

# ENROLLMENT

---

This section of the budget presents student enrollment history and projections. The historical review presents the previous five fiscal years, and compares the actual enrollment to the projections. Each year, the district provides the State of Connecticut with the number of enrolled students by school as of October 1. The district uses these numbers as the official count for the current fiscal year. We use our student information system, Power School, to upload electronically the enrollment data to the state's computer system. In addition, we update these numbers periodically during the school year. Student enrollment is a factor in most federal and state entitlement grants. Therefore, the Business Services Office and Technology Office maintain a record of the data so that the school district's independent auditors can perform their required testing.

The New England School Development Council (NESDEC) provides the district with enrollment projections, which they update annually. They use the cohort survival method to calculate these projections. This statistical model projects student enrollment by using historical enrollment data for each school by grade along with published birth rates. The model looks at the previous five years of enrollment progression by grade at each school, and assumes similar ratios for the future. Experience has taught us that reasonable variances between actual and projected enrollments occur for a variety of reasons. Therefore, we also consider new and resale housing rates, and non-public school enrollment data when appropriate.

In the fall of 2012 the Board of Education adopted a new strategic plan, which included a section for Resources, Operations and Finance. The first strategy in this section of the plan requires the Board of Education to determine its need for school facilities. Since the district needs to know how many students it will need to accommodate in order to determine its facility needs, the Board of Education asked NESDEC to expand the data collection and analysis of enrollment and projections. This study was also completed and presented to the Board of Education in the fall of 2012.

NESDEC presented the Board with three "possible futures in a time of economic uncertainty."

- Status Quo: Recent economic trends continue
- Economic Uptick: Occurs by 2016-2017
- Economic Uptick: Occurs by 2014-2015

In addition to facilities planning, these enrollment projections provide the basis for both operating and capital budget planning. These enrollment projections provide important data for program and budget planning, and staffing for the 2015-16 school year.

## **Projection Methodology**

In developing projections for member school districts, NESDEC uses the cohort survival technique, the most common method for preparing enrollment forecasts. By incorporating some appropriate modifications, NESDEC is able to consider information specific to an individual school district and, consequently, avoid forecasts that are entirely formula driven.

NESDEC calculates percentages from historical data and determines reliable percentage increases or decreases between each pair of consecutive grade levels. For example, if 100 students enrolled in grade 1 in 2012/2013, increased to 104 students in grade 2 in 2013/2014, the percentage of survival would have been 104% or a ratio of 1.04. Such ratios are calculated between each pair of grades or years in school over several recent years.

The ratios used are the key factors in the reliability of the projections, given the validity of the data at the starting point. The strength of the ratios lies in the fact that each ratio encompasses collectively the variables that account for increases or decreases in the size of a grade enrollment as it moves on to the next grade. Each ratio represents the cumulative effect of the following factors:

1. Migration in and out of the schools;
2. Retention in the same grade;
3. Births in the community;
4. New house construction;
5. Residential turnover;
6. Spikes/declines in real estate sales;
7. Drop-outs, transfers, etc.; and
8. Economic conditions.

The ratios selected are applied to the present enrollment statistics for a pre-determined number of years.

## **Reliability of Enrollment Projections**

Enrollment projections based upon the children already in the district (the current K-12 population only) will be the most reliable. The second level of reliability encompasses those children already born into the community, but not yet old enough to be in school. The third and least reliable category is the group for which an estimate must be made to predict the number of births and health of the real estate market, thereby adding additional variables.

Projections can serve as useful guides to school administrators for educational planning. In this regard, the projections are generally most reliable when they are closest in time to the current year. Projections six (6) to ten (10) years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and may be useful for long-range facilities planning. However, they should be viewed as subject to change given the possibility for anomalies that may crop up in the underlying assumptions. Annual updates allow for the identification of any recent changes in historical trends.

## **Review of Enrollment – 2014-2015**

Last year, NESDEC projected a K through 12 enrollment for 2014/15 of 2,377 which included twenty-one (21) projected outplaced students. The actual K through 12 enrollment (including twenty-two (22) outplaced students) for 2014/2015 is 2368, only nine (9) students lower than projected. NESDEC's enrollment projection total from fall of 2012 was .04% above the actual October 1, 2014 enrollment. Significant enrollment projection variances from actual grade level enrollments are, for the most part, limited to grade 1 at Hurlbutt Elementary School and in grades 9 and 10 at Weston High School. Actual enrollments in other grades are closer to NESDEC's projections. These totals are noted in the individual school enrollment summaries below. Please note that the NESDEC grade specific figures do not include students who are currently outplaced due to special education needs.

