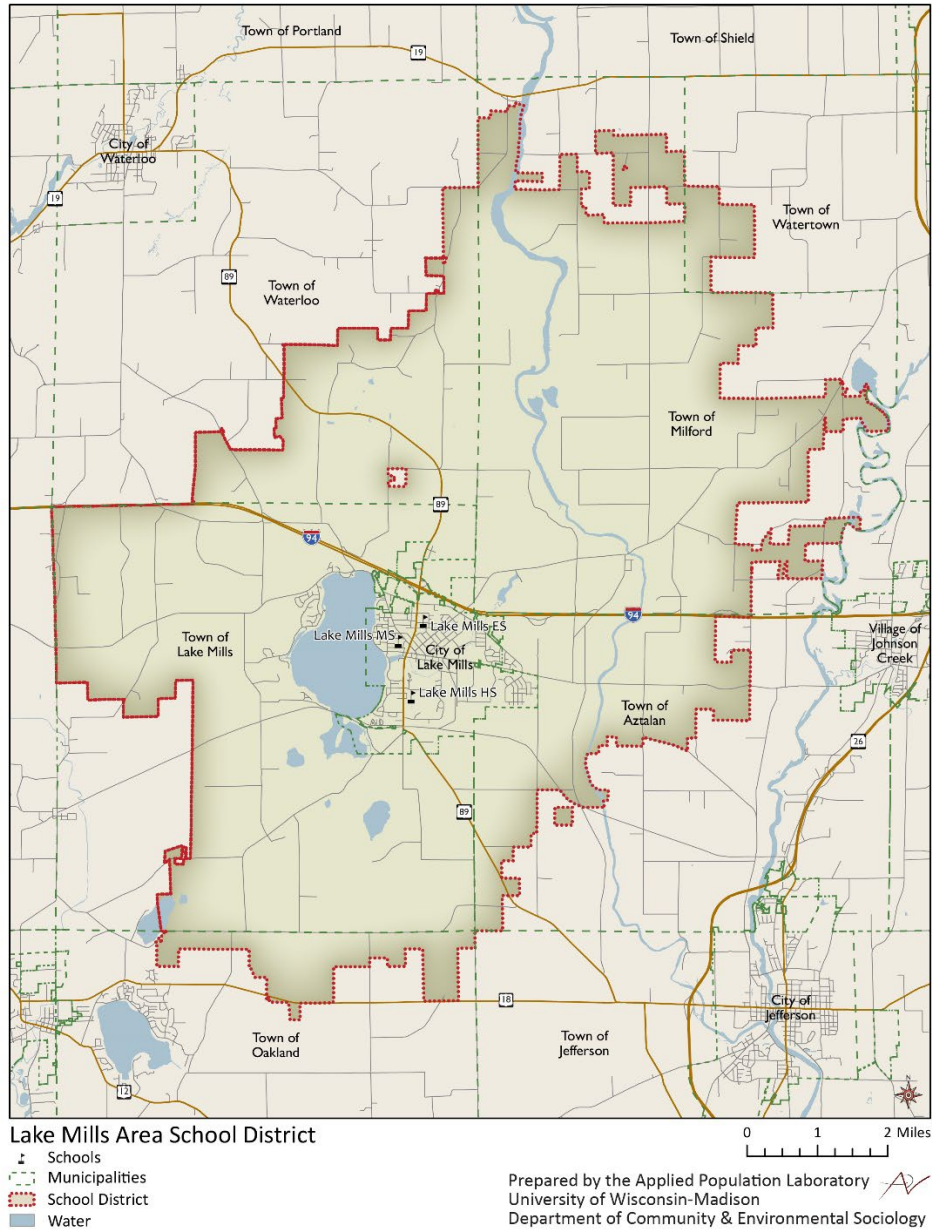


Planning for the Schools of Tomorrow



School Enrollment Projections Series Lake Mills Area School District

July 2023

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Executive Summary

This report provides an enrollment projections analysis for the Lake Mills Area School District by the Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The district-wide enrollment for the current 2022/23 school year is 1,498 students. The report takes into consideration past enrollment, current and projected births, and overall trends in population and housing to determine the future number of students. District enrollment (seat count) projections are provided for the district as a whole, individually for each grade and grade grouping. In summary:

- In the last five years, the district has experienced a slight 4K-12 enrollment decline of 0.3%. Grades 4K-4 has increased by 0.2%, while grades 5-8 declined by 3.7%. Grades 9-12 increased by 2.8%.
- Long-term and recent trends in municipal births have been decreasing. Long-term kindergarten trends have also been declining, while recent trends in kindergarten have been increasing. Single-family home construction has averaged 33 new homes annually during the last five years.
- All models project 4K-12 enrollment to decline over the next five years averaging a 4.7% decrease. The Kindergarten Trend model projects the least amount of decline, while the Three-Year model projects the greatest decrease in enrollment.
- Elementary school enrollment is likely to see enrollment decrease with an average of 0.6% decline in five years. On average, middle school enrollment will increase by 8% over the next five years, while high school enrollment will decrease by 20.6%.
- District-level projections should be viewed as having high reliability over the next five years, but increasingly enrollment will likely deviate from the projections over time, especially at the younger grades.



Introduction

Enrollment projections for Lake Mills Area School District are presented district-wide, individually for each grade and for grade groupings. The projection process uses a combination of historical enrollment data, birth trends and projections, and housing and population trends to create reasonable assumptions about future growth scenarios and the likely impact on enrollment in the school district.

Student Enrollment

Figure 1-A displays the last ten years of enrollment for the Lake Mills Area School District. District 4K-12 enrollment has increased overall in the past ten years, from 1,461 students in the 2013/14 school year to 1,498 students in 2022/23. Enrollment has increased by 37 student or a growth of 2.5% since 2013/14.

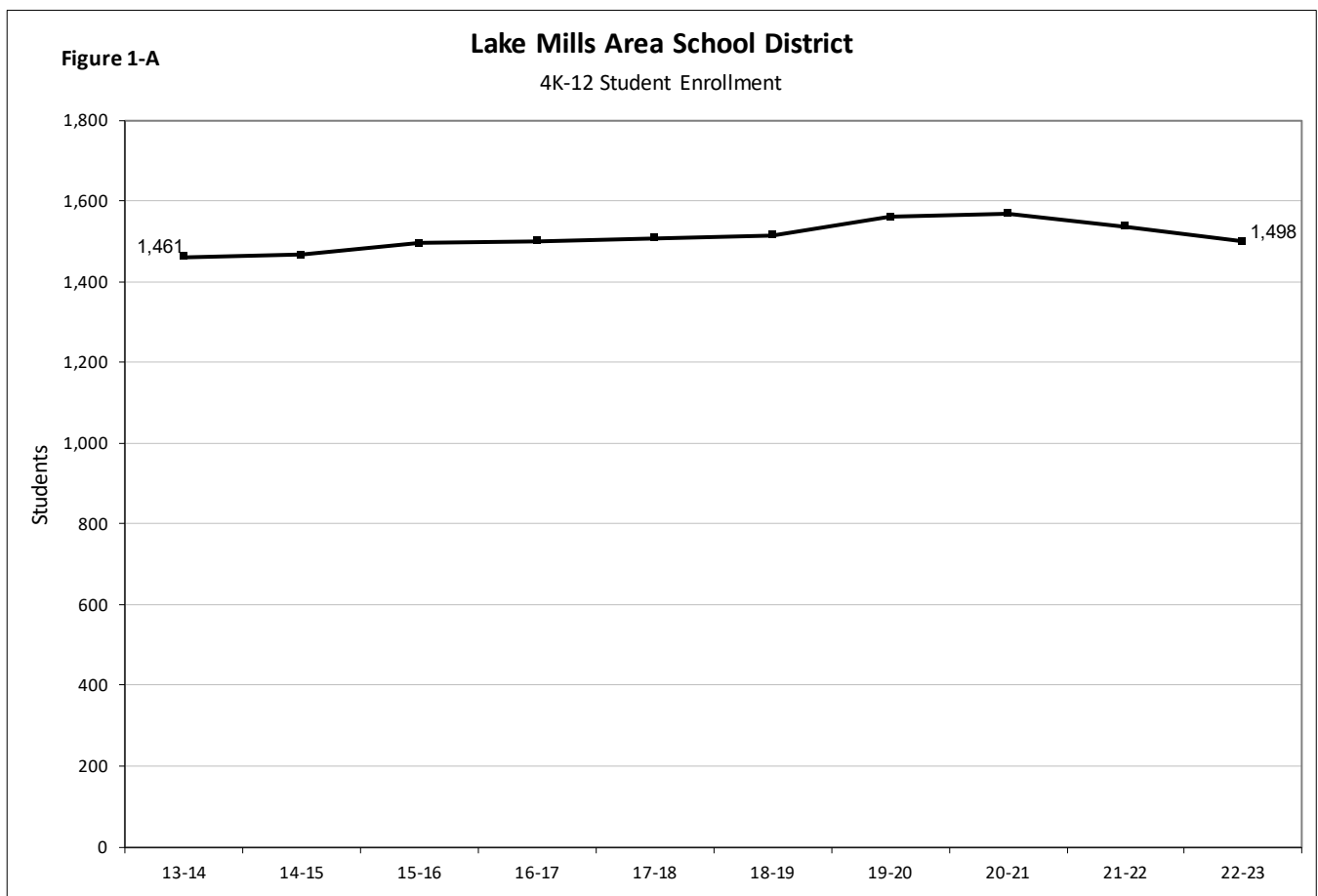
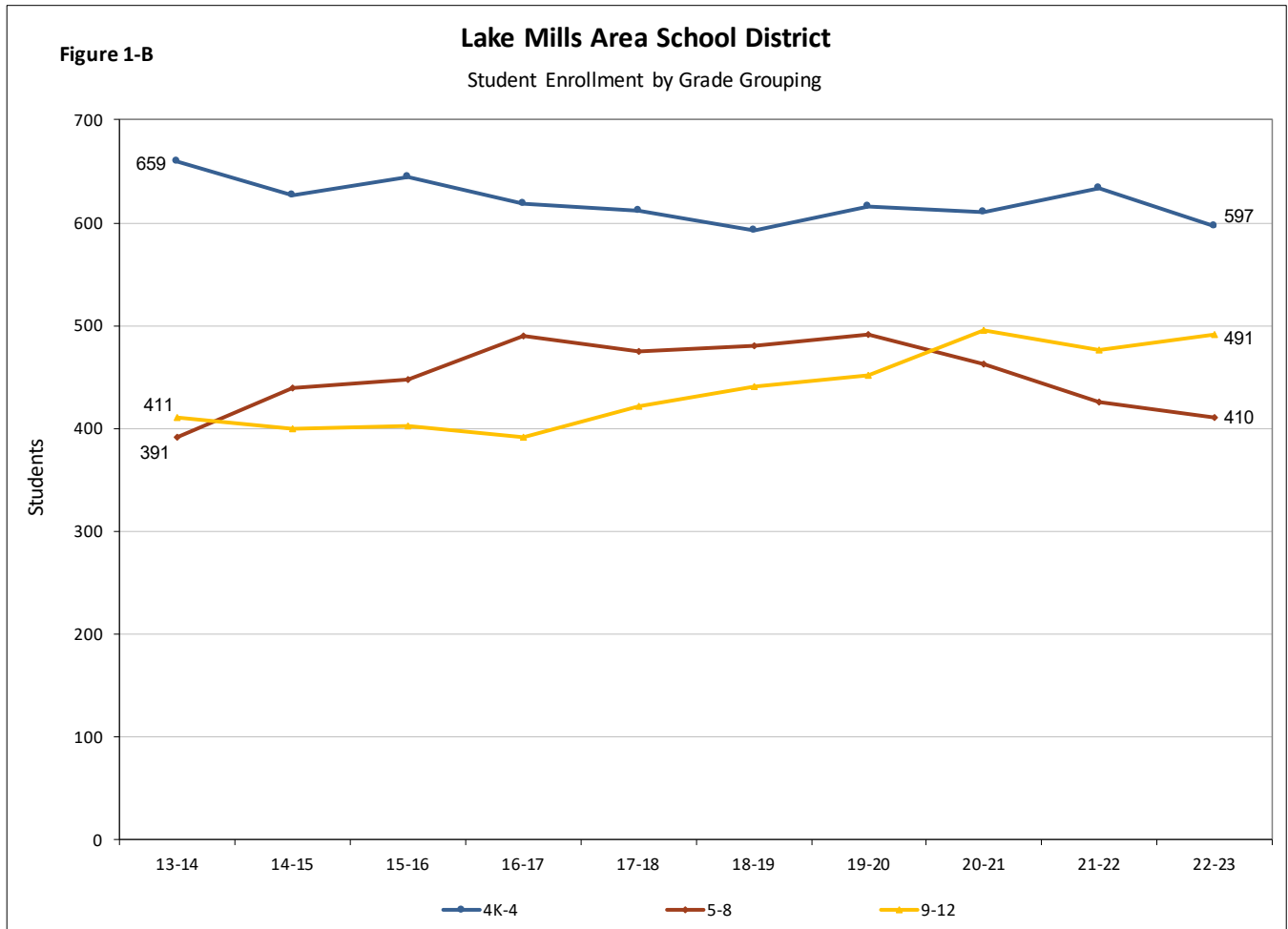


