West Chicago Elementary School District 33

Demographic Trends and Enrollment Projections

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Preface

This report examines population and housing trends within West Chicago Elementary School District 33 and assesses the implications of these trends for future enrollments at the individual schools and district as a whole. The objective of this report is fourfold. First, I shall discuss residential development patterns and demographic dynamics underlying historical and recent enrollment changes in the District. Next, I shall assess annual enrollment changes in District 33 schools since 2005–06 and analyze student migration/transfer patterns and other sources of these enrollment changes. I shall then discuss new housing prospects, housing turnover and other factors impacting family in-migration that will shape future enrollments in the District and the individual schools. Finally, I shall project enrollment, by grade and by year, for each of the six elementary schools through school year 2027–28, and at Leman Middle School and the District as a whole through school year 2032–33.

All enrollment projections will be in the form of three separate series based on different assumptions about future fertility rates, housing turnover and family migration to District 33 and the elementary school attendance areas. These three series will provide forecasts by grade and by year of (A) the minimum number of students that may be anticipated, (B) the most likely number of

students to be expected, and (C) the maximum number of students that can be foreseen.

In conducting the analysis that follows, I benefited from data and information provided by administrators and professional staff of District 33, especially Ms. Karen Apostoli, Director of Business Operations. For their fine assistance and that of others who contributed to this study, I am most appreciative.

Overview of School District 33

West Chicago Elementary School District 33 is located in western DuPage County, approximately 35 miles west of Chicago's Loop. Covering just over 24 square miles, the district's attendance area encompasses approximately 70 percent of the city of West Chicago. With more than half of the district's area accounted for by sections of unincorporated DuPage County, District 33's boundaries also include very small portions of Winfield and Warrenville.

West Chicago Elementary School District 33 serves more than 3,300 demographically diverse pre-K through the eighth-grade students in three preschool centers, six elementary schools, and one middle school. The district also offers a Birth to 3 program, which is a free early education program for expecting parents and families with children under the age of three.

Housing and Population Trends

In 1950, the city of West Chicago had fewer than 4,000 residents. The city experienced a flurry of single family housing construction between 1950 and 2009 (see Table 1). The vast majority of newly constructed homes contained three or more bedrooms and were modestly priced. As late as 1980, the median value of owner-occupied units in West Chicago was $95,300 (see Table 2). These new modestly priced housing units attracted large numbers of young families with children leading to considerable growth in District 33's preschool and school-age residents, as well as overall city population size which reached 23,469 in 1990 (see Table 3).

New housing construction continued in the 1990s and first five years of this century, contributing to overall West Chicago population growth, reaching 27,086 in 2010. Housing development slowed substantially after 2005 as the city was approaching build-out and the impending housing crisis that commenced in 2007. As may be seen in Table 4, new housing construction came to a near standstill in 2007 and remained negligible annually through July 2022.

Existing housing sales tapered as well during the 2008–2012 recession and remained relatively modest after 2012, though median sales prices of existing housing units climbed through 2021 (see Figure 1). Thus, as shown in Table 3, the preschool-age (under age 5) and school-age (5–19) populations in West Chicago

declined between 2010 and 2020, as did the total population. Births to West Chicago's residents dropped considerably, as well. Recent lower numbers of under-age-5 residents normally would suggest considerable declines in kindergarten and overall elementary school enrollment during the coming decade.

However, further observe in Table 3 the substantial increase in West Chicago's residents age 60 and over between 2010 and 2020. If conditions favorable to the housing market return, this should lead to increased turnover of existing housing units occupied by "empty nesters" to younger families with preschool and elementary school-age children, countering to some extent lower preschool populations and births.

From a demographic standpoint, one other change worth noting is the growth in Hispanic student enrollment during the past two decades. By 2021, the percentage of District 33's student body that is Hispanic was approximately 80 percent. I now turn to the implications of housing and demographic factors for enrollment changes in District 33 and its individual schools.

Table 1

Housing Units in West Chicago by Year Structure Built

Year Structure Built	Units	Percent Total
Total	8,218	100.0
2014 or later	33	0.4
2010 to 2013	38	0.5
2000 to 2009	1,309	15.9
1990 to 1999	1,801	21.9
1980 to 1989	1,027	12.5
1970 to 1979	1,336	16.3
1960 to 1969	664	8.1
1950 to 1959	799	9.7
1940 to 1949	191	2.3
1939 or earlier	1,020	12.4

Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 2

Median Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units in West Chicago:
1950 to 2020

Year	Median Value
1950	$10,886
1960	$16,100
1970	$20,800
1980	$59,400
1990	$95,300
2000	$160,200
2010	$260,500
2020	$247,100

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Decennial Census of Housing, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000." 2010 and 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

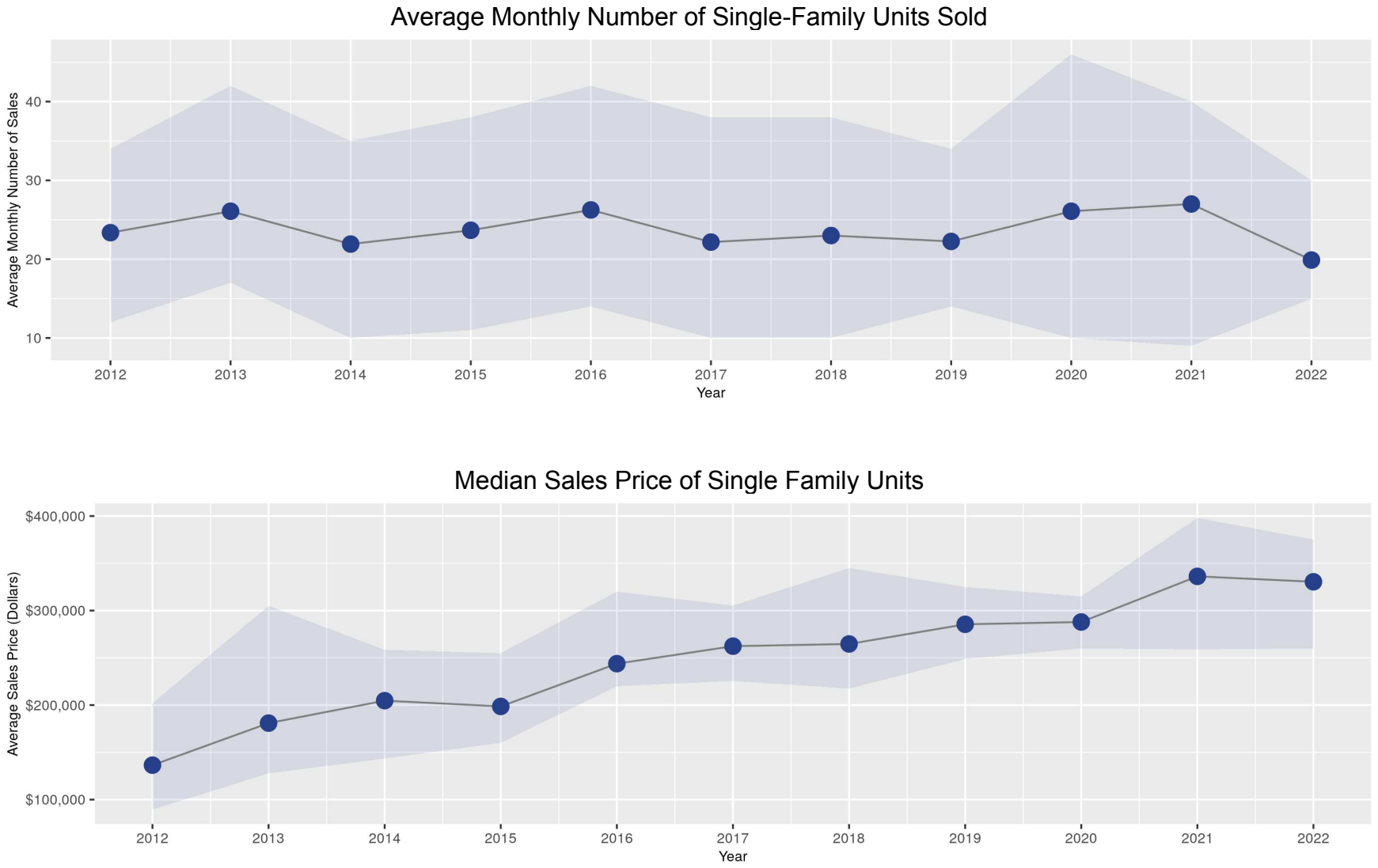

Figure 1. Single-Family Home Sale Trends in West Chicago, Illinois

Source: Adapted from Redfin.com

Table 3

Population by Age Group in West Chicago: 1950 to 2020

Age	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Total	3,973	6,854	10,111	12,550	14,796	23,469	27,086	25,614
Under 5	438	883	1,062	1,309	1,461	2,408	2,518	1,755
5 to 9	381	895	1,241	1,013	1,291	2,056	2,526	1,747
10 to 14	262	694	1,157	973	1,028	1,811	2,387	2,185
15 to 19	251	488	894	1,115	1,118	1,963	2,085	2,284
20 to 24	234	322	870	1,327	1,489	2306	1,911	2,022
25 to 39	867	1,427	3,125	3,296	4,401	6,289	6,058	4,670
40 to 59	1,009	1,408	842	2,075	2,560	5,042	6,903	7,446
60 and over	531	737	920	1,442	1,448	1,594	2,698	3,505

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Decennial Census of Population and Housing, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1900, 2000, and 2010; and 2020 Redistricting File.

Table 4

Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits in West Chicago: 2000 to July 2022

Year	Single-Family	Multi-Family	Total
2000	288	0	288
2001	177	0	177
2002	103	0	103
2003	68	183	251
2004	175	16	191
2005	102	0	102
2006	29	0	29
2007	9	0	9
2008	7	0	7
2009	5	0	5
2010	6	0	6
2011	7	0	7
2012	4	0	4
2013	5	0	5
2014	6	0	6
2015	3	0	3
2016	4	0	4
2017	3	0	3
2018	2	0	2
2019	1	0	1
2020	1	24	25
2021	2	0	2
–7/22	1	0	1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Current Construction Reports. Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits, Annual 1990 to 2021, and July 2022 year to date.