### **Hurlbutt Elementary School**

At Hurlbutt Elementary School, there was an increase, K-2, of ten (10) students over the projection (436 actual vs. 426 projected – a 10.5% deviation). This increase was the result of larger than projected first grade enrollment of 150 actual vs. 142 projected (a 5.3% percent deviation) and kindergarten enrollment of 140 actual vs. 138 projected (a .14% deviation).

The continued steady trend in kindergarten enrollment at Hurlbutt may be a short-term trend reflecting the growth in real estate sales as opposed to births. In 2009, the birth year of the majority of the current kindergarten class, there were seventy-one (71) births in Weston. This year, there are 140 kindergarten students representing a birth to kindergarten ratio of 1.97. This ratio, which also applied last year, is the highest birth to kindergarten ratio in the last nineteen (19) years and the third highest in the last twenty-six (26) years. Birth to kindergarten ratios for the last five years have been as follows:

2010: 1.51  
2011: 1.91  
2012: 1.61  
2013: 1.97  
2014: 1.97

Predicting kindergarten enrollment from prior births has proven very difficult. While this year there was a ratio of 1.97 students for each Weston birth, as recently as 2010 this ratio was 1.51. For next year, NESDEC has used a 1.85 ratio to predict the size of the incoming kindergarten class. This is in line with the ratio of the last two (2) years and takes into account the somewhat smaller number of home sales, and the drop of the 2010 birth rate by ten (10) to sixty-one (61). It should be noted that the ratio used for projecting the size of the incoming kindergarten class is .06% above the five (5) year-average ratio of 1.79%.

One change in the historical trend was the significant increase in the sale of homes during 2013 and 2014. This increase followed a pronounced decrease in the sale of homes in 2009 following the economic crisis that began in earnest in 2008.

2003-2007: 188 sales annually (average)  
 2009: 95 sales  
 2013: 163 sales  
 2014: 152 sales (based on current trend)

With the birth rates continuing at very low levels, the birth to kindergarten ratio will need to remain strong in order to avoid further declines in enrollment. Weston has been hit hard by the statewide decline in births falling to a low of 49 births in 2011. Statewide, the decline in births between 2007 and 2009, during the height of the financial crisis, was the highest in the Northeast at 8.6%. In New York State, the decline was 6.2%. In Weston, the decline during that period was only one birth (1.4%), but the 2009 birth rate was still very low at 71. That birth rate was 27% lower than five (5) years earlier in 2004 and 51.4% lower than in 1999. In addition, through 2011 (49 births), the Weston birth rate fell an additional 14% from 1999 before climbing slightly by eight (8) births (57 total) in 2013.

Year	NESDEC	Preschool Feedback	a/o 10/01	
2015-2016	113	90*	TBD	* + 10 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2014-2015	138	104*	140	* + 15 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2013-2014	116	89*	136	* + 25 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2012-2013	126	99*	115	* + 23 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2011-2012	140	120*	161	* + 29 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2010-2011	179	149*	159	* + 22 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2009-2010	170	147*	158	* + 26 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2008-2009	130	138*	168	* + 25 eligible 5 year olds who could register for either K or 1
2007-2008	117	139	147	
2006-2007	193	212	210	
2005-2006	178	181	182	

As in prior years, Hurlbutt has carefully monitored enrollment in area pre-schools to determine the number of Weston students who may enroll in kindergarten in the coming years. Obviously, these numbers change as new students enroll or move into the area. Also, these numbers will not reflect students who move into Weston during the summer preceding the start of school.