Figure 1-B shows enrollment history broken down by grade groupings (4K-4, 5-8, and 9-12). Elementary school enrollment has decreased since 2013/14. Middle school enrollment increased over the past ten years. High school enrollment increased the most over the last ten years.



Tables 1 and 2 display the numeric and percentage change for each grade and grade groupings. Elementary school (grades 4K-4) declined by 1.0% annually in the last ten years. Middle school (grades 5-8) increased by 0.5% annually, while high school (grades 9-12) increased the most, growing by 2.2% annually over the last ten years.



TABLE 1
Student Enrollment
Lake Mills Area School District

	SCHOOL YEAR									
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
4K	96	80	95	78	89	100	103	96	93	80
K	117	106	89	110	95	87	113	100	118	96
1	100	113	107	91	110	102	92	113	107	109
2	124	103	112	104	92	105	103	86	119	105
3	95	123	115	117	107	92	109	105	91	120
4	127	102	127	119	118	106	96	110	106	87
5	112	128	108	128	115	121	108	97	103	108
6	87	119	129	110	134	121	125	110	95	102
7	98	89	123	126	103	135	125	125	109	94
8	94	103	88	126	123	104	133	130	119	106
9	101	101	114	98	129	128	104	134	126	125
10	111	99	98	101	91	123	129	108	119	122
11	101	99	90	95	99	87	125	123	107	123
12	98	101	100	97	102	103	94	131	124	121
TOTAL	1,461	1,466	1,495	1,500	1,507	1,514	1,559	1,568	1,536	1,498
K-12	1,365	1,386	1,400	1,422	1,418	1,414	1,456	1,472	1,443	1,418
4K-4	659	627	645	619	611	592	616	610	634	597
5-8	391	439	448	490	475	481	491	462	426	410
9-12	411	400	402	391	421	441	452	496	476	491

TABLE 2
Student Enrollment Changes
Lake Mills Area School District

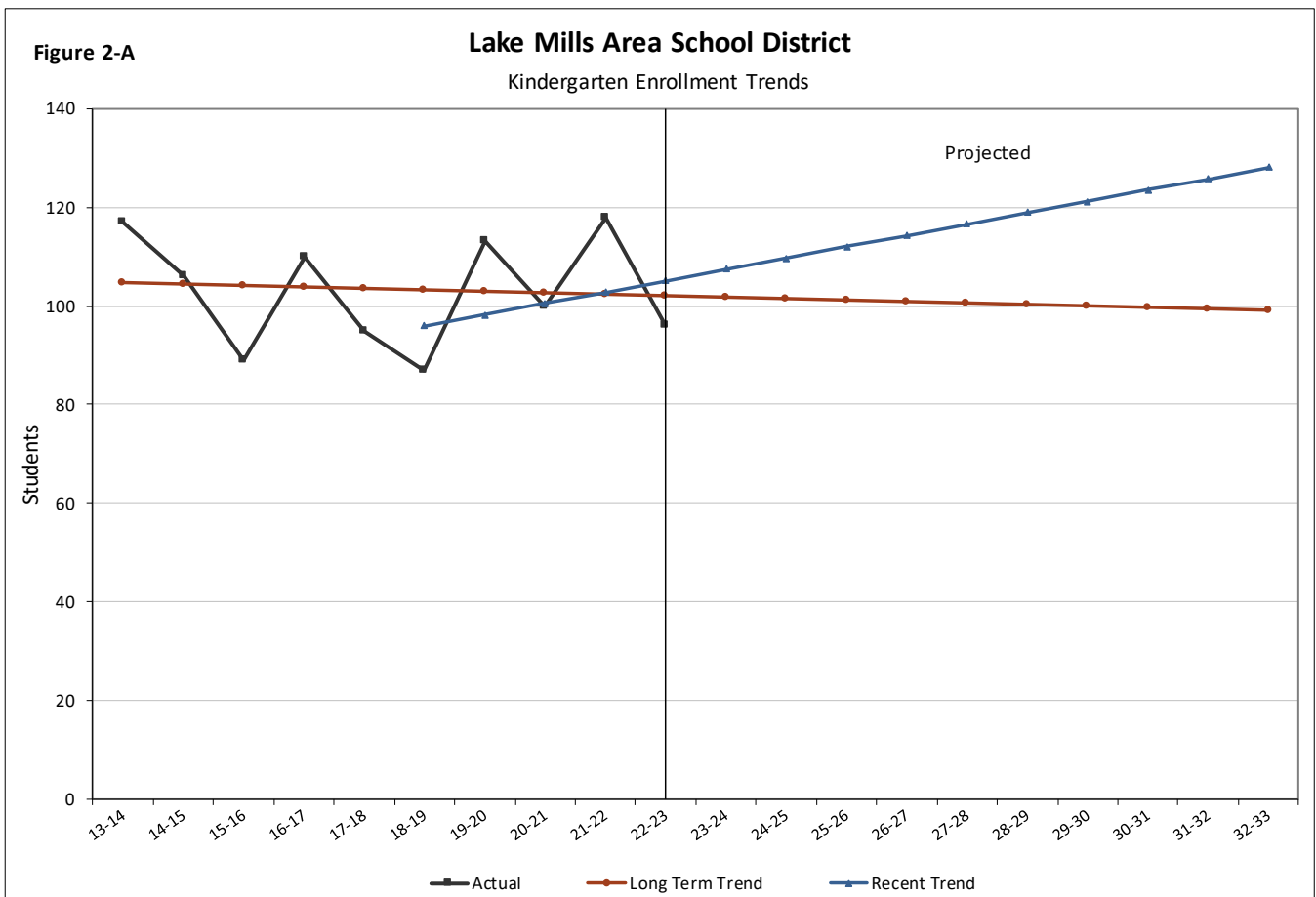
GRADE	ABSOLUTE CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE		
	'13 to '22	'13 to '17	'18 to '22	'13 to '22	'13 to '17	'18 to '22	'13 to '22	'13 to '17	'18 to '22
4K	-16	-7	-20	-16.7	-7.3	-20.0	-1.9	-1.8	-5.0
K	-21	-22	9	-17.9	-18.8	10.3	-2.0	-4.7	2.6
1	9	10	7	9.0	10.0	6.9	1.0	2.5	1.7
2	-19	-32	0	-15.3	-25.8	0.0	-1.7	-6.5	0.0
3	25	12	28	26.3	12.6	30.4	2.9	3.2	7.6
4	-40	-9	-19	-31.5	-7.1	-17.9	-3.5	-1.8	-4.5
5	-4	3	-13	-3.6	2.7	-10.7	-0.4	0.7	-2.7
6	15	47	-19	17.2	54.0	-15.7	1.9	13.5	-3.9
7	-4	5	-41	-4.1	5.1	-30.4	-0.5	1.3	-7.6
8	12	29	2	12.8	30.9	1.9	1.4	7.7	0.5
9	24	28	-3	23.8	27.7	-2.3	2.6	6.9	-0.6
10	11	-20	-1	9.9	-18.0	-0.8	1.1	-4.5	-0.2
11	22	-2	36	21.8	-2.0	41.4	2.4	-0.5	10.3
12	23	4	18	23.5	4.1	17.5	2.6	1.0	4.4
TOTAL	37	46	-16	2.5	3.1	-1.1	0.3	0.8	-0.3
K-12	53	53	4	3.9	3.9	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.1
4K-4	-62	-48	5	-9.4	-7.3	0.8	-1.0	-1.8	0.2
5-8	19	84	-71	4.9	21.5	-14.8	0.5	5.4	-3.7
9-12	80	10	50	19.5	2.4	11.3	2.2	0.6	2.8



