

**WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES
NASSAU - SUFFOLK
BI-COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT
2017 - 2026**



*Prepared by Western Suffolk BOCES, Division of Instructional Support Services
Office of School Planning & Research*

June 2024



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of Western Suffolk County, New York

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to provide you with the **Annual Bi-County Nassau/Suffolk Public School District Enrollment Report** that has been compiled by the **Office of School Planning and Research of Western Suffolk BOCES**. This document provides you with information about historical enrollments (2017 - 2023) in the Long Island counties, as well as projected enrollments through 2026.

Enrollment in public school districts on Long Island has declined by 6.3% since 2017, with decreases of 4.0% in Nassau County and 7.3% in Suffolk County. Since 2017, the elementary (K - 5) and middle (6 - 8) grade enrollments on Long Island declined 6.3% and 6.7%, respectively, while the high school grades (9 - 12) recorded a smaller loss of 4.5%.

Projections suggest a decline of 1.4% in the region over the next three years. However, the elementary grades are projected to remain stable (loss of 0.1%) through 2026, while an additional loss of 3.5% is expected in the high school grades and a smaller loss of 1.0% is expected in the middle school grades. Total regional enrollment will continue to be impacted as exiting twelfth grade classes will be replaced by smaller entering kindergarten cohorts.

Enrollment in public school districts is affected by demographic factors, including the number of children being born in the area, economic and housing trends, non-public/charter school enrollments and immigration/migration patterns.

Population Changes

While the population in the United States increased 9.7% between 2000 and 2010, Long Island's population grew by 2.9%; Nassau grew by only 0.4%, while Suffolk grew by 5.2%. Between 2010 and 2020, Nassau County recorded a gain of 4.2%, while a smaller gain of 2.2% was recorded in Suffolk County. More recently, *Census* estimates indicate that between 2021 and 2022, net migration losses resulted in a population decline of 0.9% in New York State; a similar decline of 0.5% was recorded in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Long Island's population has experienced demographic changes. Both Nassau and Suffolk Counties saw declines in the numbers of pre-school (0 - 4) and school aged (5 - 19) children between 2000 and 2020. In 2000, 26.9% of Nassau's population and 28.4% of Suffolk's population was comprised of these age groups; by 2020 this group had decreased to 23.9% of the population in Nassau County and 23.2% in Suffolk County. However, there has been a significant increase in the share of the senior population, which is reflected in the median age of Long Islanders. Nassau County's median age in 2000 was 38.5 years, but rose to 41.9 years by 2020; Suffolk County noted an increase from 36.5 years in 2000 to 42.0 years in 2020. The 2020 median age in both counties is higher than New York State's median age of 39.0 years and the nation's median age of 38.8 years.

Births

Provisional data released by *the National Center for Health Statistics* indicates there were nearly 3.6 million births recorded in the United States in 2023, reflecting a decrease of 2.1% when compared to 2022. With the exception of 2014 and 2021, birth declines have been recorded each year since 2008. Within New York State, 2023 births declined 2.2 percent when compared to the prior year (county birth data for 2023 is not yet available). Birth declines have been linked to various factors, including significant student loan debt and high housing costs, which forced many young adults to continue to live with their parents and to delay marriage and children. This has contributed to the declines in the number of pre-school and school-age children in Long Island schools.

Immigration

Immigration is a large contributor to population growth in the United States. According to the **2022 American Community Survey (five-year estimate)**, foreign-born residents in the United States account for 13.7% of the total population. It is estimated that 50.0% of these immigrants were born in Latin America. Foreign-born residents in New York State represent 22.6% of the total population, while the foreign-born in Nassau and Suffolk Counties comprise 22.8% and 16.0% of the populations, respectively. Of the foreign-born population on Long Island, 49.5% in Nassau County and 60.1% in Suffolk County were born in Latin America. In addition, there has been significant growth in the Asian segment in the United States, New York State and on Long Island. In 2022, foreign-born residents from Asian countries accounted for 31.2% of the immigrant population in the United States and 29.7% of the foreign-born population

in New York State; on Long Island, 33.4% and 20.3% of the immigrant populations in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, respectively, were born in Asian countries. An increasing percentage of foreign-born residents living on Long Island reported that a language other than English is spoken at home when compared to figures reported in the 2000 Census. Numerous districts have implemented programmatic and space modifications in order to meet the needs of the growing population of bilingual and English language learners.

Housing Market

Real estate markets continue to feel the residual effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The historically tight supply of inventory, coupled with high demand, has driven median sale prices to historic highs in many communities on Long Island. In addition, rising interest rates have contributed to the lack of available inventory as home-owners are reluctant to list their homes and relinquish their low mortgage rates. These factors, combined with high property taxes, present challenges for many first-time home buyers attempting to enter the housing market.