The breakdown of pre-school enrollment of Weston students is as follows:

School Name	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.
A Child's Place	2	0	2	0
Beginnings				
Children's Community Develop. Ctr.	0	3	1	0
Christ and Holy Trinity Preschool	1	0	0	0
Community Nursery School	4	4	8	3
Conservative Synagogue Preschool	2	0	2	0
Earthplace Nursery School	1	3	0	0
Greens Farms Nursery School	0	0	2	0
Landmark of Ridgefield Academy-Westport	0	2	2	0
Landmark of Ridgefield Academy-Redding	4	6	4	4
Learning Community Day School	0	3	6	2
Norfield Nursery School	4	12	10	0
Old Hill Children's Day School	1	1	0	0
Pumpkin Preschool of Westport				
Landmark Preschool - Ridgefield	0	0	0	0
Saugatuck Nursery School	0	0	1	0
St. Francis of Assisi Preschool	11	17	11	0
St. Paul Christian School	2	0	0	1
Temple Israel Early Childhood Ctr.	3	9	9	0
The Montessori School - Wilton				
Three-Four Open the Door	2	1	1	0
Town & Country Montessori	0	0	0	0
Westport Weston Coop Nursery School	11	6	5	0
Wilton YMCA Nursery School	1	2	3	0
Early Learning Center @ HES				
Teacher 1			12	
Teacher 2			0	
Teacher 3			11	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>

### Weston Intermediate School

At Weston Intermediate School, enrollment was projected at 549 vs. the actual enrollment of 548, a deviation from the projection of only one (1) student. Grade 3 enrollment was three (3) students above the projection (185 actual vs. 182 projected), grade 4 was two (2) students below projection (177 actual vs. 179 projected), and grade 5 was two (2) students below projection (186 actual vs. 188 projected).

### Weston Middle School

At Weston Middle School, enrollment was projected at 602 vs. the actual enrollment of 603; one (1) student below projection. Grade 6 enrollment was three (3) students above projection (203 actual vs. 200 projected), grade 7 enrollment was one (1) student above projection (188 actual vs. 187 projected), and grade 8 enrollment was three (3) students below projection (212 actual vs. 215 projected).

### Weston High School

At Weston High School, there was lower than projected enrollment in grades 9 and 10. The total 9-12 enrollment is nineteen (19) students below projection (800 projected vs. 781 actual enrollment). In grade 9, there are thirteen (13) students below projection for 2014/2015 (201 actual vs. 214 projected), and in grade 10 there are eight (8) students below projection (207 actual vs. 215 projection). Grade 11 has come in two (2) students above projection (206 actual vs. 204 projected), and in grade 12 the projection of 167 students proved to be accurate.

### Review of NESDEC's 2015-2016 Enrollment Projections

NESDEC's most recent K through 12 projection indicates a decrease in total student enrollment for 2015/2016. Total K-12 projected enrollment for 2015/2016 is forecasted at 2371, a decrease of twenty-eight (28) students below the current year total K-12 enrollment of 2390. This represents a decrease of 1.17% decrease below the current year.

### Hurlbutt Elementary School - Grades K-2

Enrollment at Hurlbutt is projected to decrease by ten (10) students as compared to the current enrollment in these grades in 2014/2015 (436 current vs. 426 projected). This decrease is attributed to a large projected decline in kindergarten enrollment of twenty-seven (27) students (140 current vs. 113 projected). In contrast, grade 2 is projected to increase by sixteen (16) students due to the larger current grade 1 moving up and additional "move-ins" resulting from a stronger real estate market (146 current vs. 162 projected). Grade 1 is projected to increase by one student (150 current vs. 151 projected). Grades 1 and 2 projections are usually very accurate given that they are based on students already in the District. However, as we saw over the last two (2) years, there has been a dramatic increase in home sales from the bottom in 2009 leading to an influx of new students. NESDEC has factored this trend into these numbers, and it remains to be seen whether the pace of home sales will continue.

Kindergarten enrollment remains the most difficult to forecast and is somewhat elusive to accurately project. In developing the enrollment projections for the kindergarten class of 2014, NESDEC used a birth to kindergarten growth ratio of 1.85%. This ratio is slightly lower than the birth to kindergarten ratio of 1.97% used for projecting the current kindergarten class size. As noted above, the slightly lower ratio takes into account the trend of slightly reduced home sales in the current year.<sup>1</sup>

It is important to note that the trend over the past ten (10) years, illustrated by the following chart, indicates that the in-migration/growth rate between the year of birth and kindergarten eligibility five (5) years later first peaked in 2006 and had been on a general decline until 2013 when it stabilized and began to increase. It will begin dropping again next year. NESDEC's five

---

<sup>1</sup> If the 1.97% ratio were used for next year's kindergarten class, the projection for next year would be 120 kindergarten students – a decline of twenty (20) students below the current year.