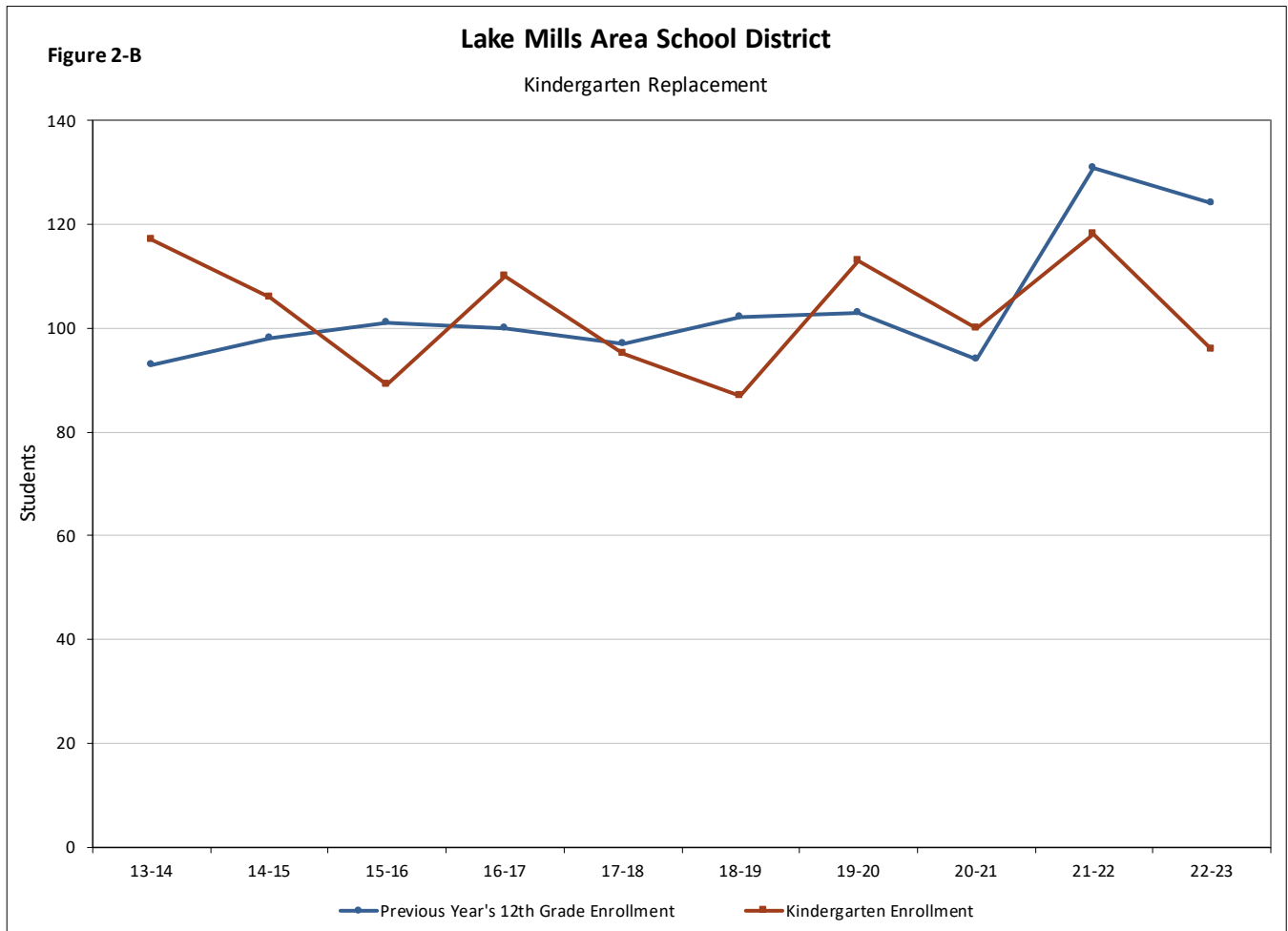
Kindergarten Trends

Examining trends in kindergarten enrollment is particularly informative for gaining perspective on future district enrollment, as today’s kindergarteners will gradually make up tomorrow’s students at the higher grade levels as they age and move through the school system. When kindergarten enrollment is increasing, elementary and middle school enrollment might be expected to increase in the near future, while high school enrollment may increase farther in the future.

Figure 2-A shows kindergarten enrollment history in black, and trend lines depicting future kindergarten enrollment in red and blue. The “Long Term Trend” line (shown in red) averages kindergarten enrollment changes from 2013/14 through 2022/23. The “Recent Trend” line (shown in blue) emphasizes kindergarten enrollment changes over the last five years. In the Lake Mills Area School District, the long-term trend in kindergarten enrollment indicates slight decreases, while the recent trend indicates increasing kindergarten enrollment. An average of the two trends will be used in the Kindergarten Trend projections later in this report.

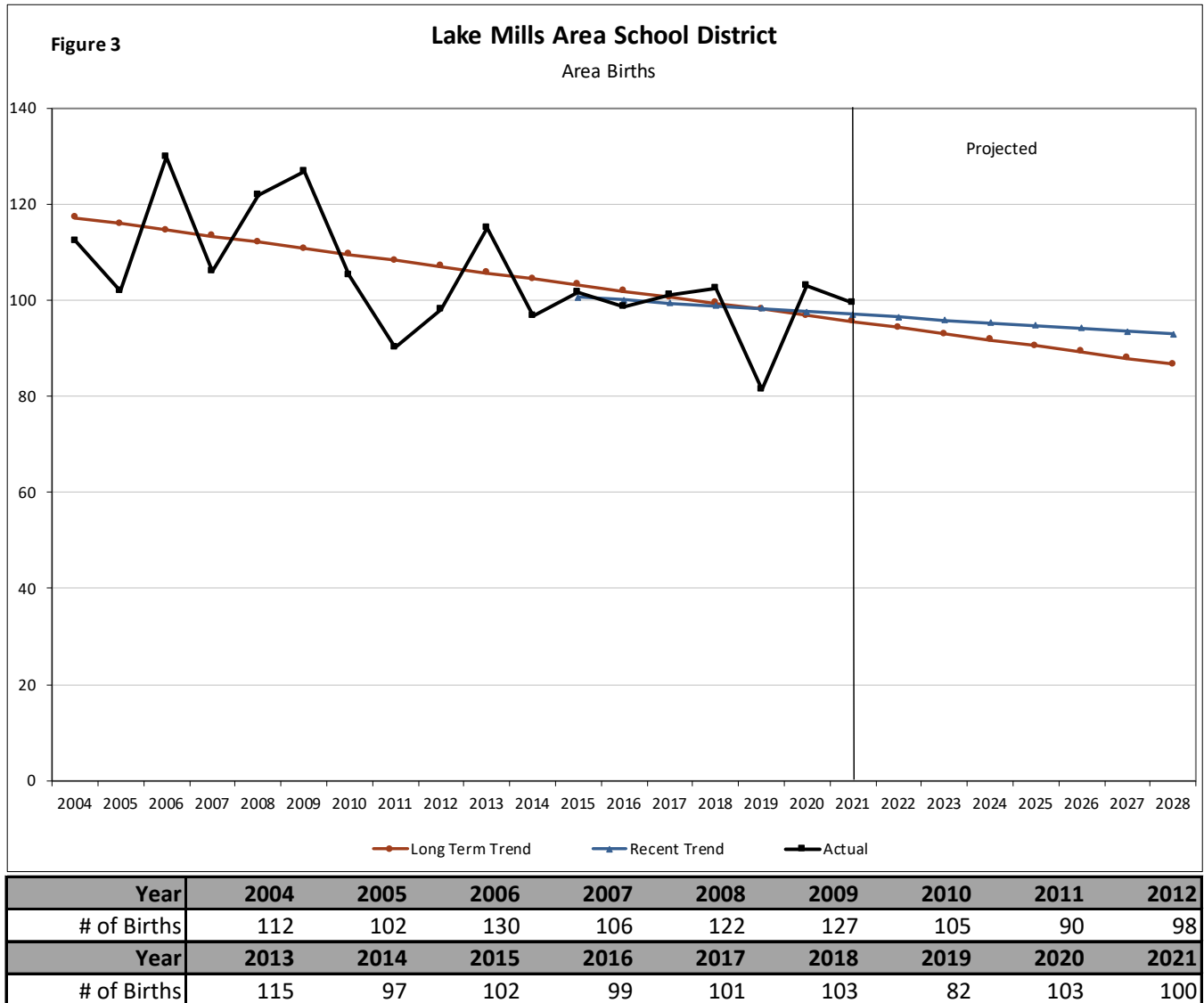


In addition to examining kindergarten enrollment on its own, comparing incoming kindergartners to the previous year's outgoing 12th graders offers a snapshot of how the age structure of district enrollment is shifting either from older to younger, or younger to older. Districts tend to experience overall growth when kindergarten enrollment outpaces outgoing seniors, and they tend to experience decline when kindergartners do not fully replace the number of graduates. As illustrated in Figure 2-B, kindergartners replaced outgoing 12th graders five of the ten years.



Birth Trends and Projections

We use historical and projected birth data to forecast the number of 4K and 5K students who will enroll in the Lake Mills Area School District. Birth data, as collected and summarized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, is available at the municipal level. Figure 3 shows the number of resident births in the City of Lake Mills and the surrounding towns, by year, from 2004 through 2021.



Source: WI Department of Health Services

We extrapolate long- and short-range birth trends into the future to correspond with our baseline and recent trend models. The long-term and recent birth trends show a decreasing trend. The red line represents the birth trends over the past eighteen years and is utilized in the Baseline model. The blue line denotes birth patterns for the last seven years and is applied in the Five-Year and Three-Year trend models.



Population Estimates

This section examines population trends of the recent past for the municipalities within the school district area. Changes in the total population of the district area, particularly when examined by age, provide clues into how the school-age population may be changing.

Table 3 provides the U.S. Census population counts for 2010 and 2020 and the Wisconsin Department of Administration's estimates on a biennial basis for 2012 to 2022. The district area population has increased more than Jefferson County and the state from 2010 to 2020.