Enrollment Trends and Student Migration

Enrollment trends in District 33 mirrored new housing construction, housing turnover, and resulting family migration patterns to West Chicago over the past half century. Enrollment climbed from 1,490 students in 1959–60 to 2,928 students in 1973–74, after which it slipped back to the 2,300–2,400 student range in the first half of the 1980s (during a recession and double-digit mortgage interest rates). Total District 33 enrollment resumed its growth in the mid-1980s annually rising to 3,833 students in 2000–01 and on up to 5,009 students (including the birth to age 3 program) in school year 2011–2012. K–8 enrollment peaked at 4,472 students in 2014–15, but since then it has annually declined to 3,066 students in fall 2022.

District 33 total enrollment, including pre-K and birth-to-3 students, peaked at 5,241 students in 2016–17. This was largely due to an exceptionally high number of pre-K students served. Since then, total District 33 enrollment (including pre-K and birth-to-3 students) declined to 3,475 this year.

Determinants of Enrollment Change

District 33 is an open demographic system whose growth, stability, or decline is affected by four basic factors. The first is the difference between the size of the kindergarten class that enters each September and the size of the

previous June's graduating eighth grade class. The second is the net migration/transfer of school-age children in the district as they progress through the grades over the years. The third is change in pre-K students. And the fourth is is change in Birth to Age 3 children served.

Tables 5, 6, and 7 describe how annual enrollment change in District 33 since school year 2011–12 may be decomposed into the four component parts. Table 5 provides the grade-by-grade and year-by-year enrollment for the District between 2000–01 and 2022–23. Table 6 decomposes the annual total enrollment changes into the four component parts since fall 2011 (when birth to age 3 was first tabulated). Thus, between September 2021 (school year 2021–22) and September 2022 (school year 2022–23), overall District enrollment declined by 434 students (3,909 to 3,475 as shown in Table 5). The 416 eighth graders who graduated in June 2022 (see Table 5) were replaced this past September (2022) by 314 kindergarten students, for a net class size difference of −102. This 102-student loss was compounded by 185 more students who migrated out of the District or transferred to private or parochial schools than who migrated into the District or transferred from private or parochial schools between September 2021 and September 2022. During the same period, pre-K also declined by 112 students and birth-to-3 by 35 students. The four components (−102, −185, −112, −35) sum precisely to the net 434-student drop in total District 33 enrollment between September 2021 and September 2022.

Note that since September 2016, District 33 consistently experienced enrollment losses by smaller entering kindergarten classes replacing graduating eighth grade classes and negative net student migration/transfer, the latter especially large. The district's net student migration/transfer loss between fall 2021 and fall 2022 (−185) was the largest loss recorded. Considerable enrollment declines in recent years have been exacerbated by major drops in both pre-K and the birth to age 3 program.

Table 7 describes how the net student migration/transfer figures are computed from the enrollment data. The bottom left cell of "−46" means that as the kindergarten class of September 2021 progressed to the first grade in September 2022, it declined by 46 students (see Table 5 where kindergarten enrollment in school year 2021–22 was 389 and first grade enrollment in school year 2022–23 is 343 students). Similarly, as the first grade class of September 2021 progressed to the second grade in September 2022, it dropped by 27 students. Summing across the bottom row of Table 7, one obtains −185, which is District 33's net student migration/transfer loss between September 2021 and September 2022 shown in Table 6. Observe in Table 7 that net student migration/transfer losses have characterized essentially all grades since the 2011–12 school year.

Table 5

Enrollment History of West Chicago Elementary School District 33: 2000–01 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	K–8	PK	Birth to 3	SE*	Total
2000–01	404	417	431	399	418	399	420	391	413	3,692	0	0	141	3,833
2001–02	408	442	420	433	391	384	381	413	381	3,653	0	0	139	3,792
2002–03	420	429	428	423	424	391	385	396	400	3,696	160	0	0	3,856
2003–04	416	432	421	415	397	414	393	368	397	3,653	188	0	0	3,841
2004–05	432	437	412	425	413	410	407	395	387	3,718	201	0	0	3,919
2005–06	482	472	480	448	450	439	420	436	406	4,033	243	0	0	4,276
2006–07	517	471	425	459	434	468	427	403	423	4,027	402	0	0	4,429
2007–08	528	503	476	414	442	422	450	415	406	4,056	437	0	0	4,493
2008–09	523	520	484	442	411	426	400	444	429	4,079	462	0	0	4,541
2009–10	510	511	519	483	443	408	422	394	453	4,143	412	0	0	4,555
2010–11	586	519	518	517	486	453	404	405	390	4,278	219	0	0	4,497
2011–12	605	550	518	511	508	499	429	399	414	4,433	447	129	0	5,009
2012–13	552	559	516	498	487	482	478	424	400	4,396	427	134	0	4,957
2013–14	553	525	544	506	466	483	448	455	421	4,401	418	155	0	4,974
2014–15	513	552	531	524	500	478	462	454	458	4,472	401	146	0	5,019
2015–16	483	492	518	508	522	482	455	472	448	4,380	574	146	0	5,100
2016–17	464	469	477	499	493	514	490	457	475	4,338	684	219	0	5,241
2017–18	449	434	454	465	473	488	495	471	435	4,164	383	255	0	4,802
2018–19	382	430	426	433	429	452	470	482	459	3,963	472	205	0	4,640
2019–20	369	363	428	401	414	421	424	457	458	3,735	448	193	0	4,376
2020–21	318	356	347	410	390	397	411	418	449	3,496	403	196	0	4,095
2021–22	389	307	341	339	400	373	387	401	416	3,353	379	177	0	3,909
2022–23	314	343	280	320	317	378	361	367	386	3,066	267	142	0	3,475

Table 6

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in West Chicago Elementary School District 33: September 2011 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 8	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Birth to 3
2011 to 12	-52	138	-175	-20	5
2012 to 13	17	153	-148	-9	21
2013 to 14	45	92	-21	-17	-9
2014 to 15	81	25	-117	173	0
2015 to 16	141	16	-58	110	73
2016 to 17	-439	-26	-148	-301	36
2017 to 18	-162	-53	-148	89	-50
2018 to 19	-264	-90	-138	-24	-12
2019 to 20	-281	-140	-99	-45	3
2020 to 21	-186	-60	-83	-24	-19
2021 to 22	-434	-102	-185	-112	-35

Table 7

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in West Chicago Elementary School District 33:
September 2000 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition								
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000 to 01	38	3	2	-8	-34	-18	-7	-10	-34
2001 to 02	21	-14	3	-9	0	1	15	-13	4
2002 to 03	12	-8	-13	-26	-10	2	-17	1	-59
2003 to 04	21	-20	4	-2	13	-7	2	19	30
2004 to 05	40	43	36	25	26	10	29	11	220
2005 to 06	-11	-47	-21	-14	18	-12	-17	-13	-117
2006 to 07	-14	5	-11	-17	-12	-18	-12	3	-76
2007 to 08	-8	-19	-34	-3	-16	-22	-6	14	-94
2008 to 09	-12	-1	-1	1	-3	-4	-6	9	-17
2009 to 10	9	7	-2	3	10	-4	-17	-4	2
2010 to 11	-36	-1	-7	-9	13	-24	-5	9	-60
2011 to 12	-46	-34	-20	-24	-26	-21	-5	1	-175
2012 to 13	-27	-15	-10	-32	-4	-34	-23	-3	-148
2013 to 14	-1	6	-20	-6	12	-21	6	3	-21
2014 to 15	-21	-34	-23	-2	-18	-23	10	-6	-117
2015 to 16	-14	-15	-19	-15	-8	8	2	3	-58
2016 to 17	-30	-15	-12	-26	-5	-19	-19	-22	-148
2017 to 18	-19	-8	-21	-36	-21	-18	-13	-12	-148
2018 to 19	-19	-2	-25	-19	-8	-28	-13	-24	-138
2019 to 20	-13	-16	-18	-11	-17	-10	-6	-8	-99
2020 to 21	-11	-15	-8	-10	-17	-10	-10	-2	-83
2021 to 22	-46	-27	-21	-22	-22	-12	-20	-15	-185

Enrollment Change in the Individual Schools

Annual enrollment changes in District 33 during the past two decades have been differentially distributed among the District's schools. Tables 8 through 28 show annual enrollments by grade through school year 2022–23 at Currier, Gary, Indian Knoll, Pioneer, Turner, and Wegner elementary schools, and Leman Middle School and decompose the annual sources of enrollment change in each school. Here my discussion will focus mostly on the last five to ten years.

Currier Elementary's enrollment has been in steady decline since 2014–15 when it housed 580 students. This fall there were 340 students registered. Smaller entering kindergarten classes relative to the prior June's exiting fifth-grade classes is the primary reason for Currier's decline, though in many years the school also experienced net student migration/transfer losses. Once they sixth-grade classes moved out, Gary Elementary annually declined from 607 students in 2013–14 to 442 students this fall. Gary's annual drops have been due almost entirely to negative net student migration/transfer.

Indian Knoll has declined from 451 students in 2014–15 to 269 students this fall with its enrollment drops due to a combination of smaller entering kindergarten class sizes and negative net student migration/transfer. Pioneer's annual decline from 473 students in 2016–17 to 258 students in fall 2022 also

resulted from a combination of these two factors, while Turner's consistent drop from 473 students in 2015–16 to 281 in 2022–23 occurred primarily from negative net student migration/transfer. Tables 25 and 26 show that Wegner's enrollment drop from 569 students in 2014–15 to 362 students in 2022–23 resulted from a combination of relatively smaller entering kindergarten classes compared with progressing fifth-grade classes and negative student migration/transfer.