(5) year projection has the in-migration/growth rate stabilizing at an average of +47.6 for that period (2015-2020).

In-Migration between Year of Birth and Actual Kindergarten Enrollment\*

	Birth Cohort	K Enrollment	Difference
1999 to 2004	146	184	+38
2000 to 2005	129	182	+53
2001 to 2006	129	210	+81
2002 to 2007	77	146	+69
2003 to 2008	93	166	+73
2004 to 2009	97	158	+61
2005 to 2010	105	159	+54
2006 to 2011	85	162	+77
2007 to 2012	72	115	+43
2008 to 2013	69	136	+67
2009 to 2014	71	140	+69
2010 to 2015	61	113	+52

*\*Births in 2011 fell to a low of 49 (80 fewer than ten (10) years earlier). This represents a 62% drop in the birth rate. The 2016 in-migration rate is projected to be +41.*

As in the last several years, we plan to continue our effort to gather the most accurate kindergarten enrollment data through the following activities:

- Scheduling a late fall pre-registration for kindergarten to help with staff planning and the number of sections needed for the fall of 2014.
- Continuing the practice of contacting all area pre-school programs to obtain an accurate update on the number and ages of children enrolled in these programs.
- Sending parents of kindergarten-age children pre-registration letters, providing information on the school district website and posting information in the Weston Forum about the registration process and deadlines.
- Continuing to work closely with NESDEC to identify forecasting strategies and with appropriate town agencies to better identify 3-5 year-old children who may have moved into the community.
- Monitor home sales, and leases to the extent possible, to better determine how many families with young children have moved into the community. This information has proven critical given the increase in the rate of sales over the last two (2) years.

The projected changes in enrollment by grade level at Hurlbutt will likely impact the number of sections in Kindergarten and Grade 2 as noted in a grade size comparison:

	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2
2014-2015 (current)	140	150	146
2015-2016 (projected)	<u>113</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>162</u>
Increase/Decrease	-27	+1	+16

Weston Intermediate School - Grades 3-5

Enrollment at the intermediate school is projected to decline by twenty-four (24) students (548 current vs. 524 projected). The decrease is attributable to the movement of the smaller grade 2 class to grade 3 which may result in staffing changes to reflect the lower enrollment in grade 3.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
2014-2015 (current)	185	177	186
2015-2016 (projected)	<u>153</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>183</u>
Increase/Decrease	-32	+11	-3

Weston Middle School - Grades 6-8

Enrollment at the middle school is projected to decline by nineteen (19) students (603 current vs. 584 projected). The decrease is attributable to the significant decreases in grades 6 and 8 as mitigated by the projected increase in grade 7.

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
2014-2015 (current)	203	188	212
2015-2016 (projected)	<u>194</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>190</u>
Increase/Decrease	-9	+12	-22

Weston High School - Grades 9-12

Enrollment at the high school is projected to increase significantly by thirty-four (34) students (781 current vs. 815 projected). The most significant change will be in grade 12 which is projected to increase by thirty-six (36) students (167 current vs. 203 projected). It should be noted that last year NESDEC had projected that high school enrollment would increase to 835 students in 2015/2016 before beginning a slow decline in the following years. That prediction was twenty (20) students off, though NESDEC continues to forecast a steady decline in high school enrollment for the next ten (10) years which reflects the smaller cohorts of students



coming up through the system. Currently, NESDEC projects that the enrollment for the high school enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year will fall to 664 students.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
2014-2015 (current)	201	207	206	167
2015-2016 (projected)	<u>209</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>203</u>
Increase/Decrease	+8	-7	-3	+36

**General Comments (“Look-Ahead” Perspective)**

NESDEC has provided the District with a ten (10) year enrollment projection. *However, it is important to keep in mind that projections beyond the first few years are often far less reliable given the reliance on birth rate projections and other factors.* This is particularly true given the unpredictable nature of the real estate market. While there has been a surge in home purchasing over the last twenty-four (24) months that number may decline as the inventory drops and prices rise. In fact, this year’s rate of sales is tracking at eleven (11) sales fewer than last year. The most reliable projections will always be for the first three (3) years given that the official birth rates are known.

**K-12 Enrollment**

Since the 2004/2005 school year, total K through 12 enrollment in the Weston Public Schools has decreased by 135 students (a 5.3% reduction). The forecast for the next five (5) years, using 2014/2015 as the base year, forecasts a further decline of 289 students, a 12.1% decrease in enrollment from 2390 in 2014/2015 to 2101 in 2019/2020.

