
IVb.

Enrollment Projections

Enrollment Fluctuations Factors

Fluctuations of enrollment can be affected by:

1. Economy – whether the economy and the job market are perceived as good or bad during a particular time period.
2. Housing market – building trends, the mortgage market, and availability of appropriate housing options for new residents; similarly, whether a prospective new resident is able to sell a residence in another area to move into Wake County.
3. The rate of immigration into Wake County.
4. Visibility of Wake County and WCPSS at state and national level, including accolades and awards.
5. School dropout and graduation rates.
6. Students leaving or staying in the system affect enrollment figures, as do new students entering the system for the first time (KI, and 1-12 grades). New testing and promotion/retention requirements can impact enrollment.
7. Other schooling options (home, private, charter).
8. Natural growth trends (fertility - mortality).
9. Other factors, like loss of about 1,000 Kindergarten students in the 2009-2010 school year, due to the change in entry birth date from October 15 to August 31.

Dynamics of WCPSS Student Enrollment

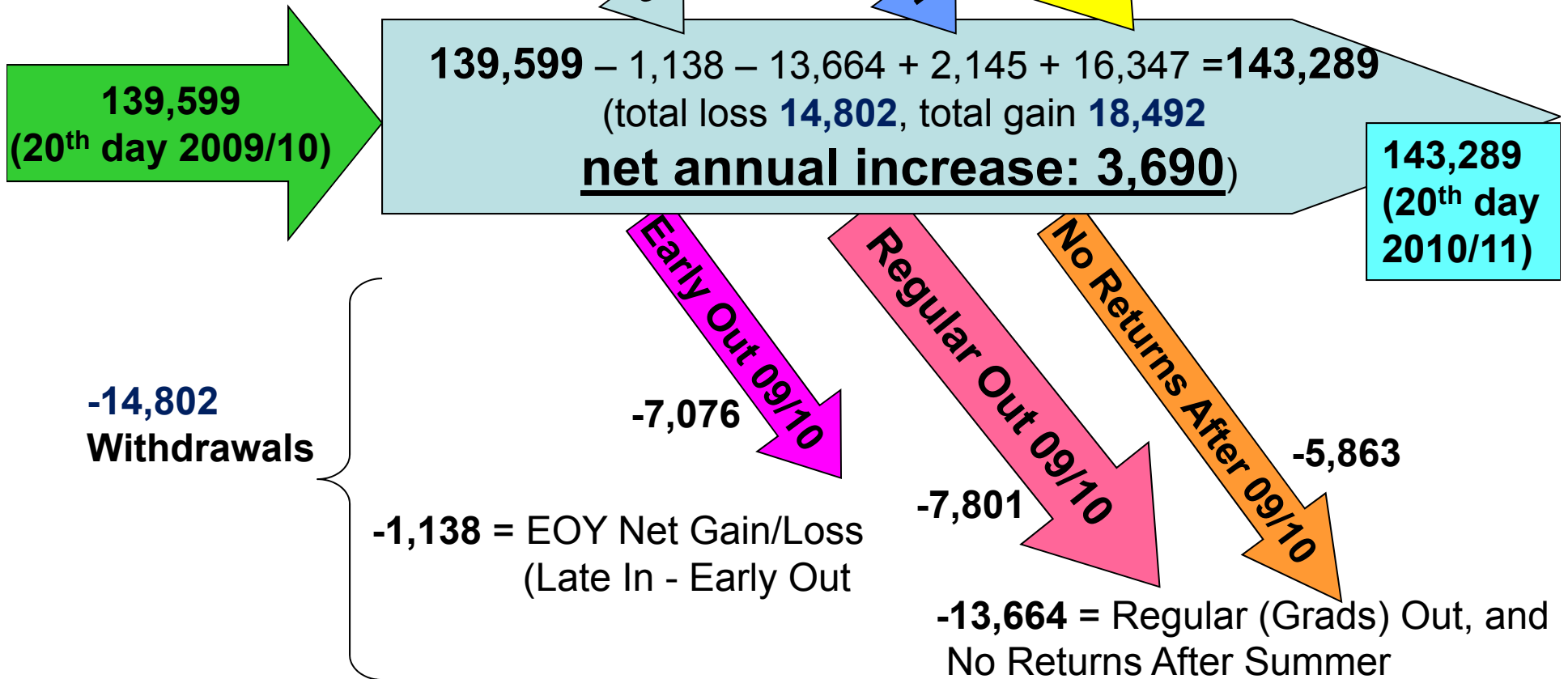
- Typical “year” starts on the 20th day, and ends on the 20th day (minus 1) next year
- Example 2010 – 2011
 - 2010-11 (20th): 143,289
 - 2009-10 (20th): 139,599
 - Annual (NET) increase (20th to 20th):
 $143,289 - 139,599 = \mathbf{3,690}$
- However, this is not the whole story..