Total grade K–5 enrollment dropped from 3,098 in 2014–15 to 1,952 in 2022–23 with the largest decline since school year 2018–19. This major decline in K–5 enrollment has already begun to significantly impact Leman Middle School and will likely continue to depress that school's enrollment for at least the next four to five years.

Leman Middle School incorporated the District's sixth-grade classes in 2013–14 when its enrollment stood at 1,324. Leman's total enrollment climbed to 1,422 students in 2016–17. Since then, its enrollment has dropped to 1,114 this fall, with almost all of the decline occurring during the past three years. As implied above, the middle school's considerable enrollment drop during in recent years (from 1,411 in 2018–19) resulted mostly from smaller entering sixth-grade class sizes compared with the prior June's graduating eighth-grade class sizes.

Table 8

Enrollment History of Currier Elementary School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K–5	PK	Total
2005–06	102	70	72	83	68	64	74	533	67	600
2006–07	96	82	65	77	80	74	67	541		541
2007–08	85	76	82	59	65	72	67	506	1	507
2008–09	92	67	71	79	53	65	75	502	0	502
2009–10	103	86	72	74	79	51	66	531	0	531
2010–11	108	82	86	63	72	84	59	554	0	554
2011–12	135	83	81	82	65	86	80	612	0	612
2012–13	107	97	88	73	75	57	79	576	0	576
2013–14	126	82	102	96	76	86	—	568	0	568
2014–15	85	121	89	104	96	85	—	580	0	580
2015–16	79	88	99	94	100	90	—	550	0	550
2016–17	73	78	86	95	80	95	—	507	0	507
2017–18	75	71	80	82	91	80	—	479	0	479
2018–19	62	78	70	78	74	87	—	449	0	449
2019–20	66	66	75	66	76	76	—	425	0	425
2020–21	48	60	67	72	68	72	—	387	0	387
2021–22	53	55	66	65	79	66	—	384	0	384
2022–23	45	54	46	63	61	71	—	340	0	340

Table 9

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Currier Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 5	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	-59	22	-14	-67	0
2006 to 07	-34	18	-53	1	0
2007 to 08	-5	25	-29	-1	0
2008 to 09	29	28	1	0	0
2009 to 10	23	42	-19	0	0
2010 to 11	58	76	-18	0	0
2011 to 12	-36	27	-63	0	0
2012 to 13	-8	47	2	0	-57
2013 to 14	12	-1	13	0	0
2014 to 15	-30	-6	-24	0	0
2015 to 16	-43	-17	-26	0	0
2016 to 17	-28	-20	-8	0	0
2017 to 18	-30	-18	-12	0	0
2018 to 19	-24	-21	-3	0	0
2019 to 20	-38	-28	-10	0	0
2020 to 21	-3	-19	16	0	0
2021 to 22	-44	-21	-23	0	0

Table 10

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Currier Elementary School:
September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition						
	K–1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	Total
2005 to 06	-20	-5	5	-3	6	3	-14
2006 to 07	-20	0	-6	-12	-8	-7	-53
2007 to 08	-18	-5	-3	-6	0	3	-29
2008 to 09	-6	5	3	0	-2	1	1
2009 to 10	-21	0	-9	-2	5	8	-19
2010 to 11	-25	-1	-4	2	14	-4	-18
2011 to 12	-38	5	-8	-7	-8	-7	-63
2012 to 13	-25	5	8	3	11	—	2
2013 to 14	-5	7	2	0	9	—	13
2014 to 15	3	-22	5	-4	-6	—	-24
2015 to 16	-1	-2	-4	-14	-5	—	-26
2016 to 17	-2	2	-4	-4	0	—	-8
2017 to 18	3	-1	-2	-8	-4	—	-12
2018 to 19	4	-3	-4	-2	2	—	-3
2019 to 20	-6	1	-3	2	-4	—	-10
2020 to 21	7	6	-2	7	-2	—	16
2021 to 22	1	-9	-3	-4	-8	—	-23

Table 11

Enrollment History of Gary Elementary School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K–5	PK	Total
2005–06	80	81	61	64	85	70	85	526	0	526
2006–07	100	75	67	54	62	83	52	493	0	493
2007–08	115	97	75	69	56	61	79	552	0	552
2008–09	120	104	87	70	69	52	63	565	0	565
2009–10	109	104	102	82	68	68	54	587	0	587
2010–11	123	97	100	92	86	70	65	633	0	633
2011–12	115	108	93	102	99	84	68	669	0	669
2012–13	109	109	99	97	105	103	84	706	0	706
2013–14	126	105	99	95	91	91	—	607	0	607
2014–15	111	101	102	98	91	89	—	592	0	592
2015–16	104	110	93	90	91	87	—	575	0	575
2016–17	108	96	100	88	91	88	—	571	0	571
2017–18	103	101	91	97	86	90	—	568	0	568
2018–19	100	105	93	87	90	85	—	560	0	560
2019–20	86	94	103	88	80	87	—	538	0	538
2020–21	88	79	90	97	87	77	—	518	0	518
2021–22	94	82	70	81	92	81	—	500	0	500
2022–23	61	83	76	64	73	85	—	442	0	442

Table 12

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Gary Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 5	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	-33	15	-48	0	0
2006 to 07	59	63	-4	0	0
2007 to 08	13	41	-28	0	0
2008 to 09	22	46	-24	0	0
2009 to 10	46	69	-23	0	0
2010 to 11	36	50	-14	0	0
2011 to 12	37	41	-4	0	0
2012 to 13	-99	42	-38	0	-103
2013 to 14	-15	20	-35	0	0
2014 to 15	-17	15	-32	0	0
2015 to 16	-4	21	-25	0	0
2016 to 17	-3	15	-18	0	0
2017 to 18	-8	10	-18	0	0
2018 to 19	-22	1	-23	0	0
2019 to 20	-20	1	-21	0	0
2020 to 21	-18	17	-35	0	0
2021 to 22	-58	-20	-38	0	0

Table 13

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Gary Elementary School:
September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition						
	K–1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	Total
2005 to 06	-5	-14	-7	-2	-2	-18	-48
2006 to 07	-3	0	2	2	-1	-4	-4
2007 to 08	-11	-10	-5	0	-4	2	-28
2008 to 09	-16	-2	-5	-2	-1	2	-24
2009 to 10	-12	-4	-10	4	2	-3	-23
2010 to 11	-15	-4	2	7	-2	-2	-14
2011 to 12	-6	-9	4	3	4	0	-4
2012 to 13	-4	-10	-4	-6	-14	—	-38
2013 to 14	-25	-3	-1	-4	-2	—	-35
2014 to 15	-1	-8	-12	-7	-4	—	-32
2015 to 16	-8	-10	-5	1	-3	—	-25
2016 to 17	-7	-5	-3	-2	-1	—	-18
2017 to 18	2	-8	-4	-7	-1	—	-18
2018 to 19	-6	-2	-5	-7	-3	—	-23
2019 to 20	-7	-4	-6	-1	-3	—	-21
2020 to 21	-6	-9	-9	-5	-6	—	-35
2021 to 22	-11	-6	-6	-8	-7	—	-38

Table 14

Enrollment History of Indian Knoll Elementary School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K–5	PK	Total
2005–06	58	61	70	65	73	68	70	465	1	466
2006–07	55	60	59	69	62	79	64	448	0	448
2007–08	69	60	67	55	67	59	96	473	0	473
2008–09	53	64	57	58	63	66	60	421	2	423
2009–10	73	58	75	64	75	62	71	478	0	478
2010–11	74	92	72	80	71	68	55	512	0	512
2011–12	91	78	85	72	77	80	59	542	0	542
2012–13	64	61	67	82	64	68	78	484	0	484
2013–14	93	75	65	62	73	66	—	434	2	436
2014–15	89	94	80	57	61	70	—	451	0	451
2015–16	70	64	96	77	61	61	—	429	0	429
2016–17	60	69	71	95	77	56	—	428	0	428
2017–18	57	57	70	68	87	78	—	417	0	417
2018–19	42	56	57	68	63	84	—	370	0	370
2019–20	53	35	59	54	60	65	—	326	0	326
2020–21	36	48	33	57	51	59	—	284	0	284
2021–22	62	46	46	38	52	44	—	288	0	288
2022–23	47	52	37	44	36	53	—	269	0	269

Table 15

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Indian Knoll Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 5	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	-18	-15	-2	-1	0
2006 to 07	25	5	20	0	0
2007 to 08	-50	-43	-9	2	0
2008 to 09	55	13	44	-2	0
2009 to 10	34	3	31	0	0
2010 to 11	30	36	-6	0	0
2011 to 12	-58	5	-63	0	0
2012 to 13	-48	15	3	2	-68
2013 to 14	15	23	-6	-2	0
2014 to 15	-22	0	-22	0	0
2015 to 16	-1	-1	0	0	0
2016 to 17	-11	1	-12	0	0
2017 to 18	-47	-36	-11	0	0
2018 to 19	-44	-31	-13	0	0
2019 to 20	-42	-29	-13	0	0
2020 to 21	4	3	1	0	0
2021 to 22	-19	3	-22	0	0

Table 16

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Indian Knoll Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition						
	K–1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	Total
2005 to 06	2	-2	-1	-3	6	-4	-2
2006 to 07	5	7	-4	-2	-3	17	20
2007 to 08	-5	-3	-9	8	-1	1	-9
2008 to 09	5	11	7	17	-1	5	44
2009 to 10	19	14	5	7	-7	-7	31
2010 to 11	4	-7	0	-3	9	-9	-6
2011 to 12	-30	-11	-3	-8	-9	-2	-63
2012 to 13	11	4	-5	-9	2	—	3
2013 to 14	1	5	-8	-1	-3	—	-6
2014 to 15	-25	2	-3	4	0	—	-22
2015 to 16	-1	7	-1	0	-5	—	0
2016 to 17	-3	1	-3	-8	1	—	-12
2017 to 18	-1	0	-2	-5	-3	—	-11
2018 to 19	-7	3	-3	-8	2	—	-13
2019 to 20	-5	-2	-2	-3	-1	—	-13
2020 to 21	10	-2	5	-5	-7	—	1
2021 to 22	-10	-9	-2	-2	1	—	-22