These demographic factors impact school district enrollments. It is recommended that administrators remain current with the trends that are developing within their districts and study historical data, as well as recent enrollment and demographic trends

Western Suffolk BOCES is available to support you in long-range planning by offering experienced, objective assistance in the following areas:

- ◆ **Demographics** – an analysis of population, births, housing, resident characteristics and non-public school enrollment.
- ◆ **Enrollment** – an analysis of historical enrollment trends and future enrollment projections for the district as a whole, for specific grade sub-sets, and for individual schools.
- ◆ **Facilities** – an analysis of each facility’s capacity with an assessment of the impact of projected enrollment on future facility utilization and program delivery.
- ◆ **Future Organization** – a presentation of organizational alternatives, suited to district policy, allowing for equity in districts’ schools, continued program excellence and implementation of educational goals.

Please contact the Office of School Planning & Research if you would like to discuss our services and how we may offer long range planning assistance for your district.

Christina Vagenas-Bischoff, Ph.D.

Coordinator of Instructional Support and Planning

Office of School Planning & Research

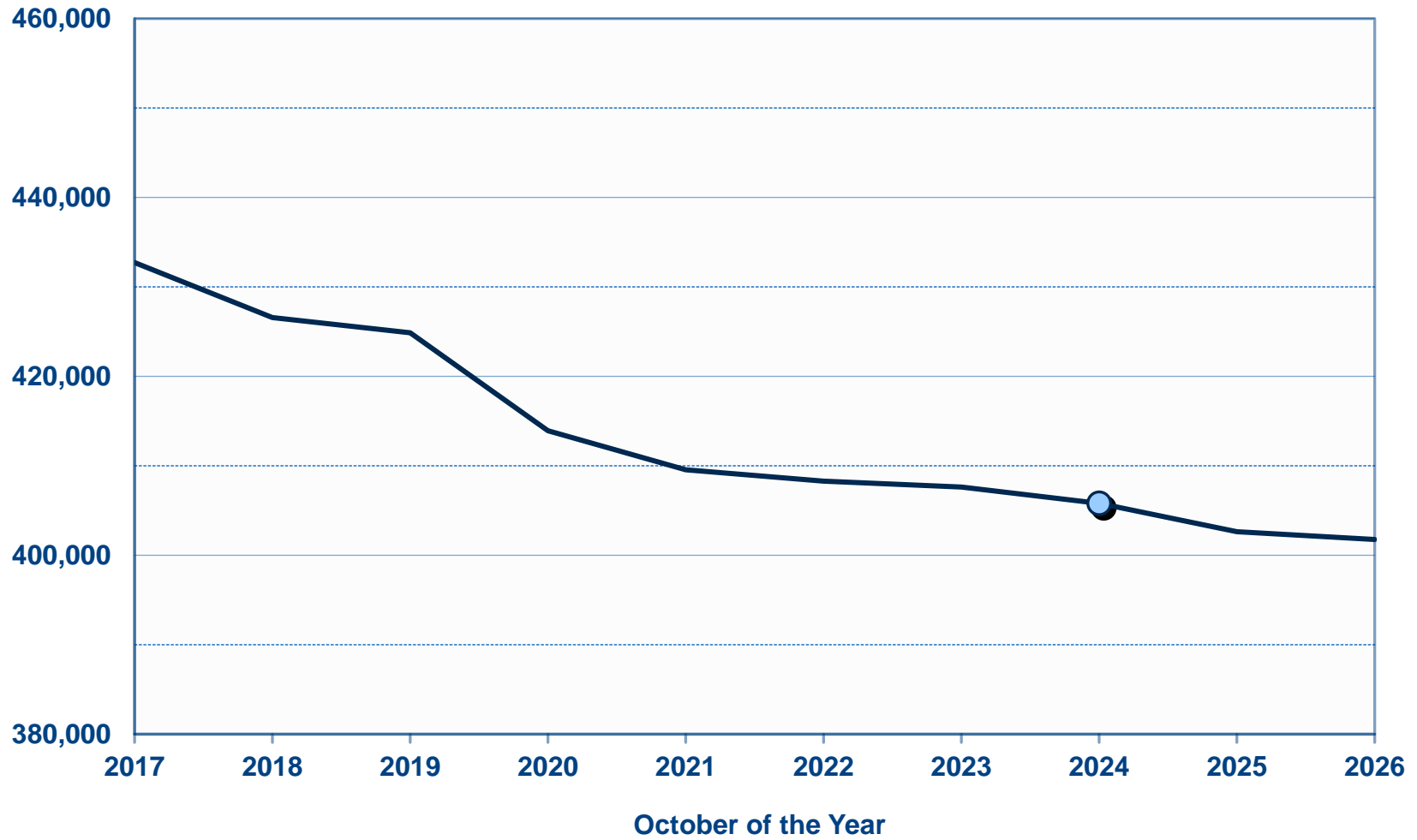
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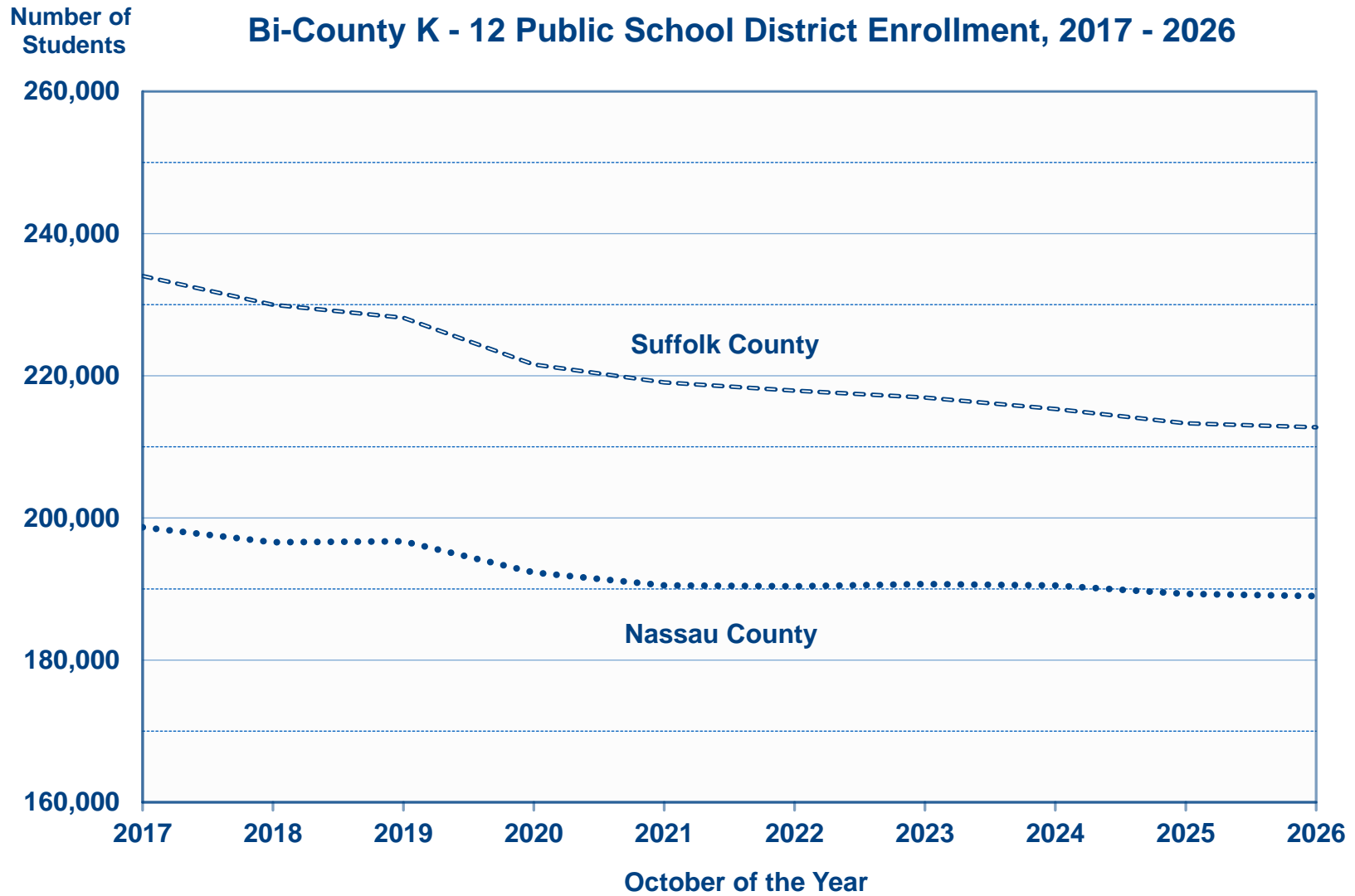
Sources: US Census Bureau, NYS Education Department, National Center for Health Statistics, NYS Association of Realtors