It must be noted that the projections for the 2019/2020 school year vary considerably from NESDEC’s projections from last year. Last year, NESDEC projected that K-12 enrollment in 2019/2020 would be 2181 as opposed to their current projection of 2101 - a difference of eighty (80) students. This change is indicative of the difficulty and uncertainty of making long-term enrollment projections.

**Hurlbutt Elementary School Enrollment (Grades PK-2)**

Enrollment at Grades K-2 is forecasted to decline significantly over the next five (5) years with a total enrollment decrease of eight-eight (88) students during that period. Enrollment is then projected to remain relatively stable and decrease by only three (3) students in the following five (5) years through 2024/2025.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> K-2 enrollment is projected to reach a low of 326 students in 2018 before climbing to 348 in 2019-2020. After that, enrollment remains relatively steady through 2024-2025.

### Weston Intermediate School Enrollment (Grades 3-5)

Enrollment for the next five years at WIS is projected to decline by 117 students through 2019/2020, which represents a decline of 21.3%. NESDEC's ten (10) year projection has the WIS enrollment declining by an additional thirty-four (34) students after 2019/2020 to 397 in 2024/2025.

### Weston Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Over the next five years, enrollment at the middle school is forecasted to decrease by fifty-two (52) students (8.6%) during this period; with enrollment ranging from 603 students (2014/2015) to 551 students (2019/2020). The decrease in enrollment is projected to occur steadily over that five (5) year period. NESDEC's ten (10) year projection has Middle School enrollment dropping further to 402 in 2024/2025 representing a drop of 201 students (33.3%) from the current year.

### Weston High School Enrollment (Grades 9-12)

During the next five (5) years enrollment at the high school is projected to decrease by thirty-two (32) students to 749 in 2019/2020. Thereafter, NESDEC predicts that enrollment at the high school will steadily decline over the following five (5) years to 664 in 2024/2025. This represents a ten (10) year decline of 117 students (15%).

### Summary Comments

Given the dramatic decline in birth rates, and the uncertain real estate market, the NESDEC projections have varied significantly from year-to-year with the long-term projections varying considerably. Although NESDEC projections have proved reliable and useful, we cannot unduly rely on any single year's projections. As we have seen in the past few years, projections change from year-to-year due to the uncertain economic climate and the turbulent real estate market. Further, predictions beyond the first few years are less reliable as they are based on estimated future birth rates and assumption in real estate trends that are simply too far away to predict with great accuracy. Given all of the uncertainties, it may be unwise to plan significant changes too far into the future.

The recent increases in real estate sales have served to mitigate the effect of the dramatic drop in births, but it is still unclear how long the improved real estate market will last. It will be important to carefully monitor the real estate market over the coming months to determine whether Weston's real estate market has leveled-off. As births are at very low levels, it is the real estate market that is keeping enrollment from dropping even further.

### NESDEC Enrollment Report and Projections

The information and charts that follow describe the District's enrollment history and projections. A power-point presentation will highlight some of the more important enrollment data and projections for the public and viewing audience.

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Weston, Connecticut

**ENROLLMENT HISTORY**  
**PROJECTIONS vs ACTUALS**

Grade	2010-11			2011-12			2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		
	Proj	Actual	Diff.	Proj	Actual	Diff.	Proj	Actual	Diff.	Proj	Actual	Diff.	Proj	Actual	Diff.
K	179	159	-20	140	162	22	126	115	-11	116	136	20	138	140	2
1	165	166	1	167	156	-11	168	157	-11	117	135	18	142	150	8
2	170	178	8	168	177	9	160	163	3	166	175	9	146	146	0
<b>Primary</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>10</b>
3	162	170	8	184	180	-4	181	180	-1	166	176	10	182	185	3
4	217	216	-1	171	173	2	182	186	4	184	183	-1	179	177	-2
5	207	207	0	221	217	-4	175	179	4	190	194	4	188	186	-2
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>-1</b>
6	215	211	-4	213	211	-2	222	221	-1	180	190	10	200	203	3
7	213	215	2	211	207	-4	208	209	1	219	214	-5	187	188	1
8	185	181	-4	221	211	-10	211	207	-4	210	216	6	215	212	-3
<b>Middle</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>1</b>
9	202	195	-7	182	170	-12	207	210	3	199	214	15	214	201	-13
10	203	205	2	189	193	4	170	173	3	213	209	-4	215	207	-8
11	183	186	3	200	203	3	190	188	-2	172	169	-3	204	206	2
12	185	192	7	181	189	8	202	205	3	189	180	-9	167	167	0
<b>Senior</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>-19</b>
Pre-K	39	40	1	45	30	-15	45	26	-19	36	36	0	38	32	-6
Outplaced	20	22	2	18	20	2	18	21	3	21	21	0	21	22	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>-14</b>