Table 17

Enrollment History of Pioneer Elementary School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K–5	PK	Total
2005–06	83	103	99	85	84	71	83	608	38	646
2006–07	91	90	89	94	80	82	74	600	0	600
2007–08	92	95	90	86	85	73	75	596	0	596
2008–09	83	104	93	78	83	84	72	597	1	598
2009–10	67	85	86	81	66	76	76	537	0	537
2010–11	80	85	91	92	83	74	78	583	0	583
2011–12	66	94	85	82	93	79	75	574	0	574
2012–13	74	101	91	80	83	84	79	592	0	592
2013–14	46	89	97	81	80	76	—	469	1	470
2014–15	80	72	83	91	78	82	—	486	0	486
2015–16	67	78	67	81	92	72	—	457	0	457
2016–17	80	71	77	70	82	93	—	473	0	473
2017–18	68	69	66	81	68	85	—	437	0	437
2018–19	53	58	62	64	71	64	—	372	0	372
2019–20	45	50	59	64	62	69	—	349	0	349
2020–21	48	52	47	56	63	59	—	325	0	325
2021–22	54	49	51	45	53	60	—	312	0	312
2022–23	38	44	48	41	42	45	—	258	0	258

Table 18

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Pioneer Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 5	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	-46	8	-16	-38	0
2006 to 07	-4	18	-22	0	0
2007 to 08	2	8	-7	1	0
2008 to 09	-61	-5	-55	-1	0
2009 to 10	46	4	42	0	0
2010 to 11	-9	-12	3	0	0
2011 to 12	18	-1	19	0	0
2012 to 13	-122	-33	-6	1	-84
2013 to 14	16	4	13	-1	0
2014 to 15	-29	-15	-14	0	0
2015 to 16	16	8	8	0	0
2016 to 17	-36	-25	-11	0	0
2017 to 18	-65	-32	-33	0	0
2018 to 19	-23	-19	-4	0	0
2019 to 20	-24	-21	-3	0	0
2020 to 21	-13	-5	-8	0	0
2021 to 22	-54	-22	-32	0	0

Table 19

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Pioneer Elementary School:
September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition						
	K–1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	Total
2005 to 06	7	-14	-5	-5	-2	3	-16
2006 to 07	4	0	-3	-9	-7	-7	-22
2007 to 08	12	-2	-12	-3	-1	-1	-7
2008 to 09	2	-18	-12	-12	-7	-8	-55
2009 to 10	18	6	6	2	8	2	42
2010 to 11	14	0	-9	1	-4	1	3
2011 to 12	35	-3	-5	1	-9	0	19
2012 to 13	15	-4	-10	0	-7	—	-6
2013 to 14	26	-6	-6	-3	2	—	13
2014 to 15	-2	-5	-2	1	-6	—	-14
2015 to 16	4	-1	3	1	1	—	8
2016 to 17	-11	-5	4	-2	3	—	-11
2017 to 18	-10	-7	-2	-10	-4	—	-33
2018 to 19	-3	1	2	-2	-2	—	-4
2019 to 20	7	-3	-3	-1	-3	—	-3
2020 to 21	1	-1	-2	-3	-3	—	-8
2021 to 22	-10	-1	-10	-3	-8	—	-32

Table 20

Enrollment History of Turner Elementary School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K–5	PK	Total
2005–06	65	74	91	64	76	98	45	513	0	513
2006–07	70	73	72	83	64	82	93	537	0	537
2007–08	70	68	73	68	80	80	60	499	0	499
2008–09	88	81	69	70	68	75	62	513	0	513
2009–10	61	85	76	74	68	75	73	512	0	512
2010–11	74	56	77	80	70	65	72	494	0	494
2011–12	78	70	59	81	64	67	60	479	0	479
2012–13	91	73	68	61	84	66	74	517	0	517
2013–14	75	65	82	71	58	79	—	430	0	430
2014–15	79	77	72	76	74	63	—	441	0	441
2015–16	87	74	80	69	85	78	—	473	0	473
2016–17	68	78	71	78	71	88	—	454	0	454
2017–18	74	63	72	70	69	73	—	421	0	421
2018–19	67	64	72	61	66	62	—	392	0	392
2019–20	64	64	63	65	61	57	—	374	0	374
2020–21	49	62	55	61	62	58	—	347	0	347
2021–22	47	27	52	55	56	56	—	293	0	293
2022–23	49	43	26	54	52	57	—	281	0	281

Table 21

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Turner Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 5	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	24	25	-1	0	0
2006 to 07	-38	-23	-15	0	0
2007 to 08	14	28	-14	0	0
2008 to 09	-1	-1	0	0	0
2009 to 10	-18	1	-19	0	0
2010 to 11	-15	6	-21	0	0
2011 to 12	38	31	7	0	0
2012 to 13	-87	1	-22	0	-66
2013 to 14	11	0	11	0	0
2014 to 15	32	24	8	0	0
2015 to 16	-19	-10	-9	0	0
2016 to 17	-33	-14	-19	0	0
2017 to 18	-29	-6	-23	0	0
2018 to 19	-18	2	-20	0	0
2019 to 20	-27	-8	-19	0	0
2020 to 21	-54	-11	-43	0	0
2021 to 22	-12	-7	-5	0	0

Table 22

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Turner Elementary School:
September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition						
	K–1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	Total
2005 to 06	8	-2	-8	0	6	-5	-1
2006 to 07	-2	0	-4	-3	16	-22	-15
2007 to 08	11	1	-3	0	-5	-18	-14
2008 to 09	-3	-5	5	-2	7	-2	0
2009 to 10	-5	-8	4	-4	-3	-3	-19
2010 to 11	-4	3	4	-16	-3	-5	-21
2011 to 12	-5	-2	2	3	2	7	7
2012 to 13	-26	9	3	-3	-5	—	-22
2013 to 14	2	7	-6	3	5	—	11
2014 to 15	-5	3	-3	9	4	—	8
2015 to 16	-9	-3	-2	2	3	—	-9
2016 to 17	-5	-6	-1	-9	2	—	-19
2017 to 18	-10	9	-11	-4	-7	—	-23
2018 to 19	-3	-1	-7	0	-9	—	-20
2019 to 20	-2	-9	-2	-3	-3	—	-19
2020 to 21	-22	-10	0	-5	-6	—	-43
2021 to 22	-4	-1	2	-3	1	—	-5

Table 23

Enrollment History of Wegner Elementary School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K–5	PK	Total
2005–06	94	83	87	87	64	68	63	546	137	683
2006–07	105	91	73	82	86	68	77	582	0	582
2007–08	97	107	89	77	89	77	73	609	0	609
2008–09	87	100	107	87	75	84	68	608	0	608
2009–10	97	93	108	108	87	76	82	651	0	651
2010–11	127	107	92	110	104	92	75	707	0	707
2011–12	120	117	115	92	110	103	87	744	0	744
2012–13	107	118	103	105	76	104	84	697	0	697
2013–14	87	109	99	101	88	85	—	569	0	569
2014–15	69	87	105	98	100	89	—	548	0	548
2015–16	76	78	83	97	93	94	—	521	0	521
2016–17	75	77	72	73	92	94	—	483	0	483
2017–18	72	73	75	67	72	82	—	441	0	441
2018–19	58	69	72	75	65	70	—	409	0	409
2019–20	55	54	69	64	75	67	—	384	0	384
2020–21	49	55	55	67	59	72	—	357	0	357
2021–22	79	48	56	55	68	66	—	372	0	372
2022–23	74	67	47	54	53	67	—	362	0	362

Table 24

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Wegner Elementary School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering K vs. Exiting 5	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Pre-K	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	-101	42	-6	-137	0
2006 to 07	27	20	7	0	0
2007 to 08	-1	14	-15	0	0
2008 to 09	43	29	14	0	0
2009 to 10	56	45	11	0	0
2010 to 11	37	45	-8	0	0
2011 to 12	-47	20	-67	0	0
2012 to 13	-128	3	-27	0	-104
2013 to 14	-21	-16	-5	0	0
2014 to 15	-27	-13	-14	0	0
2015 to 16	-38	-19	-19	0	0
2016 to 17	-42	-22	-20	0	0
2017 to 18	-32	-24	-8	0	0
2018 to 19	-25	-15	-10	0	0
2019 to 20	-27	-18	-9	0	0
2020 to 21	15	7	8	0	0
2021 to 22	-10	8	-18	0	0

Table 25

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Wegner Elementary School:
September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition						
	K–1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	Total
2005 to 06	-3	-10	-5	-1	4	9	-6
2006 to 07	2	-2	4	7	-9	5	7
2007 to 08	3	0	-2	-2	-5	-9	-15
2008 to 09	6	8	1	0	1	-2	14
2009 to 10	10	-1	2	-4	5	-1	11
2010 to 11	-10	8	0	0	-1	-5	-8
2011 to 12	-2	-14	-10	-16	-6	-19	-67
2012 to 13	2	-19	-2	-17	9	—	-27
2013 to 14	0	-4	-1	-1	1	—	-5
2014 to 15	9	-4	-8	-5	-6	—	-14
2015 to 16	1	-6	-10	-5	1	—	-19
2016 to 17	-2	-2	-5	-1	-10	—	-20
2017 to 18	-3	-1	0	-2	-2	—	-8
2018 to 19	-4	0	-8	0	2	—	-10
2019 to 20	0	1	-2	-5	-3	—	-9
2020 to 21	-1	1	0	1	7	—	8
2021 to 22	-12	-1	-2	-2	-1	—	-18

