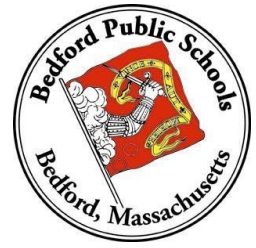
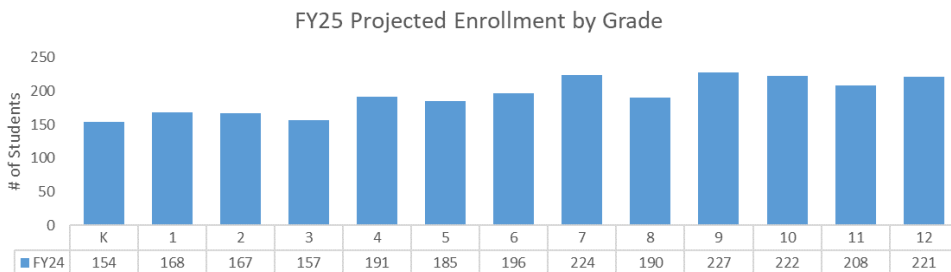


BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



To: Members of the Bedford School Committee
From: Cliff Chuang, Superintendent
 Julie Kirrane, Finance Director
Date: November 15, 2023
Subject: Enrollment Basis for the FY25 (2024-25) School Budget

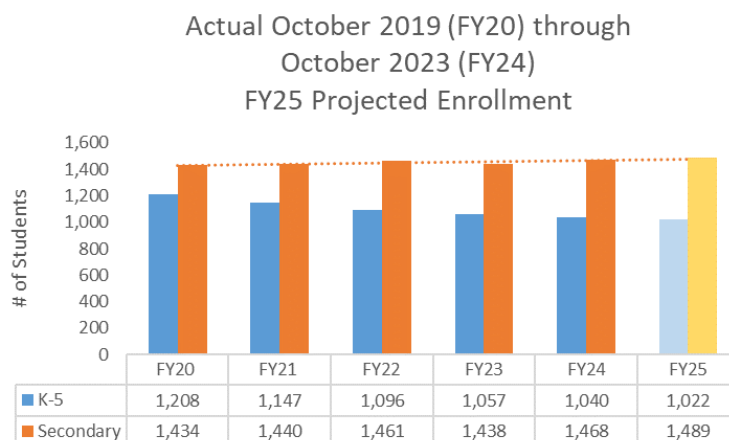
Each year, Bedford Public Schools uses enrollment projections in the planning of the next year's budget. Enrollment projections for the 2024-25 school year are the basis for the school district's maintenance of effort (MOE) / level services budget. The projection for grades K-12 in the 2024-25 school year are as follows:



Bedford Public Schools enrollment growth was significant from the year 2000 to the 2019-20 school year. During this time, the district enrollment grew from 2,086 to 2,642 students, an increase of 29%.

With the changing enrollment trends that began in Fall 2020, Bedford has been experiencing lower enrollments at the elementary level. Bedford is not unique in experiencing these trends which are also reflected (more dramatically even) in statewide data. The contributing variables are complex and considered to include a global health crisis, economic conditions, real estate and job trends, and demographics – all influencing school attendance patterns.

The following graph depicts recent enrollment trends in Bedford Public Schools with sustained high enrollment at the secondary level and declining enrollment at the elementary level:



The district has developed internal projections based on standard projection methodology to predict future grade cohorts based on past averages. Specifically, a cohort ratio is calculated each October for every grade - this is the number of students who advanced to the next grade divided by the number of students in each grade in the prior year. A cohort ratio below 1.0 means that the net of new enrollments and withdrawals results in a smaller cohort advancing to the next grade. A ratio above 1.0 means that the net of new enrollments and withdrawals results in a larger cohort advancing to the next year. In the 2020-21 year which was the first year of lower elementary enrollment, only one grade cohort was above 1.0. By contrast, in 2023-24, all grade levels are at or above a 1.0 cohort ratio except for grade 10. The 2023-24 enrollment is higher than was projected for FY24, due to the additional student enrollment from the Plaza Hotel. Historical cohort ratios are presented below:

GRADE ADVANCEMENT	K-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
2009-10	1.07	1.04	1.03	0.99	1.04	1.00	0.98	1.02	1.13	0.92	0.98	0.95
2010-11	1.04	0.93	1.02	0.98	0.98	0.98	1.04	0.99	1.06	0.99	0.94	0.96
2011-12	1.12	0.97	1.04	1.02	0.98	1.10	0.99	1.02	1.21	1.00	0.99	1.01
2012-13	1.06	1.01	1.07	1.03	1.03	1.01	1.00	1.03	1.20	1.04	0.94	1.04
2013-14	1.09	1.02	1.03	1.01	1.01	1.02	0.99	1.00	1.18	0.95	0.97	1.01
2014-15	1.00	1.05	0.97	1.01	0.98	0.94	0.97	1.00	1.16	0.95	0.97	0.95
2015-16	1.07	0.98	1.02	1.04	1.03	1.00	1.06	0.99	1.23	0.98	0.94	1.00
2016-17	1.05	1.04	1.02	0.99	1.06	1.06	1.03	1.03	1.29	0.93	0.98	0.99
2017-18	1.04	1.01	1.02	1.00	1.07	1.00	1.00	1.03	1.13	0.93	1.02	0.98
2018-19	1.07	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.01	0.98	1.00	1.14	1.05	0.96	0.97
2019-20	1.03	1.03	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.07	1.02	1.19	0.98	0.97	0.96
2020-21	1.00	1.02	0.98	0.97	0.99	0.96	0.99	0.98	1.14	0.92	0.97	1.00
2021-22	1.07	1.02	0.97	1.01	0.98	1.02	1.00	1.02	1.10	0.97	0.98	0.95
2022-23	1.04	1.08	0.96	0.97	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.08	1.00	0.97	0.98
2023-24	1.13	1.05	1.04	1.02	1.04	1.01	1.01	1.00	1.11	0.96	1.00	1.02
5-Year AVG CSR	1.05	1.04	0.99	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.12	0.97	0.98	0.98