Number of
Students

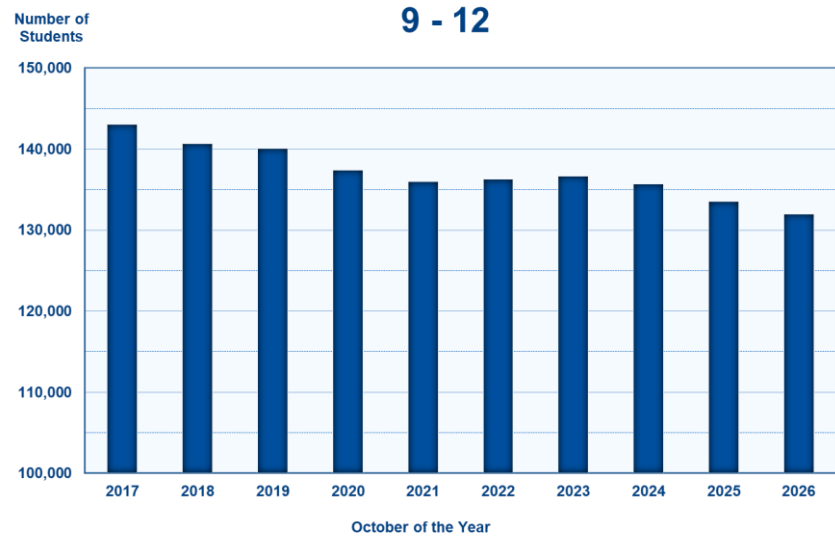
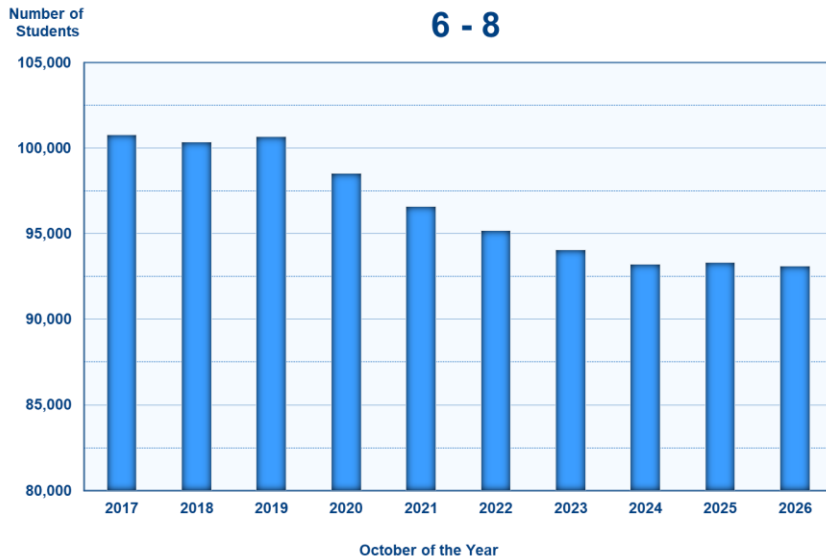
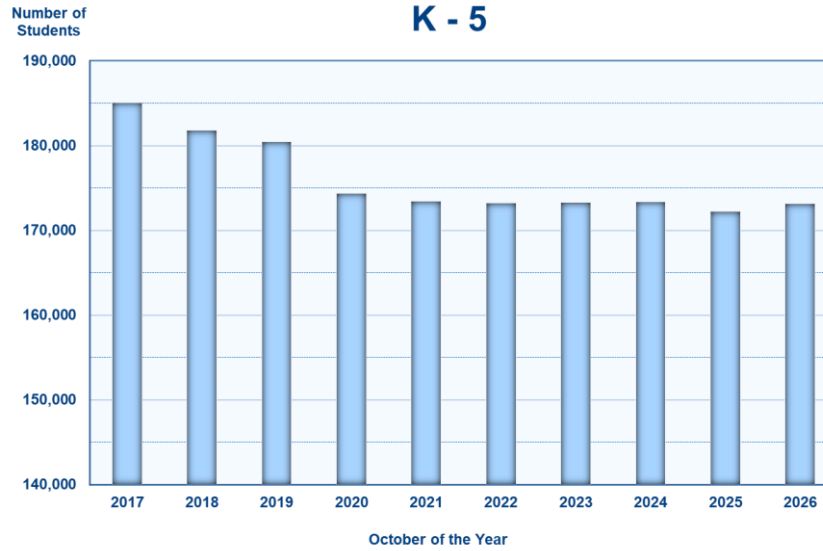
Long Island Region K - 12 Public School District Enrollment, 2017 - 2026



Bi-County K - 12 Public School District Enrollment, 2017 - 2026



Long Island Region Public School District Enrollment, 2017 - 2026



NASSAU/SUFFOLK REGION PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - HISTORICAL

GRADE	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23 <i>prelim</i>
KINDERGARTEN	28,520	28,006	28,695	26,562	27,686	27,294	27,288
FIRST	29,554	29,138	28,831	28,721	27,987	28,639	28,069
SECOND	30,437	29,859	29,541	28,709	28,938	28,545	29,241
THIRD	31,355	30,644	30,149	29,348	28,895	29,318	28,902
FOURTH	32,154	31,713	31,121	30,040	29,655	29,356	29,900
FIFTH	33,035	32,432	32,102	30,999	30,273	30,111	29,906
SIXTH	33,444	33,479	32,898	32,015	31,302	30,832	30,670
SEVENTH	33,113	33,649	33,727	32,831	32,246	31,674	31,276
EIGHTH	34,223	33,221	34,059	33,671	33,037	32,695	32,123
NINTH	35,363	34,627	34,650	34,005	34,353	33,722	33,283
TENTH	35,901	35,428	34,873	34,119	33,979	34,792	34,067
ELEVENTH	35,066	35,116	35,020	34,159	33,333	33,826	34,588
TWELFTH	36,732	35,480	35,539	35,127	34,341	33,925	34,737
UNGRADED	3,825	3,779	3,672	3,613	3,539	3,553	3,576
TOTAL	432,722	426,571	424,877	413,919	409,564	408,282	407,626
% CHANGE		-1.4%	-0.4%	-2.6%	-1.1%	-0.3%	-0.2%