Table 3
Total Population by Municipality: 2010-2022
Lake Mills Area School District

Municipality	POPULATION						
	Census 2010	est. 2012	est. 2014	est. 2016	est. 2018	Census 2020	est. 2022
C. Lake Mills	5,708	5,742	5,758	5,883	5,953	6,211	6,452
T. Aztalan	1,457	1,459	1,456	1,460	1,464	1,382	1,381
T. Lake Mills	2,070	2,080	2,083	2,087	2,091	2,196	2,217
T. Milford	1,099	1,100	1,107	1,113	1,121	1,106	1,115
T. Waterloo	909	910	909	907	905	867	874
District Area	11,243	11,291	11,313	11,450	11,534	11,762	12,039
Jefferson County	83,686	83,857	83,974	84,262	84,352	86,148	86,576
State of Wisconsin	5,686,986	5,703,525	5,732,981	5,775,120	5,816,231	5,893,718	5,947,500

Municipality	PERCENT CHANGE						
	2010 to 2012	2012 to 2014	2014 to 2016	2016 to 2018	2018 to 2020	2010 to 2020	2020 to 2022
C. Lake Mills	0.6%	0.3%	2.2%	1.2%	4.3%	8.8%	3.9%
T. Aztalan	0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	-5.6%	-5.1%	-0.1%
T. Lake Mills	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	5.0%	6.1%	1.0%
T. Milford	0.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	-1.3%	0.6%	0.8%
T. Waterloo	0.1%	-0.1%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-4.2%	-4.6%	0.8%
District Area	0.4%	0.2%	1.2%	0.7%	2.0%	4.6%	2.4%
Jefferson County	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	2.1%	2.9%	0.5%
State of Wisconsin	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%	1.3%	3.6%	0.9%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau & Demographic Services Center, WIDOA



Figure 4 compares the population for the Lake Mills Area School District by age from the 2010 Census and the 2020 Census. When reviewing this table ages 0 to 24 are in five-year increments, while ages 25 and older are in ten-year increments. Children from ages 5 to 19 have increased, while children under the age of 5 have decreased.

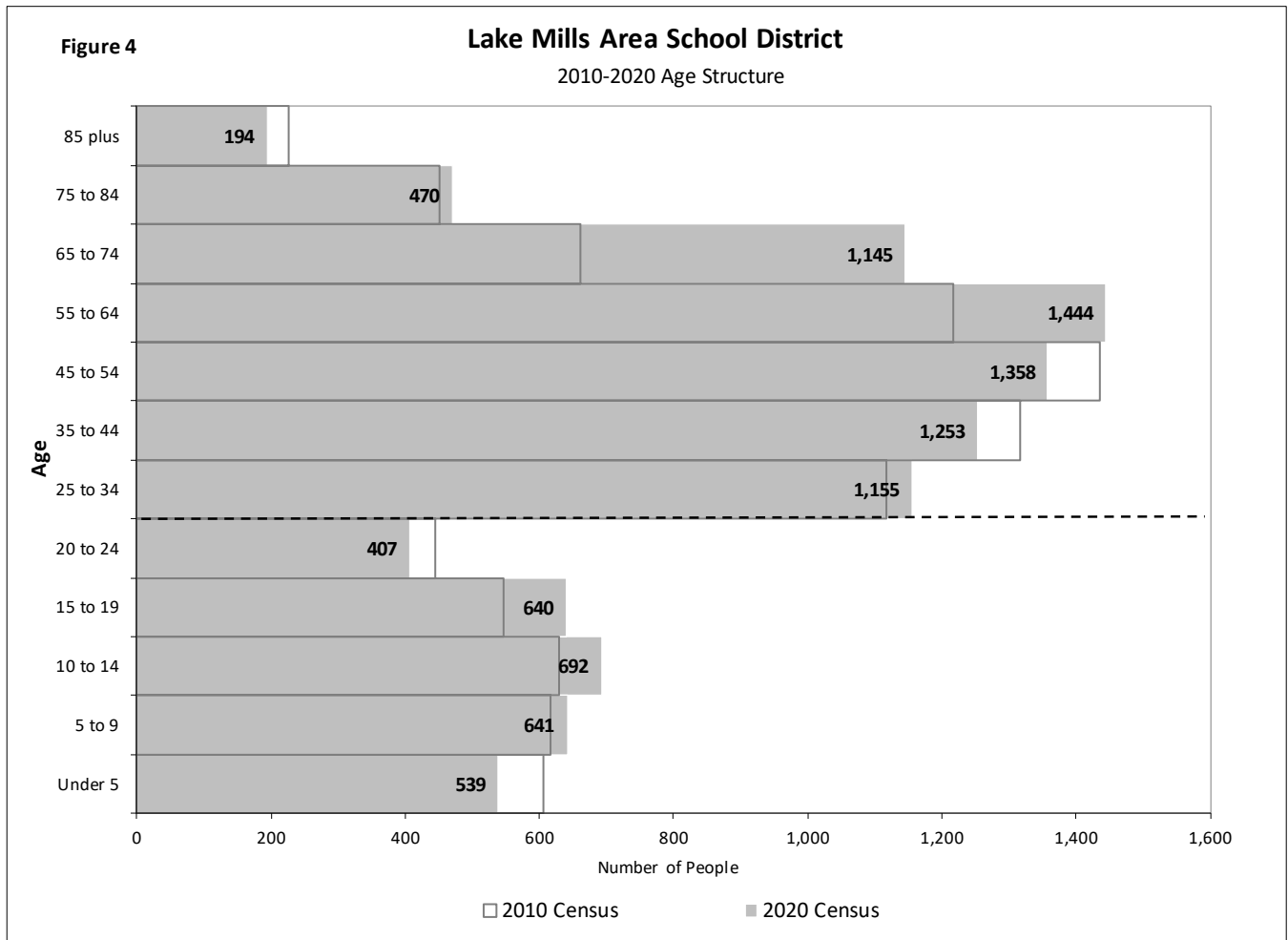


Table 4 also provides the population as enumerated in 2010 and 2020 by the decennial Census and shows the change in age structure. In specific age groups:

- Children under the age of 5 have decreased by 67, while the number of children ages 5-19 increased by 179.
- Young adults, ages 20-34, remained the same.
- The adult population ages 35-54 has decreased by 142, while empty nesters, ages 55-64, have increased by 228.
- Older adults, age 65 and older, have increased by 471.

TABLE 4
Population by Age, 2010-2020
Lake Mills Area School District

Age	2010	2020	Difference
Under 5	606	539	-67
5 to 9	617	641	24
10 to 14	630	692	62
15 to 19	547	640	93
20 to 24	444	407	-37
25 to 34	1,117	1,155	38
35 to 44	1,317	1,253	-64
45 to 54	1,436	1,358	-78
55 to 64	1,216	1,444	228
65 to 74	661	1,145	484
75 to 84	450	470	20
85 plus	227	194	-33
Total	9,268	9,938	670

Source: U. S. Census Bureau



Residential Development

Table 5-A shows the number of new housing starts in the Lake Mills Area School District over the past ten years. The new housing totals in the table include the entire municipality although only a portion of the towns are in the school district. District area housing starts saw a low in 2012 of 15 units and a high in 2020 of 124 units.

TABLE 5-A
School District Area Housing Starts
Lake Mills Area School District

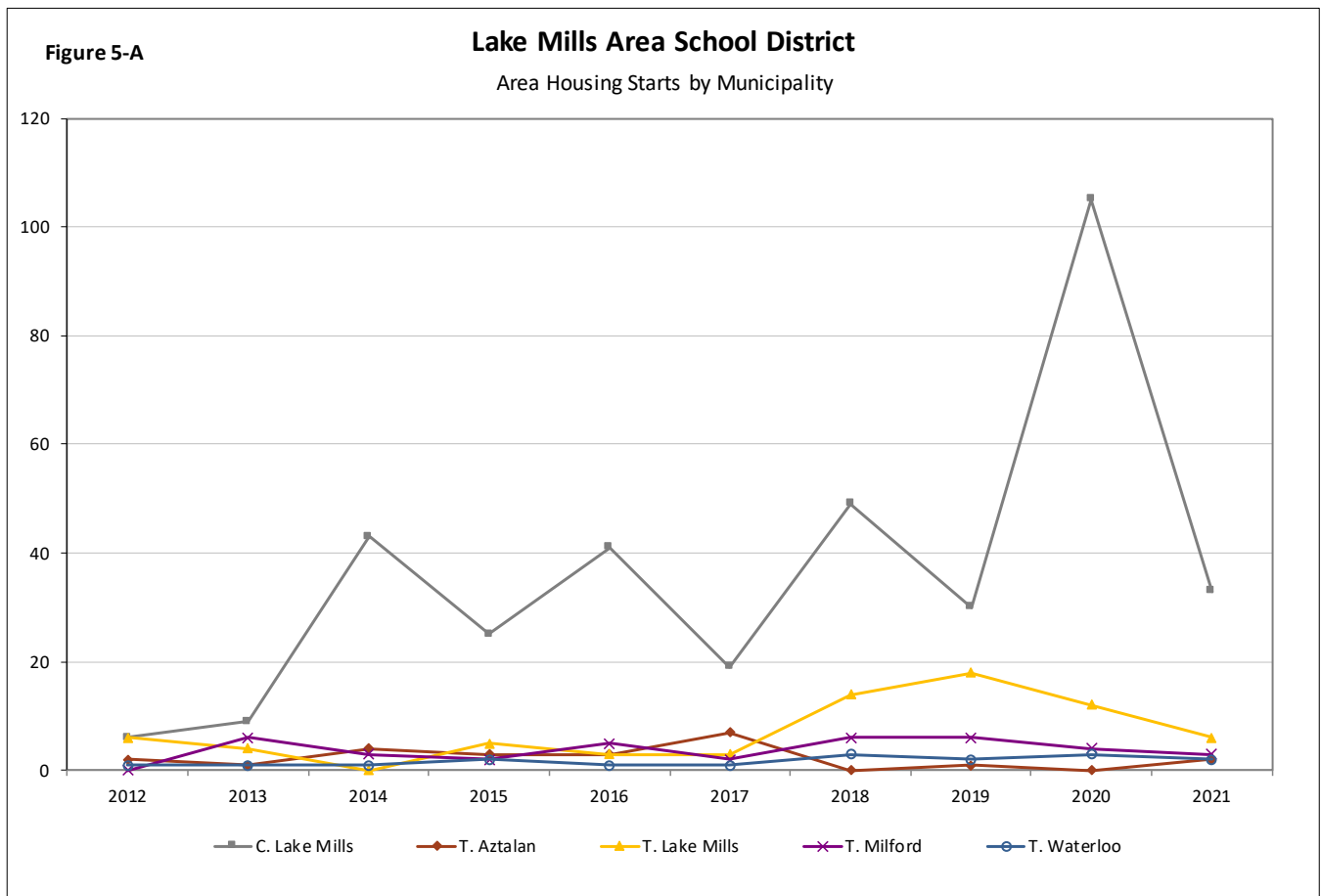
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
District Area										
TOTAL	15	21	51	37	53	32	72	57	124	46
Single Family	15	19	23	33	39	28	32	38	32	36
Two Family	0	2	2	4	14	4	0	0	4	2
Multi-family	0	0	26	0	0	0	40	19	88	8
C. Lake Mills										
TOTAL	6	9	43	25	41	19	49	30	105	33
Single Family	6	7	15	21	27	15	9	14	17	25
Two Family	0	2	2	4	14	4	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	26	0	0	0	40	16	88	8
T. Aztalan										
TOTAL	2	1	4	3	3	7	0	1	0	2
Single Family	2	1	4	3	3	7	0	1	0	2
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. Lake Mills										
TOTAL	6	4	0	5	3	3	14	18	12	6
Single Family	6	4	0	5	3	3	14	15	8	4
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
T. Milford										
TOTAL	0	6	3	2	5	2	6	6	4	3
Single Family	0	6	3	2	5	2	6	6	4	3
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. Waterloo										
TOTAL	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	2
Single Family	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	2
Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