Projecting enrollment for the upcoming year presents a greater than usual challenge due to the emergency homeless shelter that opened in Bedford in August 2023. The projections do incorporate the increase in enrollment but the impact on enrollment projections is mitigated due to our standard enrollment projection practice of using five-year rolling averages. We are currently receiving additional state and federal funding to cover the emergent needs of these students and families, and these additional expenses are budgeted separately from the FY25 operating budget proposal. We anticipate that additional state funds will continue to be available next year if we continue to host a shelter site, though it is impossible to predict with any certainty at this time, and we will continue to closely assess these needs as more information becomes available. The NESDEC third party enrollment projection is still in process as of this update, and may provide additional useful guidance..

Student mobility is a factor in each school year. The table below illustrates student mobility in the current year and for the past four years. Typically, a positive student in-migration number aligns with enrollment growth in the district, and vice versa. The data shows positive in-migration in the current year and the 2019-20 school year. In the three intervening years (that also correspond to the pandemic years), we see higher numbers of student transfers to other in-state public and private schools, students moving out-of-state, or students opting for homeschooling.

STUDENT EXITS AND ENTRANCES

ANNUAL STUDENT MOBILITY	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Total BPS Enrollment (October 1)	2,518	2,495	2,557	2,587	2,642
Number of Student Exits	306	380	399	422	373
<i>Graduating seniors</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>210</i>
<i>Transfer In-State Public</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Transfer Out-of-State</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Transfer to Home School</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Transfer to In-state Private</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>24</i>
Exits as % of Total Enrollment	12%	15%	16%	16%	14%
Number of Student Entrances	358	320	341	308	389
<i>New Kindergarteners</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>190</i>
<i>New HAFB - Any Grade</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>45</i>	
<i>Other New Students - Any Grade</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>199</i>
Entrances as % of Total Enrollment	14%	13%	13%	12%	15%
Net In Migration (Out Migration)	52	(60)	(58)	(114)	16

Districtwide enrollment is projected to again decrease as a result of the continuing trend of smaller entering kindergarten classes. In particular, elementary enrollment is projected to decrease, the result of another larger elementary grade advancing to grade 6 at JGMS. The preliminary analysis of elementary class sizes indicates that the staffing level required to support K-5 instruction within the School Committee class size guideline will continue to be 48 sections in grades K-5 in the 2024-25 school year, the same number of sections that is required in the current year. A position may need to be shifted from Lane to Davis, based on the enrollment changes as shown below, though no final decisions have been made at this time. As the year progresses, and more enrollment information is known, a decision can be anticipated in the spring.

However, given the higher net migration evidenced in the current year and efforts to strengthen enrollment from Boston, the district believes it is prudent to plan for variability in new student move-ins. Therefore, the FY25 enrollment projections are adjusted by 8 students at both Davis and Lane to account for the impact of student mobility. These adjustments are conservative and are fully integrated within the current FY25 Enrollment projection.

It should also be noted that, after a sustained period with grades over 200 students, the middle school will have two grade levels under that threshold with the addition of next year's grade 6 projected at 196 students. The high school is expected to continue with enrollment of more than 200 students in each grade for the next several years. Actual and projected enrollment by school and by grade is shown in the following tables.

Bedford Public Schools - Enrollment by Grade
FY23 Actual, FY24 Actual and Projected, FY25 Projected

Grade	Actual	Projected	Oct 1 (Uncertified)	Projection Variance	Projected	Year-over-Year Difference
	FY23 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY25 (2024-25)	FY25 (2024-25)
PK	44	44	41	0	41	0
K	141	149	158	9	154	-4
1	145	151	159	8	168	9
2	184	153	152	-1	167	15
3	179	185	192	7	157	-35
4	190	181	182	1	191	9
5	218	194	197	3	185	-12
6	188	217	221	4	196	-25
7	202	189	189	0	224	35
8	207	203	202	-1	190	-12
9	221	234	230	-4	227	-3
10	226	217	213	-4	222	9
11	194	219	226	7	208	-18
12	200	188	197	9	221	24
TOTAL	2,539	2,525	2,559	34	2,552	-7
% change	-2.40%		1.34%		-0.29%	

Bedford Public Schools - Enrollment by School
FY23 Actual, FY24 Actual and Projected, FY25 Projected

School	Actual	Projected	October 1 Actual	Projection Variance	Projected	Year-over-Year Difference
	FY23 (2022-23)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY25 (2024-25)	FY25 Projected
Preschool at Davis	44	44	41	3	41	0
Davis	470	453	469	16	489	20
Lane	587	560	571	11	532	-39
TOTAL ELEMENTARY	1,057	1,013	1,040	27	1,022	-18
John Glenn Middle School	597	609	612	3	610	-2
Bedford High School	841	858	866	8	879	13
TOTAL SECONDARY	1,438	1,468	1,478	10	1,489	11
TOTAL K-12	2,495	2,481	2,518	37	2,511	-7
TOTAL PREK-12	2,539	2,525	2,559	34	2,552	-7
Out-of-District Students	38	44	44	0	46	2
TOTAL ALL STUDENTS	2,577	2,569	2,603	34	2,598	-5