
TO: Dr. William S. McKersie, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Weston Public Schools

FROM: Michael Zuba, AICP

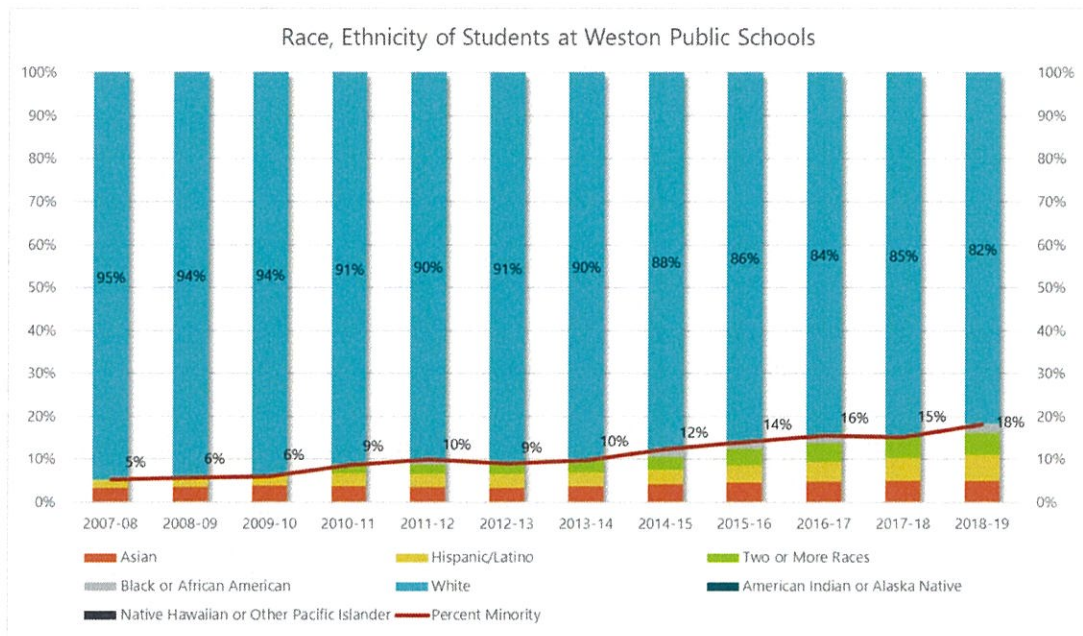
RE: Weston Enrollment Projections Update: Key Takeaways

DATE: October 29, 2019

MMI #: 6115-02

In fall 2019, Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) completed its annual enrollment projections update for Weston Public Schools (WPS). The key takeaways from this year's update are summarized below:

- Comparison of Weston's actual October 2019 enrollment figures to MMI's recommended enrollment model shows a close overall correspondence between projected and realized enrollment, with K-12 enrollment running approximately 0.5% (12 students) below the projections.
- Over the last few enrollment updates, MMI evaluated two methods for projecting kindergarten enrollment. The first method is a regression-based model based on births from 5 years prior, home sales lagged 1 year, and median home sale price. This model produced an R-squared value of 0.92. The second method utilizes a variable Birth-to-Kindergarten (Birth-K) ratio. The Birth-K ratio compares a kindergarten class with the number of births 5 years prior. Weston's Birth-K ratio fluctuates from year to year based on the size of the birth cohort. Larger birth cohorts typically produce a lower Birth-K ratio while smaller birth cohorts tend to produce a higher Birth-K ratio. The variable Birth-K method adjusts each year's Birth-K ratio (and thus kindergarten enrollments) based on a historic best-fit line. In last year's projections, our blend of the regression-based model and the variable Birth-K model yielded excellent results for kindergarten, within one student of the actual enrollment. Therefore, this year's medium projections once again used a blend of the regression-based and variable Birth-K models for projecting future kindergarten enrollments. This year's medium projections model estimates slightly smaller kindergarten classes ranging from 115 to 132 students over the next 10 years.
- Weston has a stable housing market, with home sales returning to pre-recession levels over the last 6 years. If current housing market trends continue, the town should continue to see steady levels of in-migration (+3.5% last 2 years), particularly in elementary, intermediate, and middle school grades.
- Weston births have been stable, averaging 61 births over the last 5 years.
- A new analysis of student composition (see below) identified a 12% increase in diversity for the WPS student body over the last decade.



- Updated projections through 2029-30 show a similar trajectory to the previously prepared medium scenario for Weston's overall K-12 enrollments. At the elementary grade levels, enrollments are projected to run slightly lower than previously projected as a result of downwards adjustments in the size of future kindergarten classes. At the intermediate, middle, and high school grade levels, matriculation of smaller cohorts yield slightly lower enrollments beginning at the intermediate grade levels and then matriculating into the middle and high school grades later in the projections horizon. The net effect of these trends is slightly negative, with net differences between the previous and current projection scenarios amounting to 23 fewer students next school year, and 60 fewer students for the 2028-29 school year.
- As with all enrollment projections, the updated projections presented in this memo are sensitive to changes in underlying conditions, including birth rates, housing sales, and student migration trends.

Projected Enrollments and Percent Change by Grade Groupings, 2019-20 to 2029-30

Medium Projections Model Enrollment by Grade Grouping

School Year	PK-12	K-12	PK-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
2019-20	2,278	2,251	409	497	580	792
2020-21	2,274	2,247	415	487	561	811
2021-22	2,241	2,214	426	459	560	796
2022-23	2,215	2,188	416	458	553	788
2023-24	2,202	2,175	416	466	541	779
2024-25	2,182	2,155	431	478	508	765
2025-26	2,175	2,148	435	465	509	766
2026-27	2,164	2,137	442	466	517	739
2027-28	2,167	2,140	442	485	530	710
2028-2029	2,165	2,138	446	490	516	713
2029-30	2,162	2,135	449	497	515	701

5 Year Change

-4.2% -4.3% 5.4% -3.8% -12.4% -3.4%

10 Year Change

-5.1% -5.2% 9.8% 0.0% -11.2% -11.5%

**Projected Enrollments by Grade (Medium Model), 2019-20 to 2029-30
District Projections Blended – Medium Birth-K and Medium Kindergarten Regression**

School Year	Birth Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK
2019-20	2014	71	129	118	135	160	168	169	191	186	203	195	207	205	185	27
2020-21	2015	62	120	144	124	144	169	174	178	194	189	206	194	206	205	27
2021-22	2016	54	113	134	152	132	152	175	183	180	197	192	205	193	206	27
2022-23	2017	61	121	127	141	162	139	157	184	186	183	200	191	204	193	27
2023-24	2018	60	121	135	133	151	171	144	165	187	189	186	199	190	204	27
2024-25	2019	66	127	135	142	142	159	177	151	167	190	192	185	198	190	27
2025-26	2020	62	124	142	142	151	150	164	186	153	170	193	191	184	198	27
2026-27	2021	63	126	139	150	151	160	155	173	189	155	173	192	190	184	27
2027-28	2022	64	128	141	146	160	160	165	163	175	192	157	172	191	190	27
2028-29	2023	63	128	143	148	156	169	165	173	165	178	195	156	171	191	27
2029-30	2024	63	129	143	150	158	165	174	173	175	167	181	194	155	171	27

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

MILONE & MACBROOM, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Zuba", written in a cursive style.

Michael Zuba, AICP, Associate
Director of Planning

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