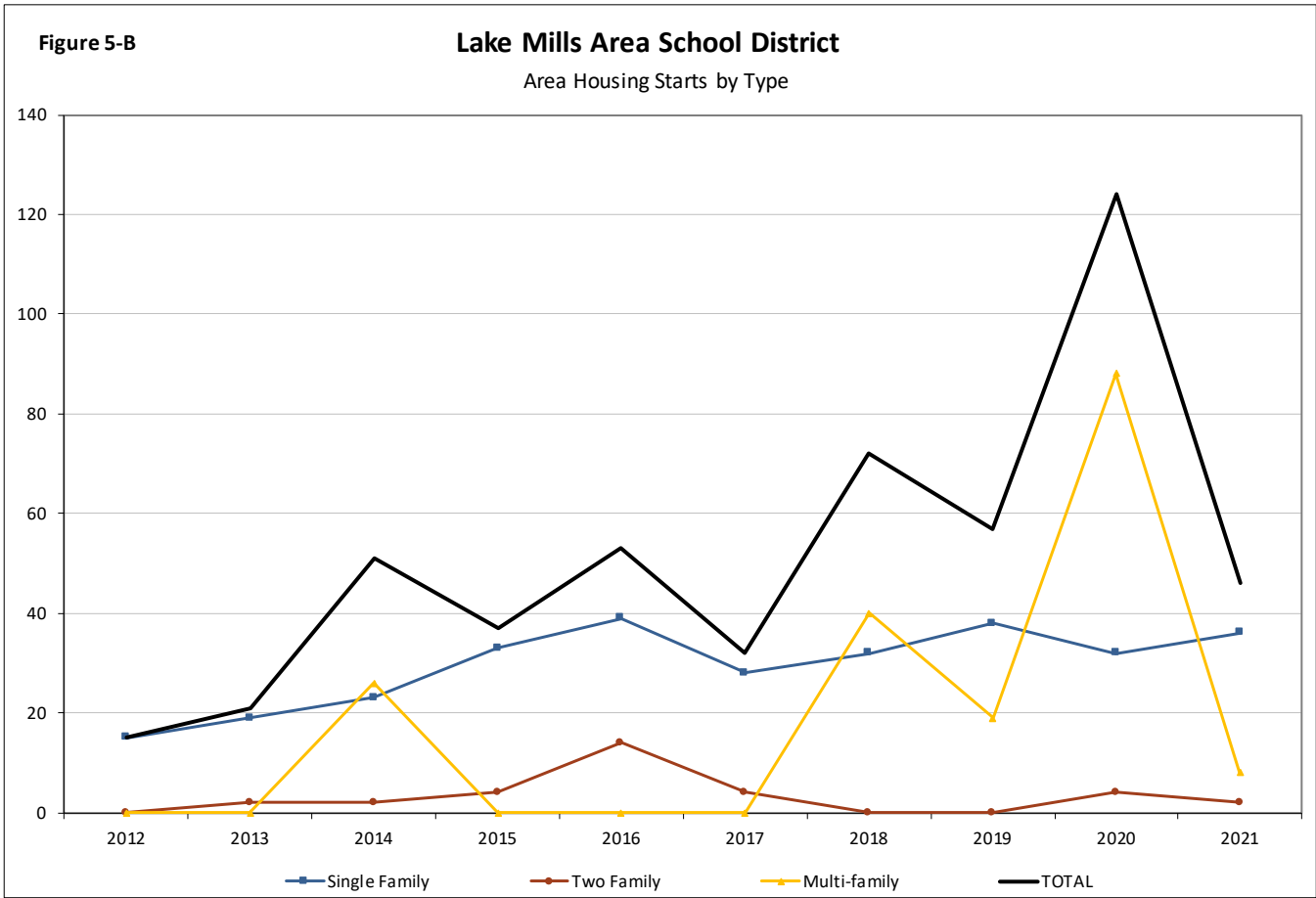
Source: Demographic Services Center, WIDOA



Examining trends in recent housing development can help to explain how in-migration into the Lake Mills Area School District area might be affecting school enrollment. If the number of housing starts in the district area is expected to be reasonably consistent for the next several years, then we assume that in-migration of school-age children will also remain relatively consistent. If the number of housing starts is expected to increase significantly above and beyond recent levels, in-migration may play an increasing role in school district enrollment.

Development in the district area has consisted primarily of single-family homes. The City of Lake Mills has seen the most housing growth and the city has also seen increasing numbers of multi-family construction in recent years. However, households in single family homes, on average, contain more school-aged children than in multi-family complexes. Figure 5-A shows the number of residential building permits issued by municipality for the City of Lake Mills and the surrounding towns. Figure 5-B shows housing starts in the area by type of housing unit: single-family homes, duplexes, and multi-family housing.





It is also important to consider that turnover in ownership of existing housing stock also contributes to changes in enrollment. Enrollment may change depending upon the cycle of resident homeowners. For instance, a younger community will have a higher child-per-household ratio, whereas an older community will have a lower child-per-household ratio. Several factors make predicting housing turnover difficult. These include variables like attractiveness to young families (demand), as well as suitable and available rental and owner-occupied housing (supply). In addition, housing turnover depends on even more elusive variables determined by housing market conditions, the economy, and individual choices of homeowners.

Turnover in ownership in an older community may result in an increase in the child-per-household number. As younger families move into the area, the school district will tend to see new students enrolling into the district’s schools. A change in home ownership may happen over the course of several years at varying rates and may differ between neighborhoods. Absent new housing development or housing turnover, householders age in place and the number of school-aged children eventually declines.



Table 5-B shows the in-migration of the Lake Mills Area School District from the 2021 American Community Survey. 91.2% of district residents live in the home they lived in one year ago. This percentage is higher for owner-occupied homes at 92.8%, while predictably a smaller percentage of renters at 81.6% lived at their residence one year ago.

TABLE 5-B
In-migration, one year ago (2021)
Lake Mills Area School District

	% Living in the Same House	% Moved within Same County	% Moved in from Different County	% Moved in from Different State or Country
Total	91.2	5.0	2.9	0.9
Owner-occupied	92.8	4.2	1.9	1.1
Renter-occupied	81.6	9.6	8.8	0.0
Median age (years)	40.5	37.1	28.6	29.6
Median income (dollars)	\$41,829	\$30,184	\$32,895	\$22,031

Source: ACS 2017-2021



Projections Method

To generate school enrollment projections, we rely on a commonly used demographic technique called the “cohort survival” method or the “grade progression ratio” method. This method advances current students through the school system over time and applies rates of transfer (or “survival”) as the students who are now in school age from year-to-year and grade-to-grade. It is through these rates of transfer that we make assumptions about how migration into and out of the district and transfers to and from different school districts will impact future enrollment.

Grade Progression Ratios

Grade progression ratios are used to measure district enrollment changes that have occurred within the school district in the recent past. By examining these, we can better understand recent changes in enrollment. We use these ratios as the rates of transfer to inform future student projections.

In order to predict future enrollment under different growth assumptions, three sets of grade progression ratios are calculated:

- Baseline: averages ten years of progression ratios, with outlying ratios (those outside of one standard deviation of the mean) excluded.
- Five-Year Trend: averages the past five years of progression ratios.
- Three-Year Trend: averages the past three years of progression ratios.

Table 6 shows the grade progression ratios for the Lake Mills Area School District.

TABLE 6
Grade Progression Ratios
Lake Mills Area School District

YEAR CHANGES	B:K	K:1	1:2	2:3	3:4	4:5	5:6	6:7	7:8	8:9	9:10	10:11	11:12
13-14/14-15	0.910	0.966	1.030	0.992	1.074	1.008	1.063	1.023	1.051	1.074	0.980	0.892	1.000
14-15/15-16	0.712	1.009	0.991	1.117	1.033	1.059	1.008	1.034	0.989	1.107	0.970	0.909	1.010
15-16/16-17	0.978	1.022	0.972	1.045	1.035	1.008	1.019	0.977	1.024	1.114	0.886	0.969	1.078
16-17/17-18	0.999	1.000	1.011	1.029	1.009	0.966	1.047	0.936	0.976	1.024	0.929	0.980	1.074
17-18/18-19	0.913	1.074	0.955	1.000	0.991	1.025	1.052	1.007	1.010	1.041	0.953	0.956	1.040
18-19/19-20	1.034	1.057	1.010	1.038	1.043	1.019	1.033	1.033	0.985	1.000	1.008	1.016	1.080
19-20/20-21	0.972	1.000	0.935	1.019	1.009	1.010	1.019	1.000	1.040	1.008	1.038	0.953	1.048
20-21/21-22	1.181	1.070	1.053	1.058	1.010	0.936	0.979	0.991	0.952	0.969	0.888	0.991	1.008
21-22/22-23	0.965	0.924	0.981	1.008	0.956	1.019	0.990	0.989	0.972	1.050	0.968	1.034	1.131
Baseline	0.967	1.009	0.993	1.028	1.018	1.015	1.029	0.998	0.993	1.033	0.968	0.970	1.048
Five-Year Trend	1.013	1.025	0.987	1.025	1.002	1.002	1.015	1.004	0.992	1.014	0.971	0.990	1.062
Three-Year Trend	1.039	0.998	0.990	1.029	0.992	0.989	0.996	0.993	0.988	1.009	0.965	0.993	1.062