Total Counts

- **During 2009-10 year, 14,802 students withdrew or graduated from WCPSS**
 - 1,138 student membership loss during the school year (net between incoming and outgoing students during the year -20th day to End Of Year).
 - 13,664 completing 2009 and not returning in 2010 (including regular graduates and summer no returns.
- **At the start of 2010-11, 18,492 students were admitted to WCPSS (including the new kindergarten class)**
 - 2,145 were WCPSS net gains from summer – (Pre-kindergarten promotions, retention and similar within WCPSS
 - 16,347 were “new faces” – Kindergarten and 1st - 12th grade mostly newcomers to WCPSS (e.g., from public, private/religious, charter, home schools, or never attended school before - either in Wake County, outside of Wake County, outside of NC, or outside of US).

WCPSS Pipeline

2009-10 to
2010-11



Student Enrollment Projections For WCPSS

Student enrollment projections for the WCPSS operating budget are generated once a year in advance of the preparation of WCPSS' Budget document. However, student enrollment projections for capital purposes have a multi-year impact, and projections that are too conservative may not produce enough seats if the economy begins to improve and student enrollment grows at a faster rate. Thus, staff has generated two different student enrollment projections. Note that kindergarten enrollment growth was artificially high in 2010 due to the prior year including only 46 weeks of kindergartners based on the change in the age cutoff for kindergarten enrollment from October 15 to August 31 starting in 2009-2010 school year.

| School Year Starting | Operating Projection | | | | Capital/Building Program Projection | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|
| | -1% | Mid-Point | 1% | Growth | -1% | Mid-Point | 1% | Growth |
| 2010 | 141,856 | 143,289 | 140,995 | 2.6% (Note 1) | 141,856 | 143,289 | 144,722 | 2.6% (Note 1) |
| 2011 | 145,190 | 146,657 | 148,124 | 2.4% | 145,190 | 146,657 | 148,124 | 2.4% |
| 2012 | 148,810 | 150,313 | 151,816 | 2.5% | 149,874 | 151,388 | 152,902 | 3.2% |
| 2013 | 152,807 | 154,350 | 155,894 | 2.7% | 154,743 | 156,306 | 157,869 | 3.2% |
| 2014 | 157,156 | 158,743 | 160,330 | 2.8% | 159,979 | 161,595 | 163,211 | 3.4% |
| 2015 | 160,278 | 161,897 | 163,516 | 2.0% | 165,066 | 166,733 | 168,400 | 3.2% |
| 2016 | 162,970 | 164,616 | 166,262 | 1.7% | 169,737 | 171,452 | 173,167 | 2.8% |
| 2017 | 165,674 | 167,347 | 169,020 | 1.7% | 174,472 | 176,234 | 177,996 | 2.8% |
| 2018 | 168,126 | 169,824 | 171,522 | 1.5% | 181,090 | 182,919 | 184,748 | 3.8% |
| 2019 | 170,907 | 172,633 | 174,359 | 1.7% | 186,945 | 188,833 | 190,721 | 3.2% |
| 2020 | 174,254 | 176,014 | 177,774 | 2.0% | 192,817 | 194,765 | 196,713 | 3.1% |

Notes:

General

> Growth would likely had been 2.4% had kindergarten enrollment not been affected by the change in the enrollment eligibility for kindergarten students.

>All subsequent projections include one full year of kindergarteners.

Economic Projection

>The period from 1988 to 1998 was modeled because of the similar decline in rate of student enrollment growth (2.5% in 1988; 2.8% in 2008.

>Population, unemployment, building construction, and school construction are factors that reflect behaviors that occurred in this period and can inform trends we will see in the future.

>Population: The proportion of WCPSS students to the County's overall population remains at the historical rate of 15% to 16%.

>Unemployment: The unemployment rate increased in the first 5 years of the economic cycle modeled, unemployment remains high in the current projection period until recovery begins to occur in 2012 and 2013.

>Building permits: The number of building permits issued increased sharply in 1991, following a population growth spike and decreasing unemployment rate. While building permits are up for the County after two years of decline, they are not yet resulting in significant increases in the property tax base.

