



Demographic Study Update

for the

Vernon Township School District

June 2019

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Executive Summary

Statistical Forecasting completed a demographic study update for the Vernon Township School District, projecting grade-by-grade enrollments from 2019-20 through 2023-24, a five-year period. The previous study was completed for the district in July 2013. In addition, the following tasks were completed:

- examined historical enrollment trends, both districtwide and by grade configuration (PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12),
- analyzed community population trends and age structure, birth and fertility rates, and
- analyzed new housing starts and the impact on the school district.

Community Overview

In 2017, Vernon Township (“Vernon”) was estimated to have 22,239 residents according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Historically, Vernon’s population increased from 1940-2000, with its greatest percentage gain occurring in the 1960s (+181.2%) when the population nearly tripled. Significant growth also occurred during the 1970s when the population more than doubled. However, since 2000, the population has been slowly declining.

The racial distribution in Vernon remained nearly unchanged from 2000 to 2010. Whites were the largest race in Vernon in 2010 at 95.2% while Blacks/African Americans and Two or More Races were the second-largest races at 1.4%.

With respect to nativity, 6.4% of Vernon residents are foreign-born, which is much less than that of New Jersey (22.1%). Poland is the largest source, accounting for 13.4% of the foreign-born population while Columbia is the second-largest source at 5.1%.

Historical Enrollment Trends

Historical enrollments were analyzed from 2009-10 through 2018-19, a ten-year period. In the last ten years, enrollment (PK-12) has declined every year, losing 1,285 students (-30.1%) over this time period. As recently as 2004-05, there were 5,323.5 students in the district. Since then, the district’s enrollment has been nearly cut in half, as enrollment is 2,982 in 2018-19.

For grades PK-5, enrollments have been steadily declining for the last ten years. In 2018-19, enrollment is 1,319, which is a loss of 444 students from the 2009-10 enrollment of 1,763.

For grades 6-8, enrollments have also been steadily declining. Enrollment is 684 in 2018-19, which is a loss of 285 students from the 2009-10 enrollment of 969.

At Vernon Township High School (9-12), enrollments have also steadily declined. However, the rate of decline has been much slower in the last four years. In 2018-19, enrollment is 979, which is a loss of 556 students from the 2009-10 enrollment of 1,535.

Kindergarten replacements were analyzed to determine whether there was any relationship between overall enrollment change and kindergarten replacement, which is the

numerical difference between the number of graduating 12th graders and the number of entering kindergarten students. Since the district had a half-day kindergarten program prior to 2011-12, it is more appropriate to compare the twelfth grade student population to the first grade student population in those years, as the district gains a number of students from kindergarten to first grade when parents elect to send their child to a full-day kindergarten program elsewhere before enrolling them in the public school district for the first grade. The district has experienced negative kindergarten/first grade replacement in each of the last nine years. Negative kindergarten/first grade replacement occurs when the number of graduating 12th grade students is larger than the number of kindergarten/first grade students replacing them in the next year. In the last five years, the district has lost an average of 81 students per year due to kindergarten replacement. In seven of the last nine years, the district's losses due to negative kindergarten replacement have been compounded by a net outward migration of students in the other grades (K to 1, 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc.), resulting in an even larger enrollment decline.

Birth Counts

The number of births was used to project kindergarten enrollments five years later. After peaking at 258 births in 2007, birth counts declined to 158 in 2015. However, births in Vernon appear to be increasing, as there were 189 births in 2017, which is the highest value since 2010. As a result of the decline in the number of births, kindergarten enrollment declined from 231 in 2009-10 to 162 in 2018-19, which is not as large a decline as the birth count.

Regarding fertility rates, the fertility rate in Vernon is lower than that of both Sussex County and the State of New Jersey.

The 2000 and 2010 age-sex diagrams for Vernon were created to show the percentage of males and females in each age class. The largest number of individuals in 2000 was aged 40-44 for both genders. As these individuals advance in age, the largest cohort in 2010 was aged 45-49 for males and 50-54 for females. From 2000 to 2010, the greatest declines, both in number and percentage points, occurred in the 35-39 age group for both genders. There was also a significant decline in the 30-34 age group for females, which corresponds to the ages (30-39) when many females have their children. The low fertility rate and the declining number of females in the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups have likely led to the declining birth rate in Vernon. The greatest gains, both in number and percentage points, occurred in the 55-59 age group for males and 60-64 age group for females.