Change -44 -59 8 -26

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Weston, Connecticut*

**ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**  
**2015-16 TO 2019-20**

	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>
K	113	90	107	105	109
1	151	122	97	116	114
2	162	163	132	105	125
<b>Primary</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>348</b>
3	153	170	171	139	110
4	188	156	173	174	142
5	183	194	161	178	179
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>431</b>
6	194	191	202	168	185
7	200	191	188	199	165
8	190	202	193	190	201
<b>Middle</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>551</b>
9	209	187	199	190	187
10	200	208	186	198	189
11	203	196	204	182	194
12	203	200	193	201	179
<b>Senior</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>749</b>
Pre-School	33	34	35	36	37
Out-Placed	22	22	22	22	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>2,138</b>
<b>Projected Change</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>-65</b>

# COMPARATIVE DATA

---

This section of the budget book compares Weston with school districts in its Demographic Reference Group - DRG, and with all other districts in the State of Connecticut. The DRG classification clusters school districts that have public school students with similar socioeconomic status and need together for district level comparisons.

- ❖ Comparison of Net Per Pupil Expenditures & Wealth Ranking
- ❖ Comparison of Per Pupil Expenditures by Object
- ❖ Comparison of Per Pupil Expenditures by Function

The State Department of Education provides the following explanation of Net Current Expenditures per Pupil. NCEP measures education expenditures with a couple of adjustments (as explained below) for all the students for which a town is fiscally responsible, regardless of whether the town operates its own school or tuitions its resident students to other districts/regions or private schools.

Average Daily Membership (ADM) represents the average daily membership calculated from the October 1<sup>st</sup> Public School Information System (PSIS) and from the End of Year School Report (ED001). ADM represents resident students adjusted for school sessions in excess of the 180-day/900-hour minimum, tuition free summer school, full-time equivalent (FTE) prekindergarten pupils and participation in Open Choice.

Net Current Expenditures (NCE) is calculated as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-261(a)(3). NCE includes all current public elementary and secondary expenditures from all sources, excluding reimbursable regular education transportation, tuition revenue, capital expenditures for land, land buildings and equipment, and debt service. The principal portion of debt service for items that can be included in NCE, such as certain minor repairs and roof replacements, count towards NCE and increases our per pupil cost for Plant Services.

When comparing the Per Pupil Cost based on NCE (unaudited) for FY 2014 to the FY 2013 (audited), the average growth rate for DRG A districts and all districts in the state is 2.95% and 4.9% respectively. During this same period of time, the grow rate for Weston was 2.4%.

Net Current Expenditure Per Pupil (NCEP) represents NCE divided by ADM.

The NCEP Rank is a town's rank between 1 (highest) and 169 (lowest) in NCEP.

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WESTON, CONNECTICUT**

**2013-2014 PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES  
*Net Per Pupil Expenditures (unaudited)  
& Wealth Ranking***

**COMPARISON OF STATE DESIGNATED "ECONOMIC REFERENCE GROUP" - DRG A**

<u>K-12 Districts</u>	<u>Town Name</u>	<u>Net Per Pupil Expenditures</u>		<u>Wealth</u>
		<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>DRG A Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>
	<b>REDDING</b>	<b>19,576</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>WESTON</b>	<b>19,384</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>WESTPORT</b>	<b>18,864</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>NEW CANAAN</b>	<b>18,032</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>
	<b>DARIEN</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>WILTON</b>	<b>17,337</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>EASTON</b>	<b>17,154</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>RIDGEFIELD</b>	<b>15,849</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>
	<b>REGION 9</b>	<b>18,423</b>		
	<b>DRG A AVERAGE</b>	<b>18,018</b>		
	<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>	<b>15,694</b>		

DRG A towns are designated by the state group referencing by parents' education, wealth, etc.

