



West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

To: Dr. Kathy Ludwig, Superintendent
Pat McGough, Chief Operating Officer

Date: July 10, 2024

From: Remo Douglas, Capital Construction Program Manager

Subject: Oregon School District Enrollment Projection Comparison

School districts in Oregon, and across the nation, experienced a significant drop in enrollment during the COVID lockdown. The question that has been discussed at length in the time since is, what level of enrollment recovery should school districts expect in the coming years?

Recent enrollment projections for ten other Oregon school districts have been gathered and reviewed. The attached Table 1 summarizes key data points from those projections. The following points send a strong signal of what should be expected.

- 7 districts projected increased enrollment over five years
- 6 districts projected increased enrollment over ten years
- 4 districts actually experienced increased enrollment*
- 9 districts experienced a lower actual enrollment than their middle projections.*
- Only Lake Oswego outperformed the projection, but the projection for that year was far below the projection for the following 5 years.

The data indicates that enrollment projections during, or in the immediate aftermath of, the COVID lockdown were optimistic in terms of anticipated growth. This sense of optimism seems to come through in some of the projection reports. The District's discussions with Flo Analytics and regional planners shows a tempering of that optimism in the planning community. While numerous factors contribute to the lower projections than originally anticipated in 2018, the trend does appear to be hardening into a new reality. That reality is based on lower birth rates, lower population growth, lower student generation rates, and slower housing development.

It is recommended that the District rely on the middle projections from Flo analytics, while planning to update the projections annually or biannually for the next 6-10 years.

*For 21-22 to 22-23 except 22-23 to 23-24 for Portland, the first year of their projections

	Current		Projected		Projected		21-22 to 22-23			
District	Year	Count	Fifth Year		Tenth Year		Projected	Actual	Change	Notes
Forest Grove	21-22	5,753	5,641	-1.9%	5,584	-2.9%	90	39	-51	
Oregon City	21-22	6,522	7,100	8.9%	7,561	15.9%	346	76	-270	
Salem-Keizer	21-22	40,097	39,225	-2.2%	38,799	-3.2%	409	-231	-640	
Bend Lapine	21-22	17,500	18,429	5.3%	19,475	11.3%	367	-92	-459	
Portland	22-23	44,799	41,043	-8.4%	39,129	-12.7%	-511	-685	-174	22-23 to 23-24
Tigard-Tualatin	21-22	11,518	11,803	2.5%	12,311	6.9%	238	-126	-364	
Centennial	19-20	6,158	6,163	0.1%	6,138	-0.3%	-4	-41	-37	
David Douglas	19-20	9,562	9,720	1.7%	10,013	4.7%	35	-128	-163	
North Clackamas	21-22	16,507	17,144	3.9%	17,395	5.4%	281	252	-29	Used Flo Analytics
Lake Oswego	19-20	7,018	7,209	2.7%	7,208	2.7%	-62	28	90	Only projected decrease in 7 years
WLWV	23-24	9,045	8,690	-3.9%	8,955	-1.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	