Table 26

Enrollment History of Leman Middle School: 2005–06 to 2022–23

School Year	6	7	8	Total
2005–06	—	436	406	842
2006–07	—	403	423	826
2007–08	—	415	406	821
2008–09	—	444	429	873
2009–10	—	394	453	847
2010–11	—	405	390	795
2011–12	—	399	414	813
2012–13	—	424	400	824
2013–14	448	455	421	1,324
2014–15	462	454	458	1,374
2015–16	455	472	448	1,375
2016–17	490	457	475	1,422
2017–18	495	471	435	1,401
2018–19	470	482	459	1,411
2019–20	424	457	458	1,339
2020–21	411	418	449	1,278
2021–22	387	401	416	1,204
2022–23	361	367	386	1,114

Table 27

Decomposition of Annual Source of Enrollment Change in Leman Middle School: September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Change Total Enrollment	Entering 6 vs. Exiting 8	Net Student Migration/ Transfer	Change Realignment
2005 to 06	-16	-3	-13	0
2006 to 07	-5	-8	3	0
2007 to 08	52	38	14	0
2008 to 09	-26	-35	9	0
2009 to 10	-52	-48	-4	0
2010 to 11	18	9	9	0
2011 to 12	11	10	1	0
2012 to 13	500	48	-3	455
2013 to 14	50	41	9	0
2014 to 15	1	-3	4	0
2015 to 16	47	42	5	0
2016 to 17	-21	20	-41	0
2017 to 18	10	35	-25	0
2018 to 19	-72	-35	-37	0
2019 to 20	-61	-47	-14	0
2020 to 21	-74	-62	-12	0
2021 to 22	-90	-55	-35	0

Table 28

Net Annual Student Migration/Transfer in Leman Middle School:
September 2005 to September 2022

Transition Year Sept. to Sept.	Grade Transition		
	6–7	7–8	Total
2005 to 06	—	-13	-13
2006 to 07	—	3	3
2007 to 08	—	14	14
2008 to 09	—	9	9
2009 to 10	—	-4	-4
2010 to 11	—	9	9
2011 to 12	—	1	1
2012 to 13	—	-3	-3
2013 to 14	6	3	9
2014 to 15	10	-6	4
2015 to 16	2	3	5
2016 to 17	-19	-22	-41
2017 to 18	-13	-12	-25
2018 to 19	-13	-24	-37
2019 to 20	-6	-8	-14
2020 to 21	-10	-2	-12
2021 to 22	-20	-15	-35

The Enrollment Future of District 33

The critical question now becomes, what will happen to enrollment in School District 33 over the next ten years? Will it continue its sharp declines? If so, when might these sharp declines bottom out and at what size? Which grade levels will be most impacted? What schools will be most affected?

My analysis of births to West Chicago area residents, trends in District 33 kindergarten enrollments, likely future housing turnover of empty-nest households, and consequent student migration/transfer patterns lead me to forecast continuing total District enrollment declines for the next five years, followed by modest increases thereafter. During the coming five years, Pioneer should be relatively stable, while Indian Knoll should drop modestly next year then level off. Currier and Turner should experience enrollment declines until 2025–26 then slightly increase. Gary should continue to lose enrollment, whereas Wegner should grow. Leman Middle School should see its student body substantially shrink through 2026–27 then roughly stabilize.

Before elaborating upon these projections with specific numbers, let me describe the methodology and factors underlying them.

Table 29 provides data on birth trends of residents if ZIP Codes 60185, 60189, and 60190 which are representative of the District 33 area. Note the substantial decline in annual births to residents of ZIP Code 60185 after 2014

which covers a good portion of the school district (see Figure 2). This is also a factor in the significant decline in West Chicago's under-age-5 population between 2010 and 2020 as was shown in Table 3.

As I noted previously, these birth trends and under-age-5 census data would suggest that the size of entering kindergarten classes for the District will continue to drop substantially in the near future. However, given the large number of West Chicago residents at or approaching retirement age (again see Table 3), solid empty-nest housing turnover is expected during the coming decade, though rising mortgage interest rates may delay accelerated housing turnover.

Since the District is nearly built-out residentially, there is little new single-family housing development anticipated. Recall from Table 4 that almost no new single-family building permits have been authorized by West Chicago in the past five years.

Population and Household forecasts have been generated by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for West Chicago. The CMAP forecasts which are presented in Table 30 indicate that modest population and household growth should characterize West Chicago to 2040. I should point out that in regularly analyzing population and household growth trends in Chicago suburban communities over the past 35 years, I have found the CMAP forecasts a bit on the high side as was their 2020 forecast made in 2018 shown in Table 30.

In projecting enrollment for District 33 schools, two sets of factors play central causal roles. The first is future fertility rates and resulting family sizes. Any changes in fertility rates during the next five years will not affect enrollment projections until after school year 2027–28 because children who will be reaching kindergarten during the next five years are already born, as are those who will be reaching the sixth grade through 2032–33. Fertility rate changes during the next five years could affect elementary school enrollments, beginning with school year 2028–29. However, recent demographic surveys of younger adults regardless of race and ethnicity do not lead one to expect significant changes in their fertility rates during the next five years. For this reason, all projections will assume that fertility rates remain near existing levels through 2027.

The second, and most critical factor for future enrollment in the schools is net student in-migration resulting from turnover of existing housing units in West Chicago. New housing development, as noted, will likely be minimal. Since future net student migration will be driven primarily by housing turnover, three sets of enrollment projections will be provided for the District and Leman Middle School through 2032–33 and individual elementary schools through 2027–28. These projections will be presented in the form of separate series, based on the following assumptions:

Series A Enrollment projection assuming future fertility rates remain relatively constant (through 2027) and that housing turnover and resulting in-migration of families with preschool age and school age children *are less than currently anticipated* through 2032–33;

Series B Enrollment projection assuming future fertility rates remain relatively constant (through 2027) and that housing turnover and resulting in-migration of families with preschool age and school age children *occur as currently anticipated* through 2032–33;

Series C Enrollment projection assuming future fertility rates remain relatively constant (through 2027) and that housing turnover and resulting in-migration of families with preschool age and school age children *are greater than currently anticipated* through 2032–33.

The basic methodology used to make the three series of enrollment projections is a modified cohort survival procedure. For the Series B (most likely) projections, average cohort progression factors were computed for each grade transition for the past four years based on each school's migration/transfer figures shown previously. These average progression factors were adjusted for outliers in any given year and then applied to compute (Series B) baseline enrollment projections (via conventional cohort survival techniques) for the District. The sizes of future entering kindergarten classes were estimated using recent kindergarten enrollments, trends in resident birth registration data, student migration patterns, and anticipated housing turnover during the coming decade.

The next step was to adjust projected enrollment each year in grades 1 through 8 for possible alterations in housing turnover and family in-migration.

Series A projections were made using similar methods but with student in-migration resulting from housing turnover deflated by approximately 15 percent. Series C assumes a 15 percent increase in the amount of future in-migration of families with preschool and school age children to the District from greater housing turnover than currently anticipated.

Pre-kindergarten classes are extremely difficult to forecast. My experience with numerous districts in the Chicago suburban area suggests that such enrollment change is not correlated with any school district attribute. For District 33, availability of Early Childhood Block Grants and physical space capacity play major roles in pre-K students served. For the present projections, it will be assumed that pre-K enrollments will roughly track overall district-wide enrollment trends. I will not project birth to age 3 enrollment since I was informed that this is strictly a parenting program. So, even though District 33 tabulates them, the children are not physically in the school buildings.

Table 29

Births to Residents of West Chicago

Year	ZIP Code		
	60185	60189	60190
2000	712	1	164
2001	763	0	131
2002	776	0	130
2003	744	4	119
2004	746	0	127
2005	720	0	121
2006	773	1	84
2007	683	2	115
2008	662	106	110
2009	618	275	96
2010	581	276	98
2011	584	274	98
2012	555	307	92
2013	508	303	87
2014	511	303	117
2015	492	314	104
2016	498	334	129
2017	447	313	131
2018	451	293	134
2019	407	322	135
2020	394	297	149
2021	373	294	139

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health.