Source: State Department of Education, November 2014.

*For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education website at*

*www.state.ct.us/sde.*

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WESTON, CONNECTICUT**

**2012-2013 PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES  
BY OBJECT  
AUDITED DATA**

**COMPARISON OF STATE DESIGNATED "ECONOMIC REFERENCE GROUP" - DRG A**

<u>Town Name</u>	<u>Salaries</u>		<u>Employee Benefits</u>		<u>Instructional Supplies</u>		<u>Purchased Services</u>		<u>All Categories Reported Here</u>	
	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Rank</u>
<u>K-12 Districts</u>										
DARIEN	\$11,370	6	\$2,692	7	\$196	5	\$1,381	9	\$15,639	7
NEW CANAAN	\$12,144	2	\$2,709	6	\$165	7	\$2,131	6	\$17,149	5
RIDGEFIELD	\$9,552	9	\$3,082	5	\$163	8	\$1,944	7	\$14,741	9
WESTON	\$11,720	5	\$3,653	1-2	\$129	9	\$2,382	3	\$17,884	2
WESTPORT	\$11,760	3	\$3,653	1-2	\$297	1	\$1,492	8	\$17,202	4
WILTON	\$10,775	7	\$3,429	3	\$198	4	\$2,176	5	\$16,578	6
<u>Elementary Only</u>										
EASTON	\$9,742	8	\$2,467	9	\$191	6	\$2,964	1	\$15,364	8
REDDING	\$12,811	1	\$3,324	4	\$215	3	\$2,197	4	\$18,547	1
<u>High School Only</u>										
REGION 9	\$11,729	4	\$2,587	8	\$249	2	\$2,675	2	\$17,240	3
DRG A AVERAGE	\$11,189		\$3,144		\$203		\$1,929		\$16,465	
STATE AVERAGE	\$9,248		\$2,610		\$196		\$1,924		\$13,978	

DRG A towns are designated by the state group referencing by parents' education, wealth, etc.

Source: State Department of Education

For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education website at [www.state.ct.us/sde](http://www.state.ct.us/sde).

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WESTON, CONNECTICUT**

**2012-2013 PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES  
BY FUNCTION  
AUDITED DATA**

**COMPARISON OF STATE DESIGNATED "ECONOMIC REFERENCE GROUP" - DRG A**

<u>Town Name</u>	<u>Instructional Programs</u> <u>Expended</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Pupil Personnel Services</u> <u>Expended</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>School Based Admin</u> <u>Expended</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>General - District Admin</u> <u>Expended</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Plant</u> <u>Expended</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>All Categories Reported Here</u> <u>Expended</u> <u>Rank</u>
<u>K-12 Districts</u>						
DARIEN	\$10,980 3	\$1,298 6	\$821 8	\$532 8	\$1,464 7	\$15,095 7
NEW CANAAN	\$9,987 8	\$2,101 3	\$1,287 1	\$888 1	\$2,136 1-2	\$16,399 5
RIDGEFIELD	\$9,386 9	\$1,572 5	\$993 6	\$305 9	\$1,477 6	\$13,733 9
WESTON	\$10,842 5	\$2,665 1	\$894 7	\$581 6	\$2,136 1-2	\$17,118 2
WESTPORT	\$10,909 4	\$2,021 4	\$1,241 2	\$624 3	\$1,801 4	\$16,596 4
WILTON	\$10,472 6	\$2,327 2	\$807 9	\$878 2	\$1,456 8	\$15,940 6
<u>Elementary Only</u>						
EASTON	\$10,128 7	\$592 7	\$1,127 3	\$612 4	\$1,371 9	\$13,830 8
REDDING	\$13,138 1	\$533 8	\$1,045 4	\$554 7	\$1,751 5	\$17,021 3
<u>High School Only</u>						
REGION 9	\$13,058 2	\$525 9	\$1,014 5	\$611 5	\$2,048 3	\$17,256 1
DRG A AVERAGE	\$10,587	\$1,774	\$1,026	\$618	\$1,705	\$15,710
STATE AVERAGE	\$8,855	\$1,413	\$854	\$685	\$1,463	\$13,270

DRG A towns are designated by the state group referencing by parents' education, wealth, etc.

Source: State Department of Education

For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education website at [www.state.ct.us/sde](http://www.state.ct.us/sde).