Potential New Housing

Vernon municipal representatives provided information regarding current and future residential development in the community. Currently, there are no residential developments under construction, nor are there applications for residential subdivisions before the planning board.

Home Sales

The number of annual home sales in Vernon was tabulated from 2004-2018. Home sales peaked at 753 in 2005 before declining to 229 in 2012 due to the housing market crash and banking crisis. Since then, home sales have rebounded, particularly in the last few years. However, the number of sales in 2018 (610) is still below the peak total that occurred in 2005.

Enrollment Projections

PK-12 enrollments were computed for a five-year period, 2019-20 through 2023-24, in two separate projections. Total enrollment is projected to steadily decline throughout the projection period. In the first projection, enrollment is projected to be 2,563 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 419 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 2,982. In the second projection, enrollments are also projected to decline but at a slightly faster rate. Enrollment is projected to be 2,516 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 466 students from the 2018-19 enrollment.

For grades PK-5, enrollment is projected to decline through 2022-23 before stabilizing. In the first projection, enrollment is projected to be 1,176 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 143 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 1,319. In the second projection, enrollment is projected to be 1,158 in 2023-24, which would represent a loss of 161 students from the 2018-19 enrollment.

For Glen Meadow Middle School (grades 6-8), enrollment is projected to steadily decline through 2021-22 before stabilizing. In each projection, enrollment is projected to be 579 in 2023-24, which would represent a loss of 105 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 684.

Finally, for grades 9-12 at Vernon Township High School, enrollment is projected to steadily decline throughout the projection period. In the first projection, enrollment is projected to be 808 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 171 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 979. In the second projection, enrollment is projected to be 779 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 200 students from the 2018-19 enrollment.

Building Capacities

The capacities of the grade configurations (PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12) in the district were compared to the current enrollments in 2018-19 and the enrollment projections in the 2023-24 school year. Capacities were compared by grade configuration since the enrollment projections were not computed at the school level. Using the building capacities from the district's LRFP, the differences between capacity and current/projected number of students were computed. Positive values indicate available extra seating while negative values indicate inadequate seating (also known as "unhoused students"). All of the grade configurations have surplus seating in 2018-19, with the largest occurring at the elementary level (+1,150). By 2023-24, the surplus seating in each grade configuration is projected to increase due to declining enrollment. The elementary configuration is projected to have the largest number of surplus seats (+1,293) in 2023-24.

Final Thoughts

In the next five years, total enrollment is projected to decline in the Vernon Township School District, which continues a declining trend that has occurred for the past 14 years. While the elementary, middle, and high school grade configurations are projected to decline, a change in trend may be on the horizon as the elementary and middle school enrollments are projected to stabilize near the end of the projection period, which is a function of the increasing birth rate in the township in the last few years.

Introduction

Statistical Forecasting completed a demographic study update for the Vernon Township School District, projecting grade-by-grade enrollments from 2019-20 through 2023-24, a five-year period. The previous study was completed for the district in July 2013. In addition, the following tasks were completed:

- examined historical enrollment trends, both districtwide and by grade configuration (PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12),
- analyzed community population trends and age structure, birth and fertility rates, and
- analyzed new housing starts and the impact on the school district.

Enrollment Projections from July 2013 Report

In our previous demographic study, enrollments were projected from 2013-14 through 2017-18, a five-year projection period. Table 1 below compares the actual enrollments (PK-12) to the projected enrollments for the five-year projection period. The table also shows the numerical differences and percent errors by year. Since two projections were computed in the previous study, the table shows the percent error by year for each of the projections. Positive error rates indicate over-projections while negative error rates indicate under-projections.

Table 1
Comparison of Projected to Actual Enrollments (PK-12)
from July 2013 Report

	CSR 5-YR				CSR 6-YR			
Year	Projected	Actual	Difference	% Error	Projected	Actual	Difference	% Error
2013-14	3,452	3,502.5	-50.5	-1.4%	3,442	3,502.5	-60.5	-1.7%
2014-15	3,336	3,328	+8	+0.2%	3,319	3,328	-9	-0.3%
2015-16	3,225	3,180	+45	+1.4%	3,199	3,180	+19	+0.6%
2016-17	3,128	3,158	-30	-0.9%	3,090	3,158	-68	-2.2%
2017-18	3,040	3,087.5	-47.5	-1.5%	2,996	3,087.5	-91.5	-3.0%