>School Construction/Openings: School construction has generally followed the trend of growth in population, student enrollment and building permits.

>The period from 1998 to 2008 was NOT modeled because this period experienced three incidences of slower enrollment growth (2.8% in 1998, 2.8% in 2000, 3.0% in 2002), one of which - 9/11 - was an unpredictable occurrence.

Prepared by Wake County Budget Office, Wake County Planning Department, and WCPSS Growth and Planning Department, 2-1-11.

Student Enrollment Projections By Grade

Based on Capital/Building Program Projection

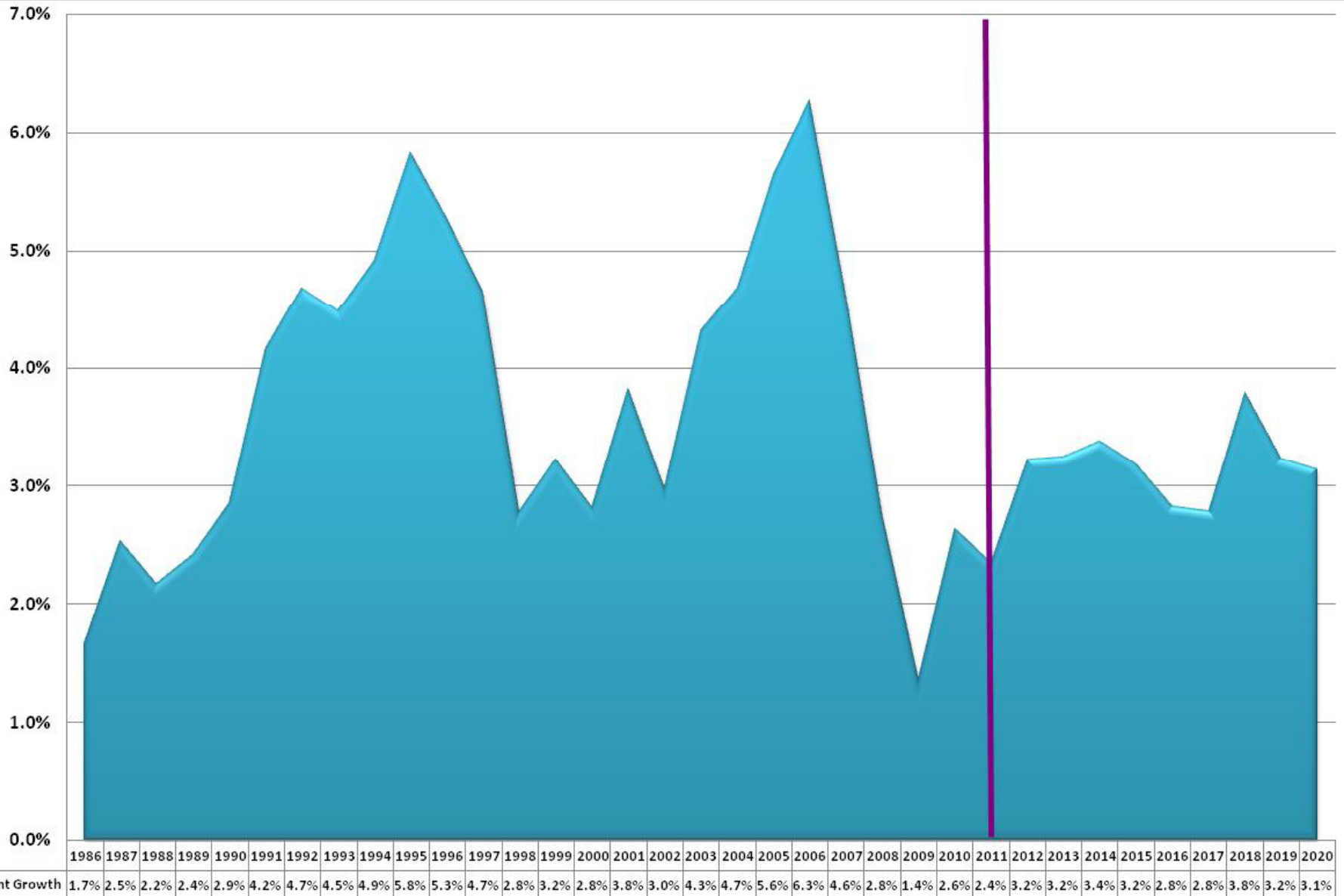
| Grade | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| K | 11,662 | 11,547 | 12,422 | 12,806 | 13,311 | 13,661 | 13,860 | 14,243 | 15,537 | 15,680 | 16,071 |
| 1 | 11,037 | 12,030 | 12,072 | 12,881 | 13,304 | 13,800 | 14,150 | 14,382 | 14,882 | 16,052 | 16,264 |
| 2 | 11,945 | 11,161 | 12,105 | 12,208 | 12,975 | 13,398 | 13,862 | 14,217 | 14,563 | 15,020 | 16,101 |
| 3 | 11,708 | 12,019 | 11,406 | 12,272 | 12,431 | 13,153 | 13,562 | 14,021 | 14,477 | 14,804 | 15,258 |
| 4 | 11,725 | 11,836 | 12,198 | 11,679 | 12,505 | 12,689 | 13,364 | 13,773 | 14,317 | 14,742 | 15,078 |
| 5 | 11,353 | 11,891 | 12,074 | 12,439 | 12,008 | 12,796 | 12,991 | 13,645 | 14,140 | 14,650 | 15,076 |
| 6 | 11,035 | 11,495 | 12,068 | 12,274 | 12,654 | 12,302 | 13,031 | 13,253 | 13,976 | 14,440 | 14,943 |
| 7 | 10,922 | 11,270 | 11,769 | 12,335 | 12,573 | 12,951 | 12,646 | 13,345 | 13,671 | 14,349 | 14,814 |
| 8 | 10,751 | 11,122 | 11,510 | 12,004 | 12,572 | 12,825 | 13,192 | 12,947 | 13,689 | 14,013 | 14,675 |
| 9 | 12,339 | 12,890 | 13,425 | 13,891 | 14,478 | 15,110 | 15,445 | 15,873 | 15,901 | 16,585 | 17,027 |
| 10 | 10,396 | 10,689 | 11,184 | 11,649 | 12,047 | 12,542 | 13,057 | 13,355 | 13,780 | 13,825 | 14,360 |
| 11 | 9,595 | 9,712 | 10,005 | 10,451 | 10,888 | 11,250 | 11,689 | 12,157 | 12,494 | 12,864 | 12,933 |
| 12 | 9,078 | 8,995 | 9,148 | 9,427 | 9,844 | 10,262 | 10,604 | 11,019 | 11,490 | 11,810 | 12,165 |