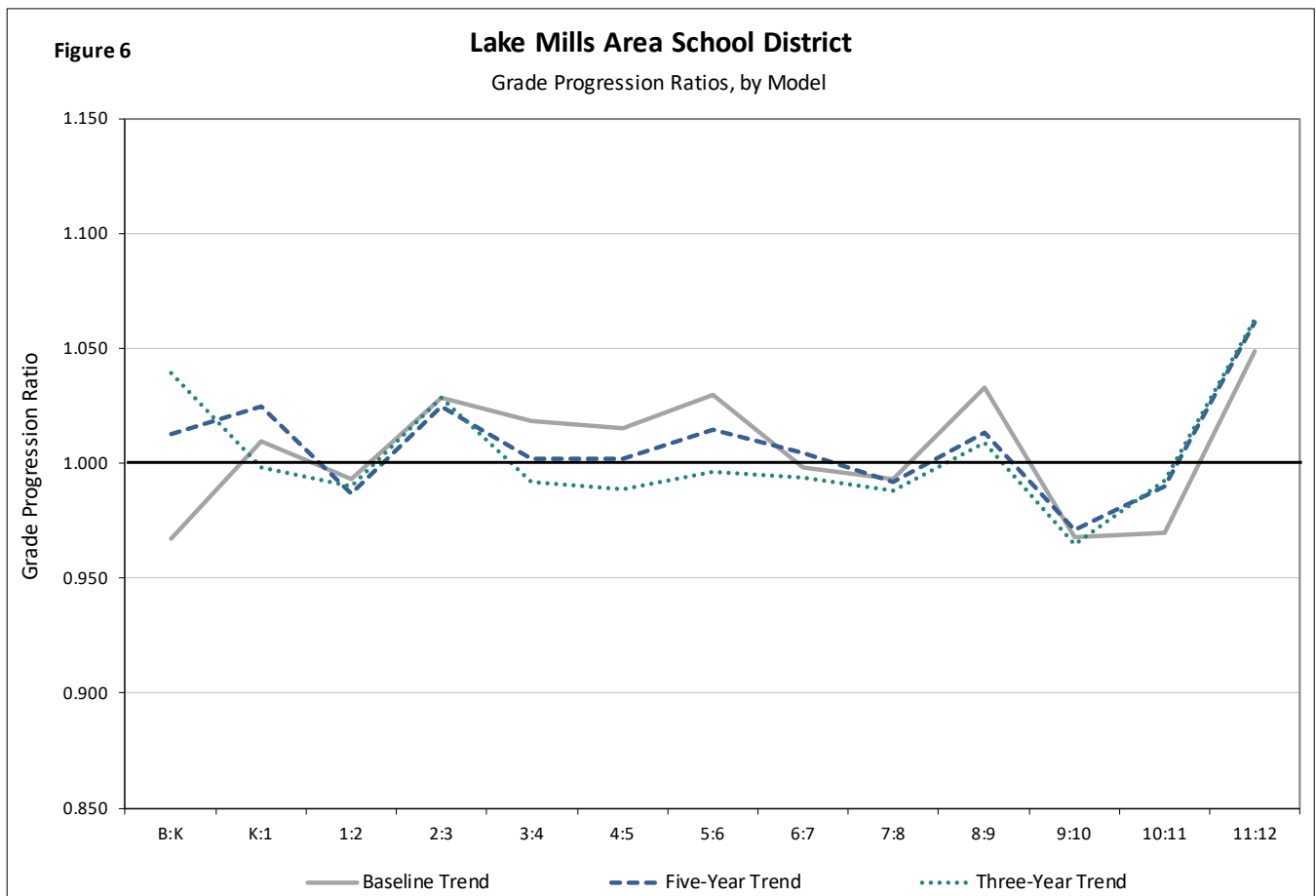
*Shaded progression ratios are excluded from the Baseline Average



The grade progression ratios can be interpreted in the following manner:

- The Five-Year Trend ratio for K:1 is 1.025. This means that, in the Lake Mills Area School District, the first grade is on average 2.5% larger than the kindergarten class of the previous year, the result of net in-migration to the district.
- The 10:11 Baseline ratio of .970 indicates that, on average, approximately 97% of tenth graders progress to eleventh grade the following year.

When the ratio is above 1.0 this indicates that enrollment tends to increase from year to year as each cohort of students advances. When the ratio is below 1.0 this indicates that enrollment tends to decrease from year to year. Figure 6 illustrates the patterns between these three grade progression ratio averages.



4K Grade Progression Ratios

Table 7 shows the observed grade progression ratios between births and 4K and between 4K and kindergarten over the last ten years. The 4K:K ratios are not used in the projection calculations, but they provide an indication that kindergarten is 7% to 10% larger than four-year-old kindergarten from the previous year.

To generate 4K enrollment projections, the ten-year grade progression ratio average will be used to project 4K enrollment in the Baseline model. The five-year grade progression ratio average will be used to project 4K enrollment in the Five-Year and Kindergarten Trend models. The three-year grade progression ratio average will be used to project 4K enrollment in Three-Year Trend model.

TABLE 7
4K Grade Progression Ratios
Lake Mills Area School District

	B:4K	4K:K
13-14/14-15	0.640	1.104
14-15/15-16	0.845	1.113
15-16/16-17	0.820	1.158
16-17/17-18	0.934	1.218
17-18/18-19	0.915	0.978
18-19/19-20	1.001	1.130
19-20/20-21	0.961	0.971
20-21/21-22	0.935	1.229
21-22/22-23	0.799	1.032
Baseline	0.887	1.104
Five-Year Trend	0.922	1.068
Three-Year Trend	0.898	1.077

*Shaded progression ratios are excluded from the Baseline Average



School Enrollment Projections

When considering all the projections provided in this report for decision-making, it is important to recognize that population projections of all types, including school enrollment projections, are more accurate in the immediate future than they are farther into the future. This is especially true for grades 4K-4, because the students who will enter four-year-old kindergarten after 2025 and kindergarten after 2026 have not yet been born. Overall, our projections are more reliable over the next five years (up to the 2027/28 school year) than they are in the latter half of the decade.

Baseline Projections

The Baseline model (Table 8) projects enrollment using the assumption that long-term progression ratios, year to year and grade to grade, will continue into the future, as well as the long-range trend in births. This model projects that 4K-12 enrollment in the Lake Mills Area School District will decline over the next five years, from 1,498 students in 2022/23 to 1,418 in 2027/28, a decline of 80 students or a 5.4% decrease.

TABLE 8
Baseline Projection Model
Lake Mills Area School District

	SCHOOL YEAR									
	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
4K	80	86	91	87	84	83	82	81	80	78
K	99	86	93	97	93	90	89	88	87	85
1	97	100	86	94	98	94	91	90	89	87
2	108	96	99	86	93	98	93	91	89	88
3	108	111	99	102	88	95	100	96	93	92
4	122	110	113	101	104	90	97	102	97	95
5	88	124	112	115	102	105	91	99	104	99
6	111	91	128	115	118	105	108	94	102	107
7	102	111	91	127	115	118	105	108	94	101
8	93	101	110	90	126	114	117	104	107	93
9	109	96	104	114	93	131	118	121	108	111
10	121	106	93	101	110	90	126	114	117	104
11	118	117	103	91	98	107	87	123	110	114
12	129	124	123	108	95	103	112	92	129	116
TOTAL	1,486	1,460	1,445	1,426	1,418	1,422	1,418	1,401	1,405	1,370
K-12	1,406	1,373	1,354	1,339	1,334	1,339	1,336	1,320	1,325	1,292
4K-4	614	589	581	566	560	550	553	547	535	526
5-8	395	427	440	447	462	442	422	405	406	400
9-12	478	444	424	413	396	430	443	449	464	444



Five-Year Trend Projections

The Five-Year Trend model (Table 9) uses the grade progression ratios from the last five years and recent birth trends to project what future enrollments would look like if more recent patterns were representative of future trends. These projections use more recent patterns to provide future trends based on these patterns. With recent progression rates and birth trends weighted more heavily, 4K-12 enrollment is projected to decrease over the next five years, from 1,498 students in 2022/23 to 1,426 in 2027/28, a decline of 72 students or a 5% decrease.

TABLE 9
Five-Year Trend Projection Model
Lake Mills Area School District

GRADE	SCHOOL YEAR									
	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
4K	82	88	93	90	89	88	87	87	86	86
K	103	90	97	102	99	97	97	96	96	95
1	98	106	92	99	105	101	100	99	98	98
2	108	97	104	91	98	103	100	98	98	97
3	108	110	99	107	93	101	106	102	101	100
4	120	108	110	100	107	93	101	106	103	101
5	87	120	108	111	100	107	93	101	106	103
6	110	88	122	110	112	101	109	95	102	108
7	102	110	89	123	110	113	102	110	95	103
8	93	102	109	88	122	109	112	101	109	94
9	107	95	103	111	89	123	111	113	102	110
10	121	104	92	100	107	87	120	107	110	99
11	121	120	103	91	99	106	86	119	106	109
12	131	128	128	110	96	105	113	91	126	113
TOTAL	1,491	1,467	1,450	1,431	1,426	1,436	1,435	1,425	1,438	1,416
K-12	1,410	1,378	1,357	1,341	1,338	1,348	1,348	1,338	1,352	1,330
4K-4	619	599	596	589	590	583	590	589	582	577
5-8	392	421	428	431	444	431	416	406	412	408
9-12	480	447	426	411	392	422	429	431	445	431



Three-Year Trend Projections

The Three-Year Trend model (Table 10) averages the grade progression ratios from the last three years to project what future enrollments would look like if even more recent patterns were representative of future trends. According to this model, 4K-12 enrollment in the Lake Mills Area School District is projected to decrease over the next five years, from 1,498 students in 2022/23 to 1,394 in 2027/28, a decline of 104 students or a 7% decrease.

TABLE 10
Three-Year Trend Projection Model
Lake Mills Area School District

GRADE	SCHOOL YEAR									
	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
4K	80	86	90	88	86	86	85	85	84	84
K	106	92	100	105	101	100	99	99	98	97
1	96	106	92	99	104	101	100	99	98	98
2	108	95	105	91	98	103	100	99	98	97
3	108	111	98	108	93	101	106	103	101	101
4	119	107	110	97	107	93	100	105	102	101
5	86	118	106	109	96	106	92	99	104	101
6	108	86	117	105	108	95	105	91	99	104
7	101	107	85	116	105	108	95	104	91	98
8	93	100	106	84	115	104	106	93	103	90
9	107	94	101	107	85	116	104	107	94	104
10	121	103	90	97	103	82	112	101	104	91
11	121	120	102	90	97	102	81	111	100	103
12	131	129	127	109	95	103	108	86	118	106
TOTAL	1,483	1,452	1,429	1,404	1,394	1,399	1,395	1,383	1,395	1,374
K-12	1,404	1,366	1,339	1,317	1,308	1,313	1,309	1,299	1,311	1,291
4K-4	616	597	594	587	591	584	591	589	582	578
5-8	388	410	414	415	424	412	398	388	397	392
9-12	479	445	421	403	380	403	406	406	416	404



Kindergarten Trend Projections

For this method we perform a trend analysis to project the number of future kindergarten students, rather than relying upon the traditional birth to kindergarten (B:K) progression ratio. Then, the five-year grade progression ratios are used for projecting the other grades (1st-12th) in the district. In other words, this model assumes that the number of new kindergarteners each year over the next decade will continue to follow a trend averaging the ten-year and five-year trends of enrollment, regardless of the number of observed births in the school district area.