NASSAU/SUFFOLK REGION PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - HISTORICAL (excluding ungraded)

GRADE	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23 <i>prelim</i>
K - 5	185,055	181,792	180,439	174,379	173,434	173,263	173,306
% CHANGE		-1.8%	-0.7%	-3.4%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.0%
6 - 8	100,780	100,349	100,684	98,517	96,585	95,201	94,069
% CHANGE		-0.4%	0.3%	-2.2%	-2.0%	-1.4%	-1.2%
9 - 12	143,062	140,651	140,082	137,410	136,006	136,265	136,675
% CHANGE		-1.7%	-0.4%	-1.9%	-1.0%	0.2%	0.3%

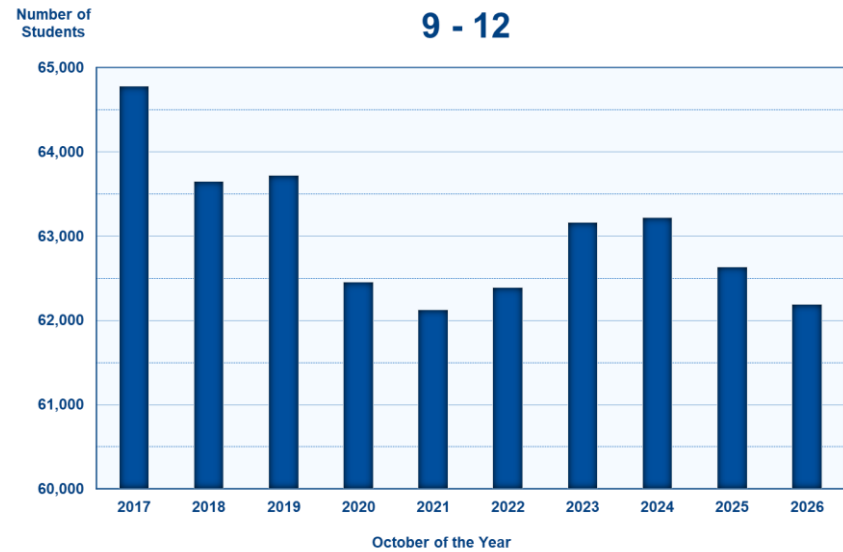
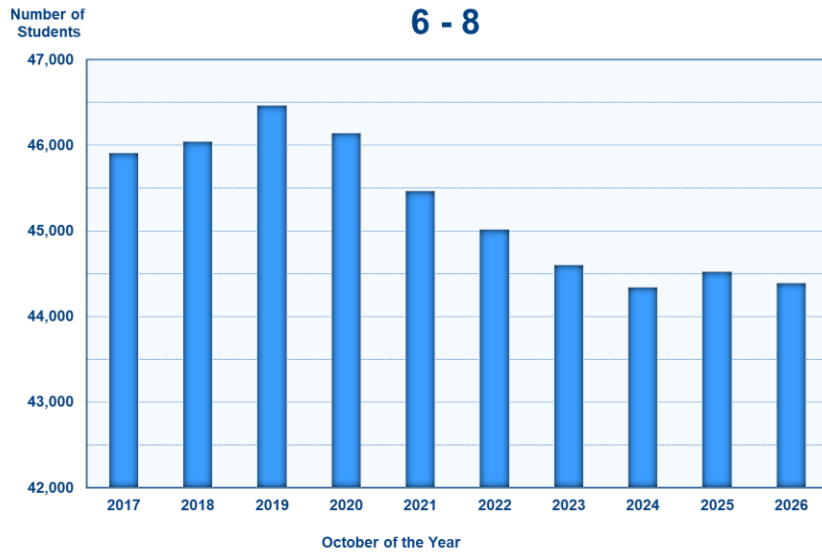
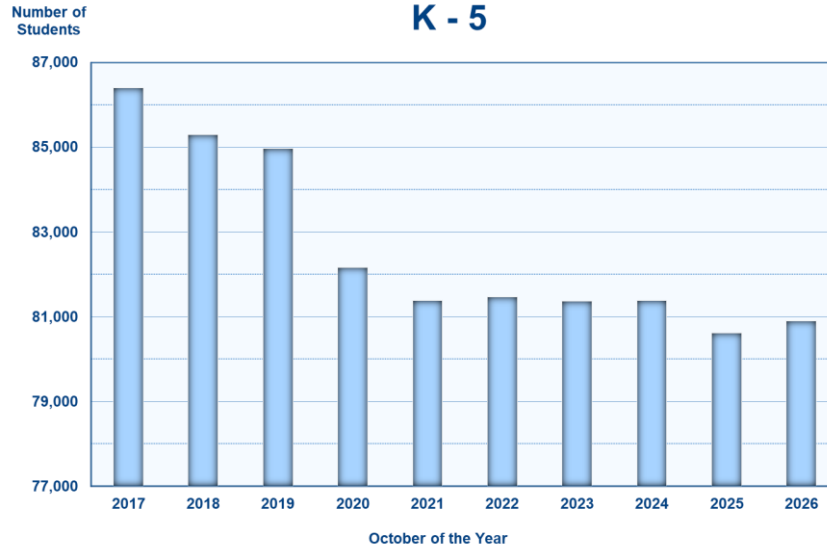
NASSAU/SUFFOLK REGION PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - PROJECTED