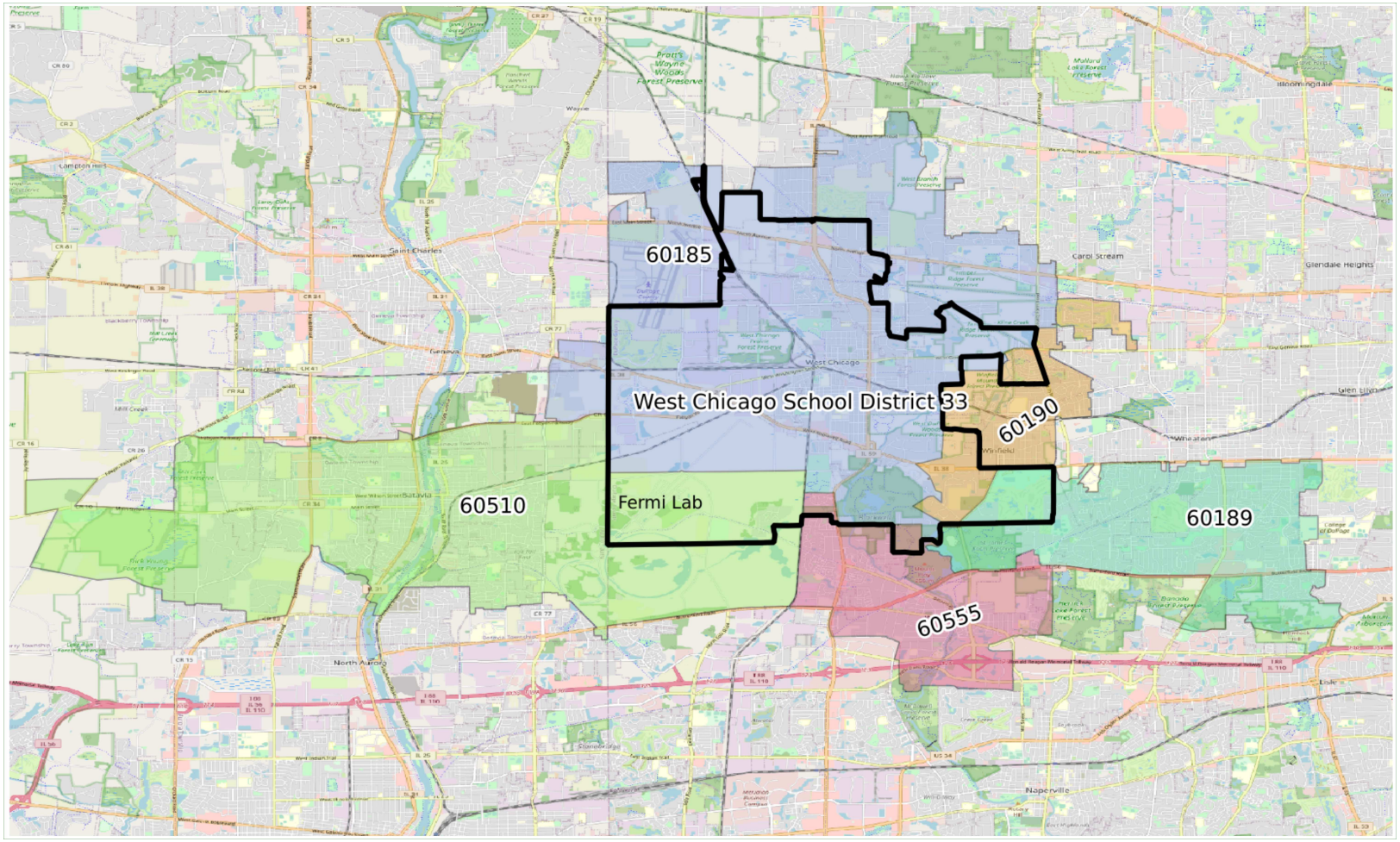

Figure 2. ZIP Code Map for Births to Residents Numbers

Table 30

Population and Household Forecasts for West Chicago to 2040

Year	Population	Households
2020	27,788	7,937
2025	28,927	8,402
2030	30,219	8,954
2035	31,586	9,523
2040	33,207	10,157

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. ON TO 2050 Forecast of Population, Households and Employment. 2018.

Enrollment Projections

Tables 31 through 48 provide the grade by grade and year by year projections through school year 2027–28 for each of the six elementary schools under the Series A, Series B, and Series C assumptions. Because the precise annual projected number for every school by grade may be observed in their respective tables, I will comment only on projected total enrollment at each school, focusing on Series B, which I believe is the most likely.

It is important to state a couple of caveats here that impact accuracy of projections, especially for the individual elementary schools. First, individual elementary school caps and busing students from their residential school attendance area to other elementary schools adds risks to the projections. Second, these risks are exacerbated by unpredictably annually bouncing kindergarten enrollments at a number of schools. Regarding the latter, I had to use smoothing techniques and exercise best professional judgment in estimating future kindergarten enrollments at these schools.

If housing turnover and family in-migration occur as anticipated in each elementary school attendance area, the Series B projections show that Currier, whose K–5 enrollment stood at 340 last fall, will dip to 293 students is 2025–26 then edge up to 299 students in school year 2027–28. Gary Elementary School is projected to consistently drop from 442 students this fall to 353 in 2027–28.

Indian Knoll Elementary, currently with enrollment of 269, is projected to slightly decline to 253 students next year and then stabilize.

Pioneer Elementary School is projected to be stable over the next five years at just under its present 258 student count. Turner's enrollment is projected to modestly decline from 281 students this fall to 241 in 2025–26, then slowly rise to 257 students in 2027–28. Wegner Elementary School is projected to remain stable next year at its present enrollment of 362 then climb to 405 students in 2026–27, and again stabilize. Key to this being an accurate projection is Wegner's kindergarten enrollment not returning to its 49 to 58 range it exhibited during the 2018–19 to 2020–21 school years. Otherwise, its forecasted enrollment growth will be reduced.

Under the most likely Series B assumptions, enrollment at Leman Middle School, which stands at 1,114 this fall, will drop to 706 students in 2028–29. Leman's enrollment will then slightly bounce back to 776 students in 2032–33 (see Table 50). The large decline at the middle school over the next six years reflects the much smaller enrollments the past five years at most of the district's elementary schools that will be feeding students to it.

One more caveat should be noted regarding enrollment projections beyond school year 2027–28. At the middle school level, projections for the next five years can be made with more confidence than the five years following 2027–28, since most students who will enter the middle school through 2027–28

are already enrolled in the elementary feeder schools. Afterward, we are projecting many students yet to register in District 33 elementary schools. For the elementary schools themselves, projections beyond 2027–28 would include students yet to be even conceived. It is for this reason and their relatively small areas that I projected individual elementary schools only to 2027–28. Projections thereafter are provided, however, for the aggregate elementary school enrollment in District 33.

Tables 52, 53, and 54 present, respectively, the Series A, Series B, and Series C projections, by year and by grade, for the District as a whole through school year 2032–33. It must be stressed that these district-wide projections were made independently of the individual elementary school projections, so the sums of schools will not match the district totals, though they will be quite close for Series B. Series A and Series C projections at the district level will be, respectively, on average higher and lower that the Series A and Series C sums for the elementary schools since it is assumed that not all schools will simultaneously follow Series A or Series C.

These district-wide projections also include projections of pre-K enrollment. However, I wish to reiterate that pre-K enrollments have dropped by an unusual amount (from 684 to 267) since 2016–17 as a result of Federal and State funding cuts making their projections challenging and risk-prone. My judgment is that unless Federal and State funding increases, there will only be a

slight rebound in pre-K in the years ahead. Administrators do not anticipate an enrollment rebound in the birth to age 3 program.

If future housing turnover and resulting student in-migration are less than anticipated, Table 52 reveals that total District enrollment (including pre-K) will decline from 3,333 this year to 2,588 students in 2027–28 before climbing back to 2,779 students in 2032–33. While the Series A projections may be considered far too conservative by many, they should not be dismissed out of hand. If we slip back into a prolonged recession or if mortgage interest rates continue to climb and remain high, Series A could become reality.

Should housing turnover and resulting student in-migration occur as anticipated, the Series B projections presented in Table 53 show that total District enrollment (including pre-K) will decline to 2,856 students in 2027–28. After that year, total enrollment will modestly grow, reaching 3,036 students in 2032–33. To repeat, it is my professional judgment that Series B is the most likely set of projections for the District as well as for the individual schools.

If the future housing turnover and resulting student in-migration exceed current expectations, Series C projections presented in Table 54 show total District enrollment (including pre-K) dipping modestly to 3,171 students in 2026–27. Total District 33 enrollment will then consistently rise to 3,397 students in 2032–33. This accelerated growth projection is the maximum number of students that can be foreseen for District 33 over the coming decade.

Figure 3 charts the actual and projected total District 33 enrollments (excluding birth to 3) between 2005–06 and 2032–23 under the Series A, Series B, and Series C assumptions. Figures 4 and 5 provide analogous historical enrollment trends and the Series A, Series B, and Series C projections for total elementary school (grades K–5) and middle school (grades 6–8) enrollments through school year 2032–33.

Concluding Remarks

Let me emphasize that no demographer has a crystal ball and many strong crosswinds will be impacting future enrollment at West Chicago District 33 schools. In this report, I have assembled the best information presently available and applied professional techniques and judgment to project enrollment for the District and its schools. Given fluctuating kindergarten enrollments in a number of elementary schools, their projections should be monitored and updated regularly to ensure that policy decisions are based on the latest and most reliable figures. At this time, it is my hope that the projections and other demographic information contained in this report will be helpful to the West Chicago School District 33 Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and concerned citizens as plans are made for future space, staff, and program needs for District 33 schools.

John D. Kasarda, Ph.D.
San Diego, California
November 2022

Table 31

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Currier Elementary School

Series A Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	45	47	45	47	43	49
1	54	45	47	45	47	43
2	46	56	47	49	47	49
3	63	45	55	46	48	46
4	61	60	42	52	43	45
5	71	57	56	38	48	39
Total	340	310	292	277	276	271

Table 32

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children
Occur as Currently Anticipated through 2027–28

Currier Elementary School

Series B Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	45	52	49	51	47	53
1	54	48	55	52	54	50
2	46	54	48	55	52	54
3	63	43	51	45	52	49
4	61	62	42	50	44	51
5	71	59	60	40	48	42
Total	340	318	305	293	297	299

Table 32

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Currier Elementary School

Series C Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	45	56	53	55	51	57
1	54	51	62	59	61	57
2	46	56	53	64	61	63
3	63	45	55	52	63	60
4	61	64	46	56	53	64
5	71	61	64	46	56	53
Total	340	333	333	332	345	354

Table 34

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Gary Elementary School

Series A Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	61	69	65	67	72	74
1	83	53	61	57	59	64
2	76	76	46	54	50	52
3	64	68	68	38	46	42
4	73	57	61	61	31	39
5	85	67	51	55	55	25
Total	442	390	352	332	313	296

Table 35

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Gary Elementary School

Series B Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	61	74	70	72	78	80
1	83	55	68	64	66	72
2	76	78	50	63	59	61
3	64	70	72	44	57	53
4	73	59	65	67	39	52
5	85	69	55	61	63	35
Total	442	405	380	371	362	353

Table 36

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Gary Elementary School

Series C Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	61	79	75	77	83	86
1	83	58	76	72	74	80
2	76	80	55	73	69	71
3	64	72	76	51	69	65
4	73	61	69	73	48	66
5	85	71	59	67	71	46
Total	442	421	410	413	414	414

Table 37

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Indian Knoll Elementary School

Series A Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	47	45	42	46	41	47
1	52	42	40	37	41	36
2	37	47	37	35	32	36
3	44	34	44	34	32	29
4	36	39	29	39	29	27
5	53	32	35	25	35	25
Total	269	239	227	216	210	200

Table 38

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Indian Knoll Elementary School

Series B Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	47	48	45	49	44	50
1	52	45	46	43	47	42
2	37	49	42	43	40	44
3	44	36	48	41	42	39
4	36	41	33	45	38	39
5	53	34	39	31	43	36
Total	269	253	253	252	254	250