In our previous study, enrollment was projected to decline throughout the projection period. Enrollments in the school district have declined as expected. When comparing the two projections, enrollments were underestimated on more occasions than overestimated. In the first projection, error rates ranged from 0.2% to 1.5%. Expressed in numbers, the projections differed from actual enrollments by 8-50.5 students. In the second projection, error rates were slightly higher, ranging from 0.3%-3.0%, which corresponds to a numerical difference range of 9-91.5 students. In a survey of educational planners who complete enrollment projections, two-thirds believe that an error rate of 1% per year for the total enrollment is acceptable.¹ For a five-year projection, this would mean that a 5% error rate in the fifth year would be acceptable. The projections were within this parameter in the last four projection years (years 2-5).

The accuracy of the projections is contingent on the most recent historical trends continuing into the future. If there is a departure from these trends caused by, for example, numerous new housing starts (or planned housing starts that do not occur), changes in school district policy, changes to immigration laws, an economic downturn, a change in the housing resale market, etc., the enrollment projections presented are less likely to be accurate in future years, as this analysis does not forecast future trends. Therefore, the projections need to be revised annually to detect potential reversals in enrollment trends. Changes in enrollment are dependent on several factors such as birth counts, migration of students into or out of the school district, the presence of alternative schools such as charter schools, private schools, or parochial schools, and school district policy changes.

¹ Schellenberg, S. J., & Stephens, C. E. (1987). Enrollment projection: variations on a theme. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington D.C., (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 283 879)

Population Trends in Vernon

Located in Sussex County, Vernon Township (“Vernon”) contains a land area of 68.23 square miles and an additional 2.36 square miles of water area. In the 2010 census, Vernon had 23,943 residents, which is 350.9 persons per square mile. Historical and projected populations for Vernon from 1940-2040 are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1. Vernon’s population increased from 1940-2000, with its greatest percentage gain occurring in the 1960s (+181.2%) when the population nearly tripled. Significant growth also occurred during the 1970s when the population more than doubled. In the two-decade time period of the 1960s and 1970s, the population in Vernon grew nearly eight-fold. However, since 2000, the population has been slowly declining.

Table 2
Historical and Projected Populations for Vernon
1940-2040

Year	Population	Percent Change
Historical¹		
1940	1,407	N/A
1950	1,548	+10.0%
1960	2,155	+39.2%
1970	6,059	+181.2%
1980	16,302	+169.1%
1990	21,211	+30.1%
2000	24,686	+16.4%
2010	23,943	-3.0%
2017 (est.)	22,239	-7.1%
Projected²		
2020	25,510	+14.7%
2030	27,009	+5.9%
2040	28,526	+5.6%