GRADE	Oct-23 Actual	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26
KINDERGARTEN	27,288	27,202	26,496	28,131
FIRST	28,069	28,155	28,068	27,336
SECOND	29,241	28,576	28,662	28,575
THIRD	28,902	29,615	28,942	29,028
FOURTH	29,900	29,419	30,144	29,460
FIFTH	29,906	30,411	29,921	30,657
SIXTH	30,670	30,460	30,975	30,475
SEVENTH	31,276	31,072	30,860	31,381
EIGHTH	32,123	31,677	31,470	31,255
NINTH	33,283	32,745	32,290	32,075
TENTH	34,067	33,671	33,125	32,665
ELEVENTH	34,588	33,895	33,505	32,960
TWELFTH	34,737	35,359	34,648	34,246
UNGRADED	3,576	3,555	3,526	3,519
TOTAL	407,626	405,812	402,632	401,763
% CHANGE		-0.4%	-0.8%	-0.2%

NASSAU/SUFFOLK REGION PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - PROJECTED (excluding ungraded)

GRADE	Oct-23 Actual	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26
K - 5	173,306	173,378	172,233	173,187
% CHANGE		0.0%	-0.7%	0.6%
6 - 8	94,069	93,209	93,305	93,111
% CHANGE		-0.9%	0.1%	-0.2%
9 - 12	136,675	135,670	133,568	131,946
% CHANGE		-0.7%	-1.5%	-1.2%

Nassau County Public School District Enrollment, 2017 - 2026



NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - HISTORICAL

GRADE	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23 <i>prelim</i>
KINDERGARTEN	13,233	12,923	13,361	12,361	12,586	12,649	12,490
FIRST	13,796	13,723	13,491	13,552	13,092	13,193	13,131
SECOND	14,262	13,991	13,952	13,481	13,645	13,462	13,637
THIRD	14,838	14,476	14,201	13,907	13,667	13,899	13,665
FOURTH	14,992	15,021	14,734	14,182	14,069	13,916	14,208
FIFTH	15,276	15,157	15,225	14,682	14,319	14,340	14,231
SIXTH	15,223	15,491	15,390	15,218	14,799	14,607	14,676
SEVENTH	15,157	15,309	15,593	15,330	15,257	14,919	14,792
EIGHTH	15,529	15,247	15,485	15,593	15,409	15,494	15,133
NINTH	15,760	15,612	15,696	15,287	15,663	15,469	15,562
TENTH	16,313	15,889	15,859	15,572	15,394	15,941	15,827
ELEVENTH	15,743	16,075	15,828	15,668	15,341	15,462	16,000
TWELFTH	16,962	16,073	16,340	15,929	15,726	15,515	15,776
UNGRADED	1,605	1,590	1,557	1,565	1,539	1,506	1,570
TOTAL	198,689	196,577	196,712	192,327	190,506	190,372	190,698
% CHANGE		-1.1%	0.1%	-2.2%	-0.9%	-0.1%	0.2%

NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - HISTORICAL (excluding ungraded)

GRADE	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23 <i>prelim</i>
K - 5	86,397	85,291	84,964	82,165	81,378	81,459	81,362
% CHANGE		-1.3%	-0.4%	-3.3%	-1.0%	0.1%	-0.1%
6 - 8	45,909	46,047	46,468	46,141	45,465	45,020	44,601
% CHANGE		0.3%	0.9%	-0.7%	-1.5%	-1.0%	-0.9%
9 - 12	64,778	63,649	63,723	62,456	62,124	62,387	63,165
% CHANGE		-1.7%	0.1%	-2.0%	-0.5%	0.4%	1.2%