| | 143,546 | 146,657 | 151,388 | 156,315 | 161,590 | 166,739 | 171,452 | 176,230 | 182,918 | 188,834 | 194,766 |
| BREAKDOWN BY LEVEL: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ELEMENTARY | 69,430 | 70,484 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 | 69,430 |
| MIDDLE | 32,708 | 33,887 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 | 32,708 |
| HIGH | 41,408 | 42,286 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 | 41,408 |
| ELEMENTARY % | 48.4% | 48.1% | 47.7% | 47.5% | 47.4% | 47.7% | 47.7% | 47.8% | 48.1% | 48.2% | 48.2% |
| MIDDLE % | 22.8% | 23.1% | 23.3% | 23.4% | 23.4% | 22.8% | 22.7% | 22.4% | 22.6% | 22.7% | 22.8% |
| HIGH % | 28.8% | 28.8% | 28.9% | 29.1% | 29.2% | 29.5% | 29.6% | 29.7% | 29.3% | 29.2% | 29.0% |

Note: Staff continues to believe that during times of high economic growth with high levels of in-migration, WCPSS experiences large increases in student enrollment. Conversely, during times of slow economic growth and low in-migration, WCPSS student enrollment grows at a much more moderate rate. The rate of growth for the County follows this same trend. Student enrollment projections have been revised to reflect a more moderate economic recovery.

The capital projections reflect a slower rate of growth. While the projection continues to mirror the same economic trends experienced during the 1988-1998 growth period, the percent growth has been lowered to reflect a larger scale of actual WCPSS enrollment and to reflect lower live births which will result in lower kindergarten enrollment in the future. This methodology continues to result in slower growth in student enrollment in years where the economy may grow at a slower rate, and faster growth in student enrollment in years where the economy is rebounding or has recovered.

GROWTH IN TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1986 - 2010

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT GROWTH FOR BUILDING PROGRAM: 2011 - 2020



Prepared by Wake County Budget Office, Wake County Planning Department, and WCPSS Growth and Planning Department, 11-18-09.