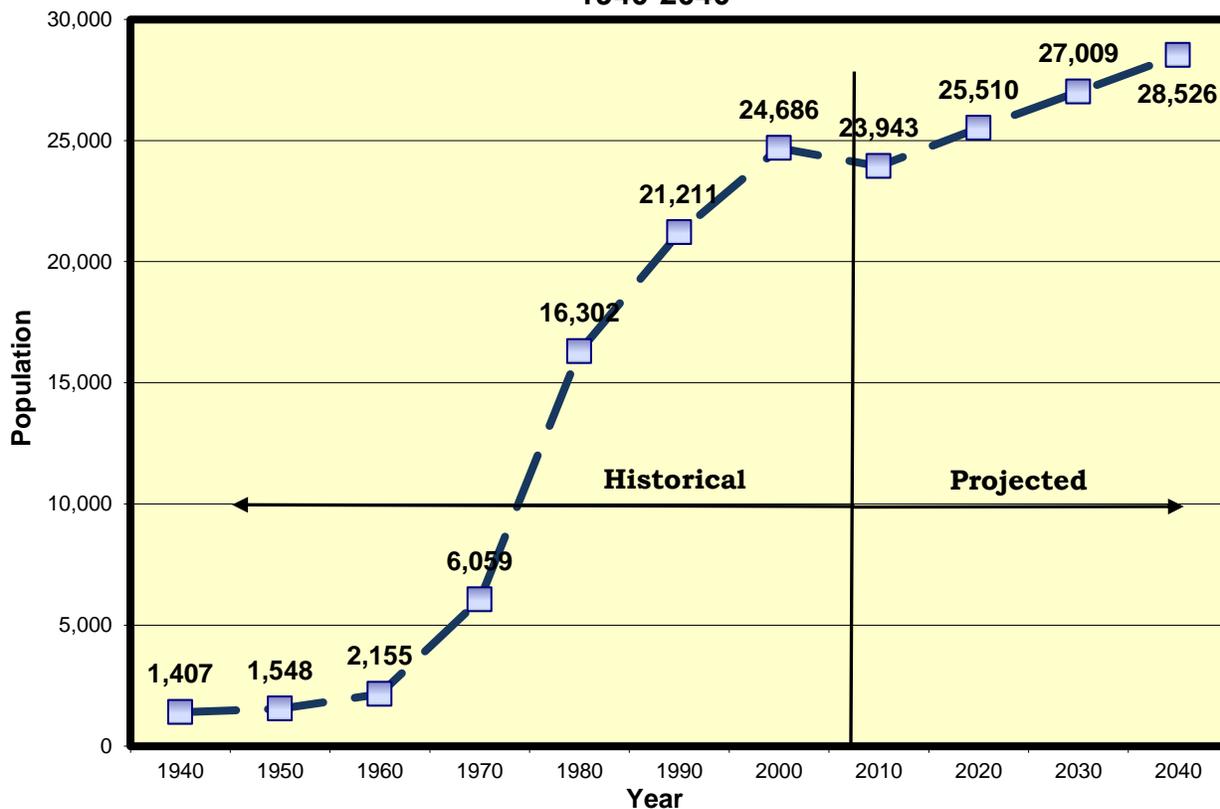
Sources: ¹United States Census Bureau

²North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (2013)

In addition, a population estimate for 2017 is provided in Table 2. The estimated population in 2017 is 22,239 persons, which would be a decline of 1,704 persons from the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau publishes estimates every July 1st following the last decennial census and are computed using the decennial census base counts, number of births and deaths in a community, and migration data (both domestic and international).

Population projections from 2020-2040, which were prepared by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (“NJTPA”), indicate that the population will slowly increase. However, since the 2017 Census estimate indicates that the population is declining, NJTPA likely needs to revise its projections to reflect the current trend. As it stands now, the population in Vernon is projected to be 28,526 in 2040, which would be a 28.3% increase from the 2017 population estimate and a gain of nearly 6,300 persons.

Figure 1
Historical and Projected Populations for Vernon
1940-2040



Vernon Demographic Profile

In Table 3 following, selected demographic characteristics of Vernon are compared from the 2000 and 2010 Censuses, and the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (“ACS”). While some Census variables account for everyone in the population (e.g., age and race), other variables are collected from a sample (e.g., median family income, educational attainment, poverty status, etc.). The ACS replaced the long form of the Census, last administered in 2000 to approximately 16% of the population in the United States. For small populations such as Vernon, ACS data represent a sample collected over a five-year time period, where the estimates represent the average characteristics between January 2013 and December 2017. This information does not represent a single point in time like the long form of earlier Censuses. The five-year ACS contains 1% annual samples from all households and persons from 2013 to 2017, resulting in a 5% sample of the population. Due to the small sample size, the sampling error is quite large, which increases the degree of uncertainty of the estimated values. Therefore, the forthcoming ACS data should be interpreted with caution.

The racial distribution in Vernon remained nearly unchanged from 2000 to 2010. In 2010, Vernon was 95.2% White as compared to 96.6% in 2000, which is a loss of 1.4 percentage points. Blacks/African Americans and Two or More Races were the second-largest races at 1.4% in 2010. The Census Bureau does not consider Hispanic as a separate race; rather it identifies the percentage of people having Hispanic origin. Hispanics in the Census population can be part of the White, Black, Asian, or any of the other race categories. It is not a mutually exclusive race category. The concentration of persons having Hispanic origin increased from 3.6% in 2000 to 6.4% in 2010, a gain of 2.8 percentage points.

Regarding nativity, 6.4% of Vernon residents were foreign-born in the 2013-2017 ACS, which is a gain of 1.3 percentage points from the 2000 percentage (5.1%). As a point of comparison, New Jersey’s foreign-born resident percentage was 22.1% in the 2013-2017 ACS, which is more than triple the percentage in Vernon. While not shown in the table, place of birth, which serves as a proxy for country of origin, indicates that Germany and the United Kingdom were the largest sources of immigrants in 2000, accounting for 9.8% and 8.0% respectively of the foreign-born population. In the 2013-2017 ACS, Poland is now the largest source (13.4%) of the foreign-born population while Columbia is the second-largest source at 5.1%.