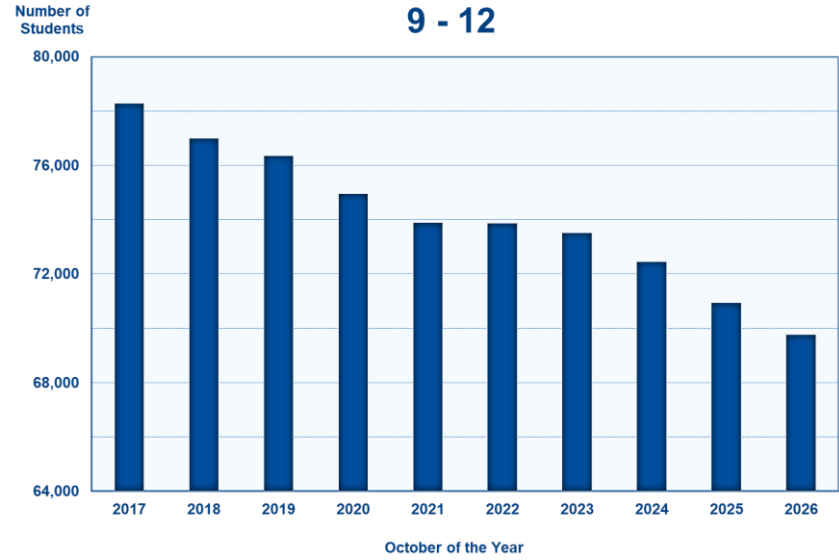
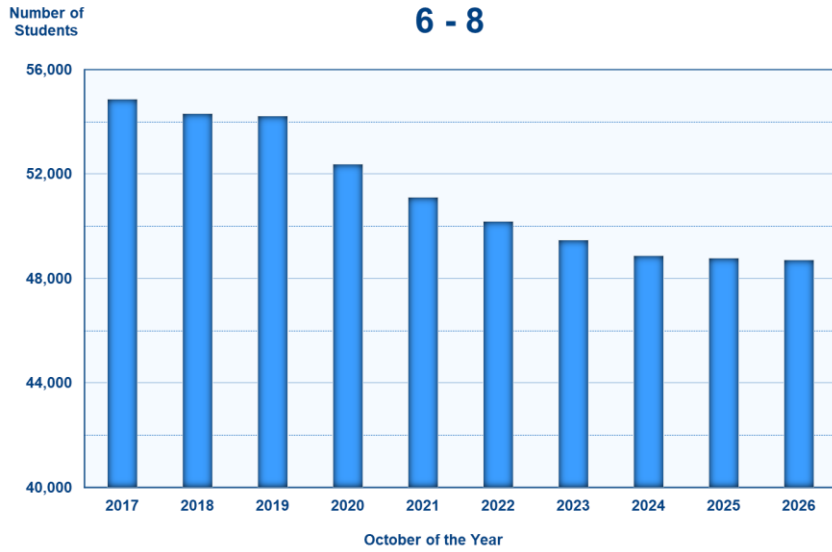
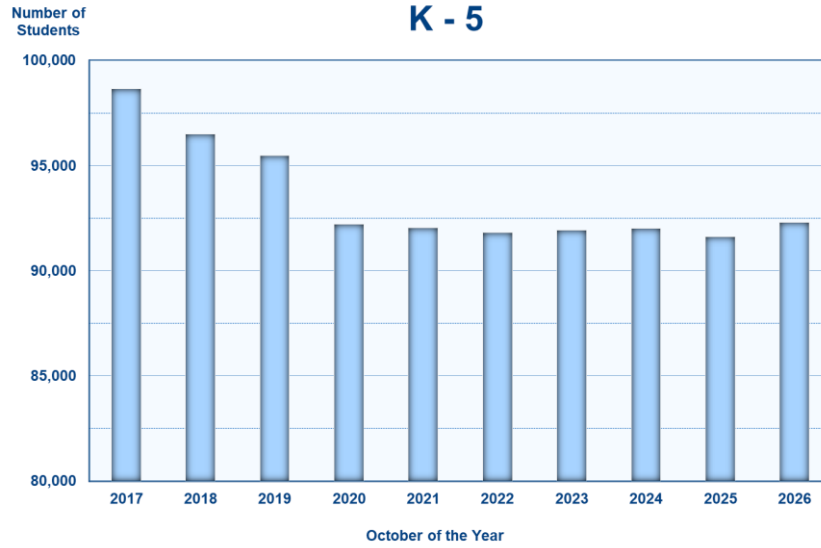
NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - PROJECTED