Table 39

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Indian Knoll Elementary School

Series C Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	47	51	48	52	48	54
1	52	48	52	49	53	49
2	37	51	47	51	48	52
3	44	38	52	48	52	49
4	36	43	37	51	47	51
5	53	36	43	37	51	47
Total	269	267	279	288	299	302

Table 40

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Pioneer Elementary School

Series A Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	38	41	40	39	42	48
1	44	36	39	38	37	40
2	48	41	33	36	35	34
3	41	44	37	29	32	31
4	42	37	40	33	25	28
5	45	37	32	35	28	20
Total	258	236	221	210	199	201

Table 41

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Pioneer Elementary School

Series B Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	38	45	44	43	47	45
1	44	39	46	45	44	48
2	48	43	38	45	44	43
3	41	46	41	36	43	42
4	42	39	44	39	34	41
5	45	39	36	41	36	31
Total	258	251	249	249	248	250

Table 42

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Pioneer Elementary School

Series C Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	38	49	48	48	52	50
1	44	42	53	52	52	56
2	48	45	43	54	53	53
3	41	48	45	43	54	53
4	42	41	48	45	43	54
5	45	41	40	47	44	42
Total	258	266	277	289	298	308

Table 43

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Turner Elementary School

Series A Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	49	46	45	46	43	45
1	43	43	40	39	40	37
2	26	38	38	35	34	35
3	54	25	37	37	34	33
4	52	49	20	32	32	29
5	57	48	45	16	28	28
Total	281	249	225	205	211	207

Table 44

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Turner Elementary School

Series B Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	49	50	49	50	47	49
1	43	45	46	45	46	43
2	26	40	42	43	42	43
3	54	27	41	43	44	43
4	52	51	24	38	40	41
5	57	50	49	22	36	38
Total	281	263	251	241	255	257

Table 45

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Turner Elementary School

Series C Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	49	54	53	54	51	53
1	43	47	52	51	52	49
2	26	42	46	51	50	51
3	54	29	45	49	54	53
4	52	53	28	44	48	53
5	57	52	53	28	44	48
Total	281	277	277	277	299	307

Table 46

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Wegner Elementary School

Series A Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	74	65	63	65	60	62
1	67	70	61	59	61	56
2	47	66	69	60	58	60
3	54	43	62	65	56	54
4	53	49	38	57	60	51
5	67	52	48	37	56	59
Total	362	345	341	343	351	342

Table 47

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children
Occur as Currently Anticipated through 2027–28

Wegner Elementary School

Series B Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	74	71	69	71	66	68
1	67	72	69	67	69	64
2	47	68	73	70	68	70
3	54	45	66	71	68	66
4	53	52	43	64	69	66
5	67	54	53	44	65	70
Total	362	362	373	387	405	404

Table 48

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than as Currently Anticipated* through 2027–28

Wegner Elementary School

Series C Projection						
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28
K	74	77	74	77	72	75
1	67	74	77	74	77	72
2	47	70	77	80	77	80
3	54	47	70	77	80	77
4	53	54	47	70	77	80
5	67	56	57	50	73	80
Total	362	378	402	428	456	464

Table 49

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2032–33

Leman Middle School

Series A Projection											
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31	2031–32	2032–33
6	361	361	279	263	202	249	201	222	218	235	246
7	367	344	344	262	246	185	240	192	213	209	226
8	386	353	330	330	248	232	180	235	187	208	204
Total	1,114	1,058	953	855	696	666	621	649	618	652	676

Table 50

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2032–33

Leman Middle School

Series B Projection											
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31	2031–32	2032–33
6	361	366	288	277	222	276	232	266	256	268	272
7	367	349	354	276	265	210	268	224	258	248	260
8	386	358	340	345	267	256	206	264	220	254	244
Total	1,114	1,073	982	898	754	742	706	754	734	770	776

Table 51

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Occur as Currently Anticipated* through 2032–33

Leman Middle School

Series C Projection											
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31	2031–32	2032–33
6	361	371	301	295	247	306	264	314	308	317	320
7	367	355	365	295	289	241	300	258	308	302	311
8	386	364	352	362	292	286	239	298	256	306	300
Total	1,114	1,090	1,018	952	828	833	803	870	872	925	931

Table 52

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Less than Currently Anticipated* through 2032–33

West Chicago Elementary School District 33

Series A Projection											
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31	2031–32	2032–33
K	314	327	317	328	331	336	346	340	342	335	337
1	343	292	305	295	306	309	321	331	325	327	320
2	280	327	276	289	279	290	301	313	323	317	319
3	320	259	306	255	268	258	275	286	298	308	302
4	317	301	240	287	236	249	245	262	273	285	295
5	378	296	280	219	266	215	236	232	249	260	272
6	361	361	279	263	202	249	201	222	218	235	246
7	367	344	344	262	246	185	240	192	213	209	226
8	386	353	330	330	248	232	180	235	187	208	204
K–5	1,952	1,802	1,724	1,673	1,686	1,657	1,724	1,764	1,810	1,832	1,845
6–8	1,114	1,058	953	855	696	666	621	649	618	652	676
K–8	3,066	2,860	2,677	2,528	2,382	2,323	2,345	2,413	2,428	2,484	2,521
PK	267	243	252	254	258	265	261	262	257	258	258
Total	3,333	3,103	2,929	2,782	2,640	2,588	2,606	2,675	2,685	2,742	2,779

Table 53

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children
Occur as Currently Anticipated through 2032–33

West Chicago Elementary School District 33

Series B Projection											
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31	2031–32	2032–33
K	314	343	331	342	344	351	362	357	362	356	361
1	343	299	328	316	327	329	337	348	343	348	342
2	280	334	290	319	307	318	322	330	341	336	341
3	320	265	319	275	304	292	304	308	316	327	322
4	317	306	251	305	261	290	280	292	296	304	315
5	378	300	289	234	288	244	278	268	280	284	292
6	361	366	288	277	222	276	232	266	256	268	272
7	367	349	354	276	265	210	268	224	258	248	260
8	386	358	340	345	267	256	206	264	220	254	244
K–5	1,952	1,847	1,808	1,791	1,831	1,824	1,883	1,903	1,938	1,955	1,973
6–8	1,114	1,073	982	898	754	742	706	754	734	770	776
K–8	3,066	2,920	2,790	2,689	2,585	2,566	2,589	2,657	2,672	2,725	2,749
PK	267	265	274	276	281	290	286	290	285	289	287
Total	3,333	3,185	3,064	2,965	2,866	2,856	2,875	2,947	2,957	3,014	3,036

Table 54

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain Relatively Constant (through 2027) and that Housing Turnover and Resulting In-Migration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children *Are Greater than Currently Anticipated* through 2032–33

West Chicago Elementary School District 33

Series C Projection											
Grade	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	2030–31	2031–32	2032–33
K	314	364	359	371	375	368	380	376	382	377	385
1	343	304	354	349	361	365	357	369	365	371	366
2	280	339	300	350	345	357	360	352	364	360	366
3	320	272	331	292	342	337	346	349	341	353	349
4	317	311	263	322	283	333	327	336	339	331	343
5	378	308	302	254	313	274	324	318	327	330	322
6	361	371	301	295	247	306	264	314	308	317	320
7	367	355	365	295	289	241	300	258	308	302	311
8	386	364	352	362	292	286	239	298	256	306	300
K–5	1,952	1,898	1,909	1,938	2,019	2,034	2,094	2,100	2,118	2,122	2,131
6–8	1,114	1,090	1,018	952	828	833	803	870	872	925	931
K–8	3,066	2,988	2,927	2,890	2,847	2,867	2,897	2,970	2,990	3,047	3,062
PK	267	316	327	330	324	335	331	336	332	339	335
Total	3,333	3,304	3,254	3,220	3,171	3,202	3,228	3,306	3,322	3,386	3,397