According to this projection method (Table 11), 4K-12 enrollment is projected to decrease over the next five years, from 1,498 students in 2022/23 to 1,469 in 2027/28, a decline of 29 students, or a 2% student loss.

TABLE 11
Kindergarten Trend Projection Model
Lake Mills Area School District

GRADE	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
4K	82	88	93	90	89	88	87	87	86	86
K	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114
1	98	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115
2	108	97	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113
3	108	110	99	108	109	110	112	113	114	115
4	120	108	110	100	109	110	111	112	113	114
5	87	120	108	111	100	109	110	111	112	113
6	110	88	122	110	112	101	110	111	113	114
7	102	110	89	123	110	113	102	111	112	113
8	93	102	109	88	122	109	112	101	110	111
9	107	95	103	111	89	123	111	113	102	111
10	121	104	92	100	107	87	120	107	110	99
11	121	120	103	91	99	106	86	119	106	109
12	131	128	128	110	96	105	113	91	126	113
TOTAL	1,493	1,484	1,477	1,464	1,469	1,491	1,505	1,512	1,543	1,539
K-12	1,411	1,396	1,384	1,374	1,381	1,403	1,418	1,425	1,456	1,454
4K-4	620	616	623	622	633	638	642	647	652	656
5-8	392	421	428	431	444	432	434	434	446	451
9-12	480	447	426	411	392	422	429	431	445	433



Comparison of Projection Models

Figures 7-10 and Tables 12-15 compare the four enrollment projection models broken down by total 4K-12 district enrollment and by grade groupings (4K-4, 5-8, and 9-12).

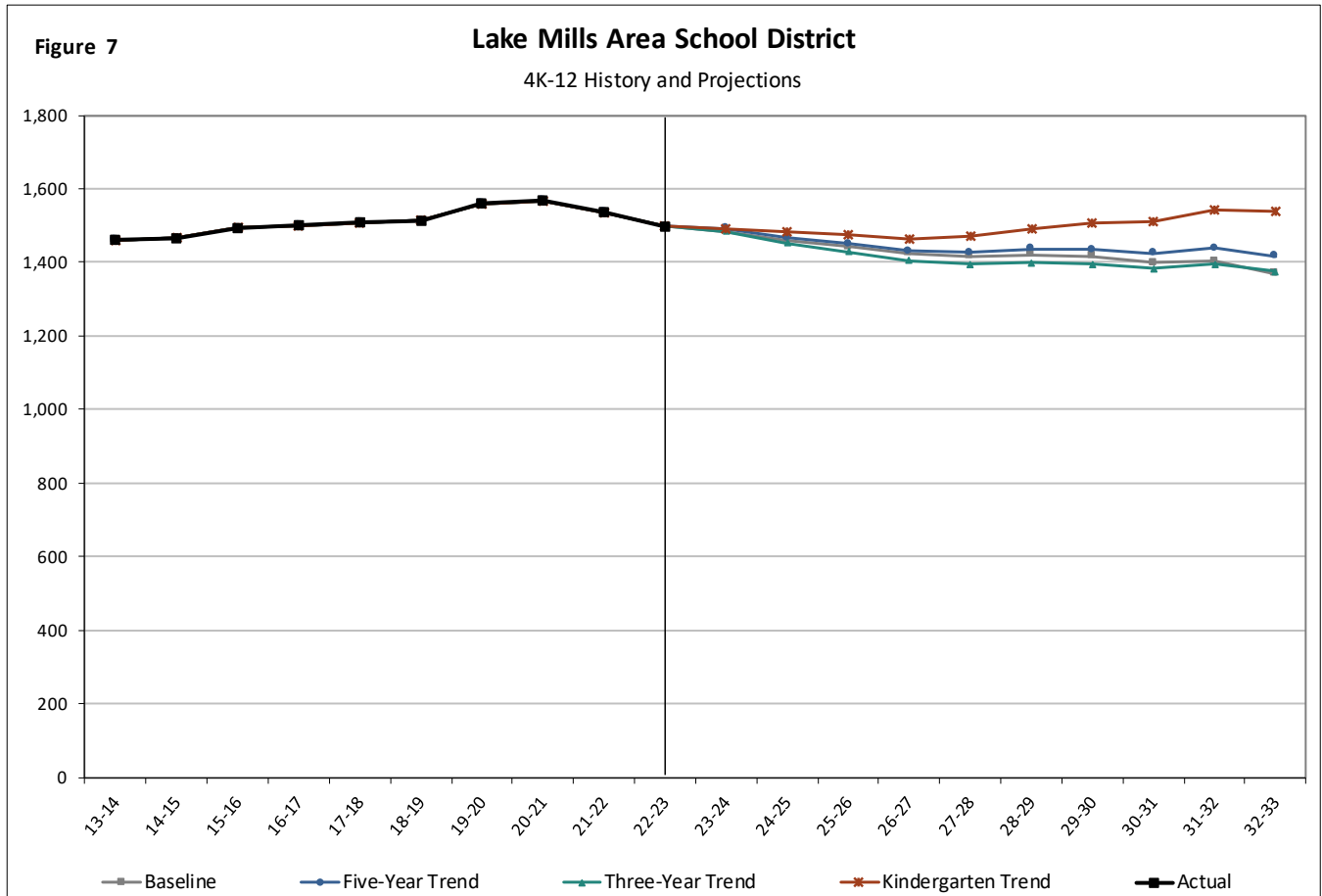


TABLE 12
Summary of 4K-12 Projections
Lake Mills Area School District

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
Baseline	1,486	1,460	1,445	1,426	1,418	1,422	1,418	1,401	1,405	1,370
Five-Year Trend	1,491	1,467	1,450	1,431	1,426	1,436	1,435	1,425	1,438	1,416
Three-Year Trend	1,483	1,452	1,429	1,404	1,394	1,399	1,395	1,383	1,395	1,374
Kindergarten Trend	1,493	1,484	1,477	1,464	1,469	1,491	1,505	1,512	1,543	1,539

From the 2022/23 enrollment of 1,498, all models project 4K-12 enrollment will decline over the next five years. The Kindergarten Trend model projects the least decline, while the Three-Year Trend model projects the greatest decrease. The projections five years from now (2027/28) range from 1,394 to 1,469 students.



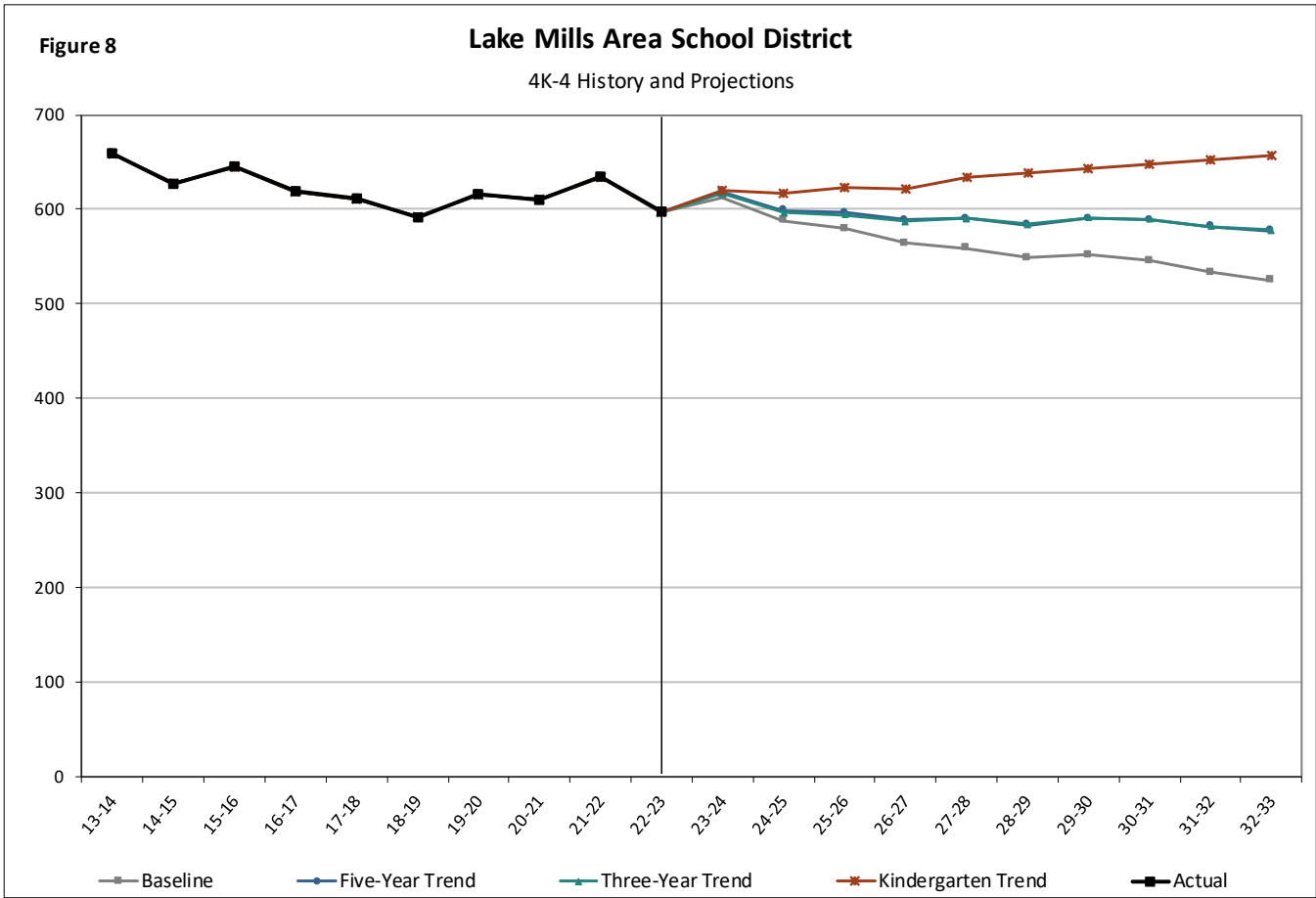


TABLE 13
Summary of 4K-4 Projections
Lake Mills Area School District

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
Baseline	614	589	581	566	560	550	553	547	535	526
Five-Year Trend	619	599	596	589	590	583	590	589	582	577
Three-Year Trend	616	597	594	587	591	584	591	589	582	578
Kindergarten Trend	620	616	623	622	633	638	642	647	652	656

From grades 4K-4 current enrollment of 597, enrollment will decline over the next five years for three of the four models. The Kindergarten Trend model is the only model to project growth, while the Baseline model projects the greatest decrease. The projections five years from now range from 560 to 633 students.