GRADE	Oct-23 Actual	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26
KINDERGARTEN	12,490	12,555	12,061	12,846
FIRST	13,131	13,039	13,107	12,591
SECOND	13,637	13,467	13,373	13,443
THIRD	13,665	13,867	13,694	13,598
FOURTH	14,208	13,941	14,147	13,971
FIFTH	14,231	14,506	14,233	14,443
SIXTH	14,676	14,541	14,822	14,543
SEVENTH	14,792	14,828	14,692	14,976
EIGHTH	15,133	14,975	15,011	14,873
NINTH	15,562	15,197	15,039	15,075
TENTH	15,827	15,880	15,508	15,346
ELEVENTH	16,000	15,891	15,944	15,571
TWELFTH	15,776	16,253	16,142	16,196
UNGRADED	1,570	1,548	1,538	1,536
TOTAL	190,698	190,488	189,311	189,008
% CHANGE		-0.1%	-0.6%	-0.2%

NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - PROJECTED (excluding ungraded)

GRADE	Oct-23 Actual	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26
K - 5	81,362	81,375	80,615	80,892
% CHANGE		0.0%	-0.9%	0.3%
6 - 8	44,601	44,344	44,525	44,392
% CHANGE		-0.6%	0.4%	-0.3%
9 - 12	63,165	63,221	62,633	62,188
% CHANGE		0.1%	-0.9%	-0.7%

Suffolk County Public School District Enrollment, 2017 – 2026



SUFFOLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - HISTORICAL

GRADE	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23 <i>prelim</i>
KINDERGARTEN	15,287	15,083	15,334	14,201	15,100	14,645	14,798
FIRST	15,758	15,415	15,340	15,169	14,895	15,446	14,938
SECOND	16,175	15,868	15,589	15,228	15,293	15,083	15,604
THIRD	16,517	16,168	15,948	15,441	15,228	15,419	15,237
FOURTH	17,162	16,692	16,387	15,858	15,586	15,440	15,692
FIFTH	17,759	17,275	16,877	16,317	15,954	15,771	15,675
SIXTH	18,221	17,988	17,508	16,797	16,503	16,225	15,994
SEVENTH	17,956	18,340	18,134	17,501	16,989	16,755	16,484
EIGHTH	18,694	17,974	18,574	18,078	17,628	17,201	16,990
NINTH	19,603	19,015	18,954	18,718	18,690	18,253	17,721
TENTH	19,588	19,539	19,014	18,547	18,585	18,851	18,240
ELEVENTH	19,323	19,041	19,192	18,491	17,992	18,364	18,588
TWELFTH	19,770	19,407	19,199	19,198	18,615	18,410	18,961
UNGRADED	2,220	2,189	2,115	2,048	2,000	2,047	2,006
TOTAL	234,033	229,994	228,165	221,592	219,058	217,910	216,928
% CHANGE		-1.7%	-0.8%	-2.9%	-1.1%	-0.5%	-0.5%

SUFFOLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - HISTORICAL (excluding ungraded)

GRADE	Oct-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct-23 <i>prelim</i>
K - 5	98,658	96,501	95,475	92,214	92,056	91,804	91,944
% CHANGE		-2.2%	-1.1%	-3.4%	-0.2%	-0.3%	0.2%
6 - 8	54,871	54,302	54,216	52,376	51,120	50,181	49,468
% CHANGE		-1.0%	-0.2%	-3.4%	-2.4%	-1.8%	-1.4%
9 - 12	78,284	77,002	76,359	74,954	73,882	73,878	73,510
% CHANGE		-1.6%	-0.8%	-1.8%	-1.4%	0.0%	-0.5%

SUFFOLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - PROJECTED

GRADE	Oct-23 Actual	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26
KINDERGARTEN	14,798	14,647	14,435	15,285
FIRST	14,938	15,116	14,961	14,745
SECOND	15,604	15,109	15,289	15,132
THIRD	15,237	15,748	15,248	15,430
FOURTH	15,692	15,478	15,997	15,489
FIFTH	15,675	15,905	15,688	16,214
SIXTH	15,994	15,919	16,153	15,932
SEVENTH	16,484	16,244	16,168	16,405
EIGHTH	16,990	16,702	16,459	16,382
NINTH	17,721	17,548	17,251	17,000
TENTH	18,240	17,791	17,617	17,319
ELEVENTH	18,588	18,004	17,561	17,389
TWELFTH	18,961	19,106	18,506	18,050
UNGRADED	2,006	2,007	1,988	1,983
TOTAL	216,928	215,324	213,321	212,755
% CHANGE		-0.7%	-0.9%	-0.3%

SUFFOLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT - PROJECTED (excluding ungraded)

GRADE	Oct-23 Actual	Oct-24	Oct-25	Oct-26
K - 5	91,944	92,003	91,618	92,295
% CHANGE		0.1%	-0.4%	0.7%
6 - 8	49,468	48,865	48,780	48,719
% CHANGE		-1.2%	-0.2%	-0.1%
9 - 12	73,510	72,449	70,935	69,758
% CHANGE		-1.4%	-2.1%	-1.7%