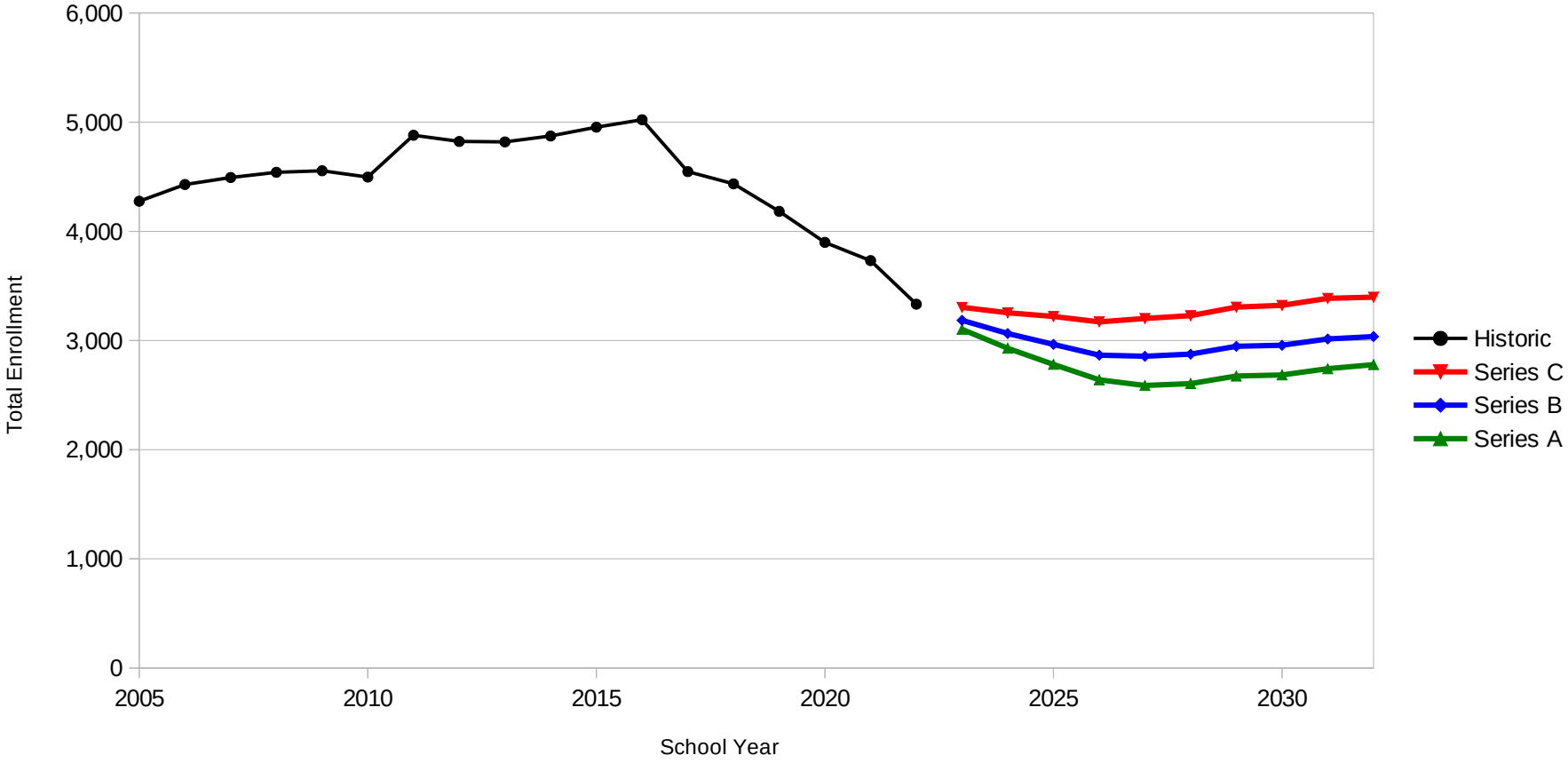

Figure 3. Total Enrollment for District 33: Historical (2005–06 to 2022–23) and Projected (2023–24 to 2032–33) under Series A, Series B, and Series C Assumptions

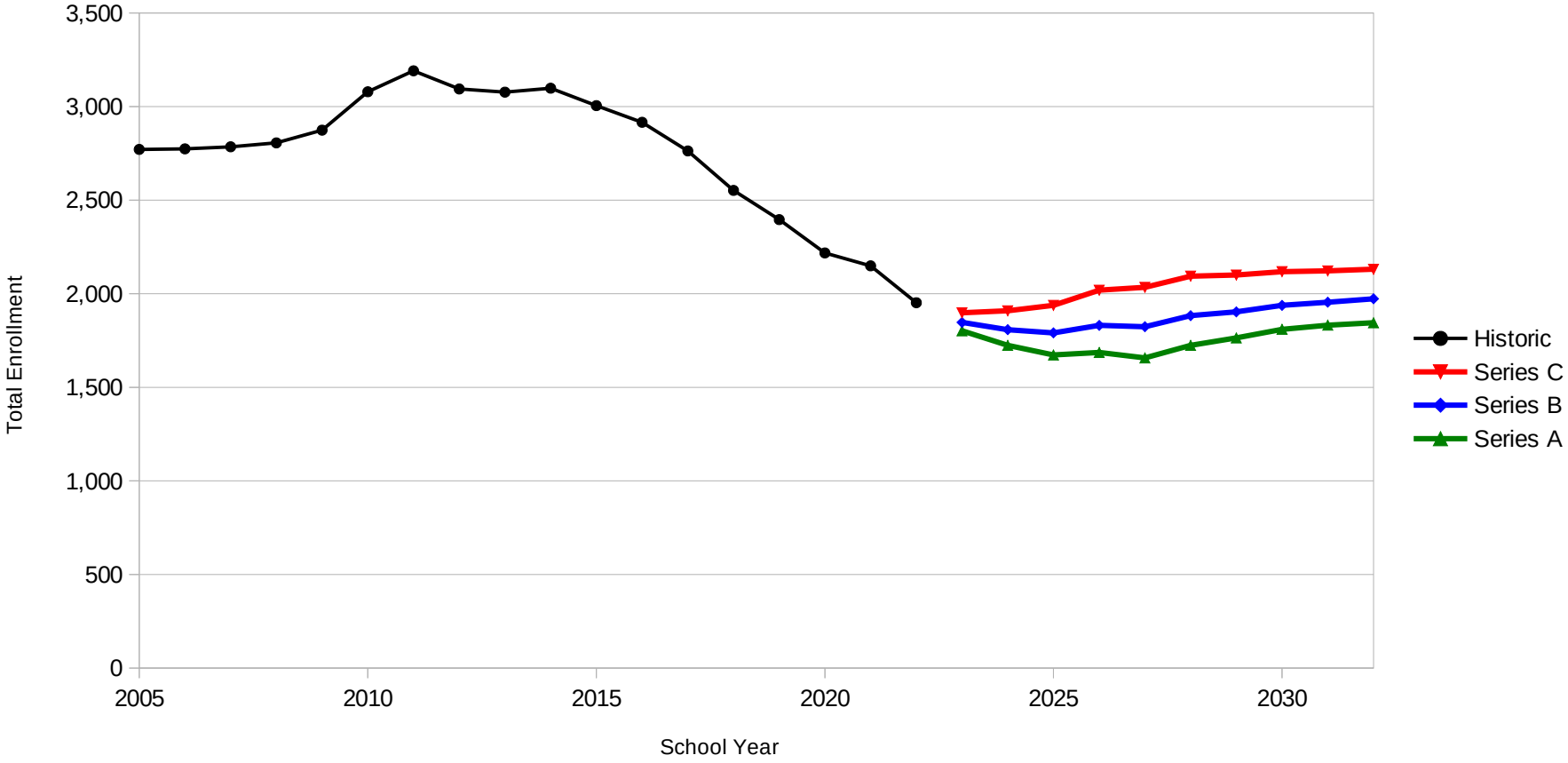

Figure 4. Total Elementary School Enrollment for District 33: Historical (2005–06 to 2022–23) and Projected (2023–24 to 2032–33) under Series A, Series B, and Series C Assumptions

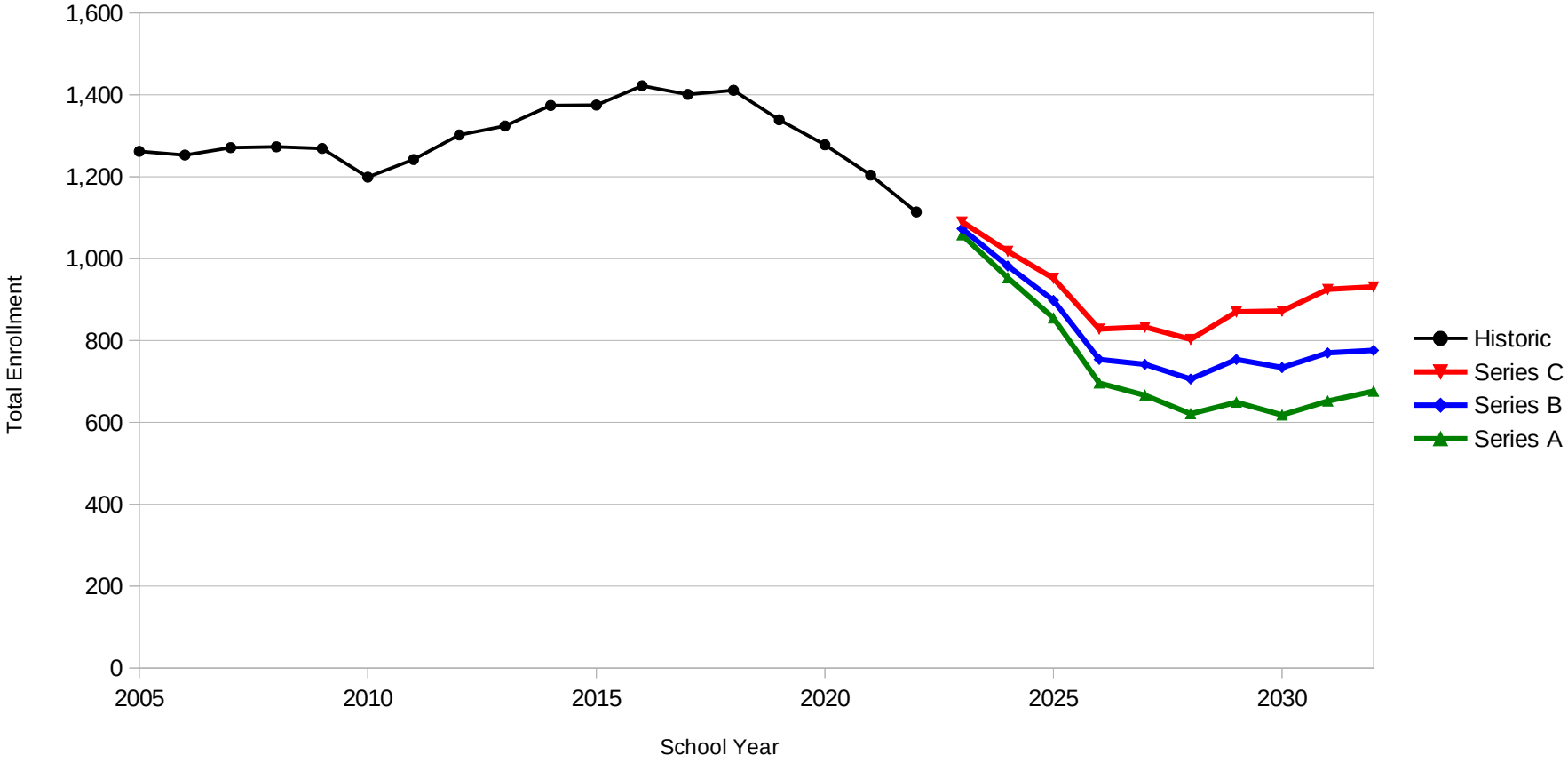

Figure 5. Total Middle School Enrollment for District 33: Historical (2005–05 to 2022–23) and Projected (2023–24 to 2032–33) under Series A, Series B, and Series C Assumptions