need for 18 sections throughout the projection period in order to maintain class sizes of no greater than 23 students in grades K - 2 and 25 students in grades 3 - 5.

West Patent Elementary School *[Appendix A-17, A-18]* housed 386 students in kindergarten - fifth grade in 2003; this was the peak enrollment of the historical period. Subsequently, enrollment fluctuated but overall declined during the last ten years. The current enrollment of 348 students represents a loss of 38 students, or 9.8 percent, over the last decade.

This school is expected to experience losses in seven of the next ten years. A loss of 20 students, or 5.7 percent, is forecasted by 2023 when 328 students are expected. Kindergarten enrollment is expected to range between 49 - 56 students each year and average approximately 17.8 percent of the district's kindergarten enrollment.

This school displays the average trend to gain or maintain students in transition to all grades. The incoming kindergarten class is expected to be smaller than the exiting fifth grade class of the prior year in seven years of the projection period. This will minimize any gains in transition and result in the projected enrollment pattern.

West Patent Elementary School currently houses nineteen (19) sections for the instruction of 2 - 3 sections of each grade level and two sections of self-contained special education classes. The average section size for this school is 19.5 students, ranging from 16.3 students in fifth grade to 22.7 students in fourth grade. The projected enrollment indicates the need for 19 - 20 sections throughout the projection period in order to maintain class sizes at no greater than 23 students in grades K - 2 and 25 students in grades 3 - 5.

The current and projected elementary school enrollments are presented in Table 6. It is shown that all elementary schools, with the exception of Mount Kisco Elementary School, will be at their projection period peak enrollments in 2014. It should be noted that the peak enrollments at Bedford Village and Pound Ridge Elementary Schools are less than the current enrollments. The total district elementary enrollment is expected to be at the projection period peak in 2014, as well, with 1,943 students. This represents an increase of three students when compared to the current enrollment.

Table 6 - Projected Bedford CSD Elementary Enrollment

		Bedford Hills	Bedford Village	Mount Kisco+	Pound Ridge	West Patent	Total K - 5
current	**2013**	309	353	563	367	348	1,940
projected	**2014**	309*	336*	580	361*	357*	1,943*
	2015	309*	317	583*	354	344	1,907
	2016	307	305	576	348	353	1,889
	2017	291	287	569	344	355	1,846
	2018	292	280	557	342	351	1,822
	2019	289	283	549	339	343	1,803
	2020	283	278	537	333	337	1,768
	2021	279	275	532	330	333	1,749
	2022	277	272	530	326	331	1,736
	2023	274	269	526	322	328	1,719

*denotes peak enrollment during 2014 - 2023

+does not include pre-k enrollment

Elementary Instructional Sections

Table 7 shows that the district currently houses 102 elementary sections for the instruction of grades K - 5, including special education sections. *[Appendix A-19].* Projections suggest the need for 88 - 100 elementary sections between 2014 and 2023. Bedford Hills Elementary School will need 1 - 6 fewer sections during the projection period. Bedford Village is projected to need up to five fewer sections during the next ten years. Mount Kisco Elementary will require 1 - 4 fewer sections, while West Patent will need the current allocation through 2015 and then one additional section beginning in 2016. Pound Ridge is expected to need the current allocation throughout the next ten years. It should be noted that Mount Kisco Elementary School will also need four additional sections each year to house the pre-kindergarten program.

Table 7 - Projected Bedford CSD Elementary Instructional Sections

		Bedford Hills	Bedford Village	Mount Kisco*	Pound Ridge	West Patent	Total K - 5*
current	**2013**	**18**	**19**	**28**	**18**	**19**	**102**
projected	**2014**	16	19	27	18	19	99
	2015	17	19	27	18	19	100
	2016	16	17	27	18	20	98
	2017	15	15	25	18	20	93
	2018	16	15	24	18	20	93
	2019	15	14	24	18	20	91
	2020	14	14	24	18	20	90
	2021	12	14	24	18	20	88
	2022	12	14	24	18	20	88
	2023	12	14	24	18	20	88

*pre-k sections not included

MIDDLE GRADES ENROLLMENT *[Appendix A-3, A-7]*

Fox Lane Middle School enrolled 932 students in grades 6 - 8 in 2003. Enrollment rose in six of the next eight years to reach the historical peak of 1,016 students in 2011. With a decrease the following year and an increase this year, the current enrollment of 1,016 students compares to the historical peak in 2011. An increase of 84 students, or 9.0 percent, is noted over the last ten years.

The number of students in grades 6 - 8 is expected to decrease during the next ten years. The projection period peak of 1,010 students is expected in 2015; this is six fewer students than are currently enrolled. Decreases are expected in seven of the eight subsequent years, leading to the projected 2023 enrollment of 901 students. This represents a loss of 115 students, or 11.3 percent, when compared to the current 2013 enrollment.

This school displays the average tendency to gain students as they transition to seventh grade and maintain students in transition to eighth grade. The entering sixth grade is expected to be smaller than the exiting eighth grade of the previous year in eight of the next ten years. These factors, together, will result in the projected enrollment pattern *[Appendix A-20].*

SECONDARY GRADES ENROLLMENT *[Appendix A-3, A-7]*

Fox Lane High School enrolled 1,206 students in 2003. Enrollment rose in seven of the next ten years to reach the historical peak enrollment of 1,403 students this year, in 2013. An increase of 197 students, or 16.3 percent, is noted over the last ten years.

The number of students in grades 9 - 12 is expected to increase during the next two years, reaching the historical peak of 1,479 students in 2015. Decreases are expected in five of the subsequent eight years are expected to result in the 2023 enrollment of 1,384 students. This represents a loss of 19 students, or 1.4 percent over the ten year projection period.

This school displays average tendency to gain students in transition to tenth grade, but lose students in transition to eleventh and twelfth grades. The entering ninth grade is expected to be larger than the exiting twelfth grade of the previous year in only four of the ten projection years, which will minimize the gains in transition and result in the projected enrollment pattern *[Appendix A-21].*

The current and projected middle and high school enrollments are presented in Table 8. It is shown that Fox Lane Middle School, Fox Lane High School and the district's total 6 - 12 enrollment are all projected to reach peak enrollments of 1,010 students, 1,479 students and 2,489 students, respectively, in 2015.

Table 8 - Projected Bedford CSD Middle and High School Enrollment

		Fox Lane MS	Fox Lane HS	Total 6 - 12
current	**2013**	1,016	1,403	2,419
projected	**2014**	1,004	1,440	2,444
	2015	1,010*	1,479*	2,489*
	2016	981	1,446	2,427
	2017	1,000	1,422	2,422
	2018	979	1,432	2,411
	2019	976	1,411	2,387
	2020	957	1,408	2,365
	2021	942	1,409	2,351
	2022	926	1,375	2,301
	2023	901	1,384	2,285

*denotes peak enrollment during 2014 - 2023