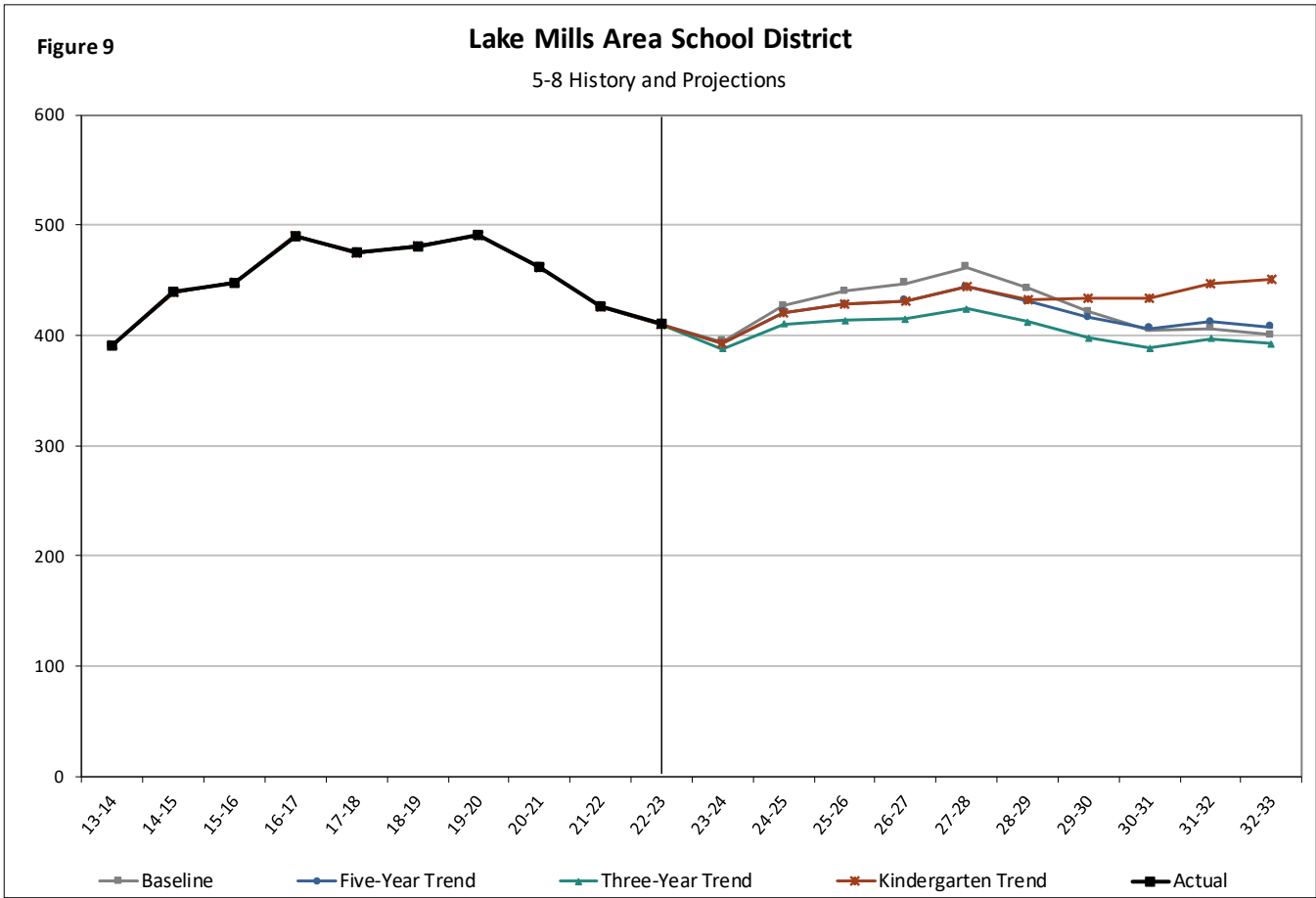


TABLE 14
Summary of 5-8 Projections
Lake Mills Area School District

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
Baseline	395	427	440	447	462	442	422	405	406	400
Five-Year Trend	392	421	428	431	444	431	416	406	412	408
Three-Year Trend	388	410	414	415	424	412	398	388	397	392
Kindergarten Trend	392	421	428	431	444	432	434	434	446	451

From grades 5-8 current count of 410 students, all models show increasing middle school enrollment for the next five years. The Three-Year Trend model projects the least amount of increase and Baseline model projects the greatest increase. By the 2027/28 school year projections range from 424 to 462 students.



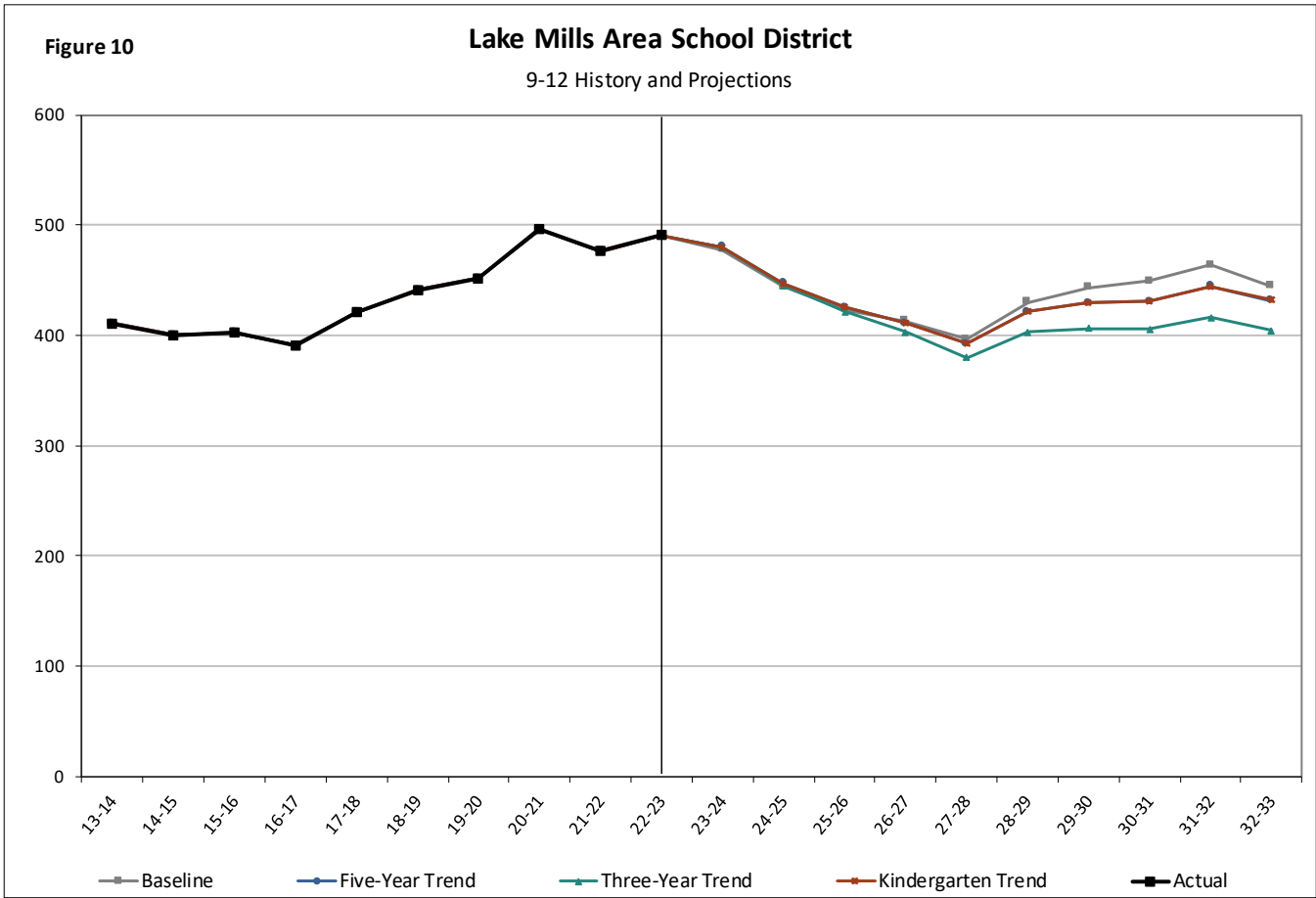


TABLE 15
Summary of 9-12 Projections
Lake Mills Area School District

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33
Baseline	478	444	424	413	396	430	443	449	464	444
Five-Year Trend	480	447	426	411	392	422	429	431	445	431
Three-Year Trend	479	445	421	403	380	403	406	406	416	404
Kindergarten Trend	480	447	426	411	392	422	429	431	445	433

From the high school 2022/23 count of 491 students, all models project decreasing enrollment for the next five years. The projections five years from now (2027/28) range from 380 to 396 students.



Conclusions

These district-level enrollment projections are based on models that incorporate past and current demographic information and the district's own enrollment. Because most of the students in the district's schools over the next few years have already been born or are already in school, and because their grade progression from one year to another is reasonably predictable, the total district-level projections should be viewed as having high accuracy over the next few years.

After a few years, and increasingly for the lower elementary grades, actual enrollment figures will likely deviate from these projections by ever-increasing amounts. The reason for this divergence is that birth trends, in-migration of pre-school age children, and transfers into the district are more difficult to predict, making meaningful incorporation into enrollment projections a challenge. As with nearly all types of forecasts, accuracy in these enrollment projections decreases over time.

Because the projections found in this report incorporate the consequences of migration to and from the district, any significant and sustained interruption of current or recent migration patterns will erode these models' accuracy from the initiation point of the new pattern. Overall, the various projection models provide a realistic range of migration effects on the school district.

In sum, enrollment projections point to the Lake Mills Area School District experiencing enrollment decline over the next five years. The Kindergarten Trend model projects less of a decline than the other models. Specifically, the district might expect:

- Overall decline through the next five years will likely range from 29 to 104 students or averaging a 4.7% decline.
- With municipal births and long-term kindergarten enrollment decreasing and recent kindergarten enrollment increasing, 4K-4 enrollment will show as many as a gain of 36 students or a loss of 37 students, over the next five years, or an average decline of 0.6%.
- As the current students progress through the elementary grades and enter middle school, the 5-8 enrollment will increase by 14 to 52 students over the next five years, or a student growth averaging 8.1%.
- High school enrollment is projected to decline, decreasing by 95 to 111 students over the next five years, or a 20.6% drop in the number of high school students.

The district should continue to monitor enrollment change, and compare it with these projections, to assess the district's trajectory of future growth and the best-fitting projection model.