The median age in Vernon has increased from 35.4 years in 2000 to 40.5 years in 2010, which is above the median age in New Jersey (39.0 years). During the same time period, the percentage of people under the age of 18 years, which corresponds predominantly to school-age children, has decreased significantly from 30.6% to 24.3%.

Regarding educational attainment for adults aged 25 and over, 31.3% of the population had a bachelor’s degree or higher in the 2013-2017 ACS as compared to 25.3% in 2000, which is a gain of 6.0 percentage points. Vernon’s percentage of persons having a bachelor’s degree or higher is slightly lower than that of the state of New Jersey (38.1%). Persons with graduate or professional degrees increased from 7.7% to 10.2% during this time period.

Table 3
Selected Demographic Characteristics of Vernon

Race Origin	2000 Census	2010 Census 2013-2017 ACS
White	96.6%	95.2%
Black or African American	0.8%	1.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%
Asian	0.7%	0.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Other Race	0.8%	1.1%
Two or more Races	1.1%	1.4%
Total	100.0%¹	100.0%¹
Hispanic Origin	3.6%	6.4%
Place of Birth		
Foreign-Born	5.1%	6.4%
Age		
Under 18	30.6%	24.3%
18-64	63.1%	67.3%
65 and over	6.3%	8.4%
Median age	35.4 years	40.5 years
Educational Attainment		
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.3%	31.3%
Graduate or professional degree	7.7%	10.2%
Income		
Median family income	\$72,609	\$97,179
% of Persons in Poverty ages 5-17	2.9%	5.0%
Housing Units		
Total number	9,994	10,958 ²
Occupied units	8,368 (83.7%)	8,622 (78.7%)
Owner-occupied units	7,190 (85.9%)	7,635 (88.6%)
Renter-occupied units	1,178 (14.1%)	987 (11.4%)
Median value of an owner-occupied unit	\$150,800	\$235,100
Average household size	2.95	2.77
Housing Type		
Total number	9,994	10,807 ²
1-unit, attached or detached	8,257 (82.6%)	8,560 (79.2%)
Two units	92 (0.9%)	207 (1.9%)
Three or four units	63 (0.6%)	119 (1.1%)
Five to nine units	747 (7.5%)	888 (8.2%)
10 to 19 units	666 (6.7%)	491 (4.5%)
20 or more units	127 (1.3%)	60 (0.6%)
Mobile home, boat, RV, van, etc.	42 (0.4%)	482 (4.5%)

Sources: American Community Survey (2013-2017), United States Census (2000 and 2010)

Notes: ¹Data may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding.

²Total number differs as Housing Units are from the 2010 Census while Housing Type data are from the 2013-17 ACS.

Median family income increased from \$72,609 in 2000 to \$97,179 in the 2013-2017 ACS, a gain of 33.8%. By comparison, median family income in New Jersey is \$94,337, which is slightly lower than Vernon's. During this time period, the percentage of school-age children (5-17) that are in poverty increased from 2.9% to 5.0%, a gain of 2.1 percentage points.

Regarding housing, there were 10,958 housing units in Vernon in 2010, which is a gain of 964 units (+9.6%) since 2000. During this time period, the occupancy rate declined from 83.7% to 78.7%. The low occupancy rates are primarily due to second-home owners, as 16.0% of the housing units were classified as seasonal or recreational properties in 2010. Renter-occupied units accounted for 11.4% of the occupied units in 2010, which is a loss of 2.7 percentage points from the 2000 percentage (14.1%). As a point of comparison, the percentage of renter-occupied units in Vernon is much lower than that of New Jersey (34.6%). In the last decade, the average household size decreased from 2.95 to 2.77 persons. Finally, the median home price of an owner-occupied unit in the 2013-2017 ACS was \$235,100, which is a gain of 55.9% from the value reported in 2000 (\$150,800).

With respect to housing type, 79.2% of homes are one-unit, either attached or detached, which is a 3.4 percentage-point decline from 2000. Homes with 5-9 units, which typically contain renters, were the second-largest type of housing in the 2013-2017 ACS and consisted of 8.2% of the housing stock. However, the largest gain during this time period was in the percentage of mobile homes², which increased from 0.4% to 4.5%.

² Most of the units were mobile homes but a small number of RVs, van, boats, etc. were cited.

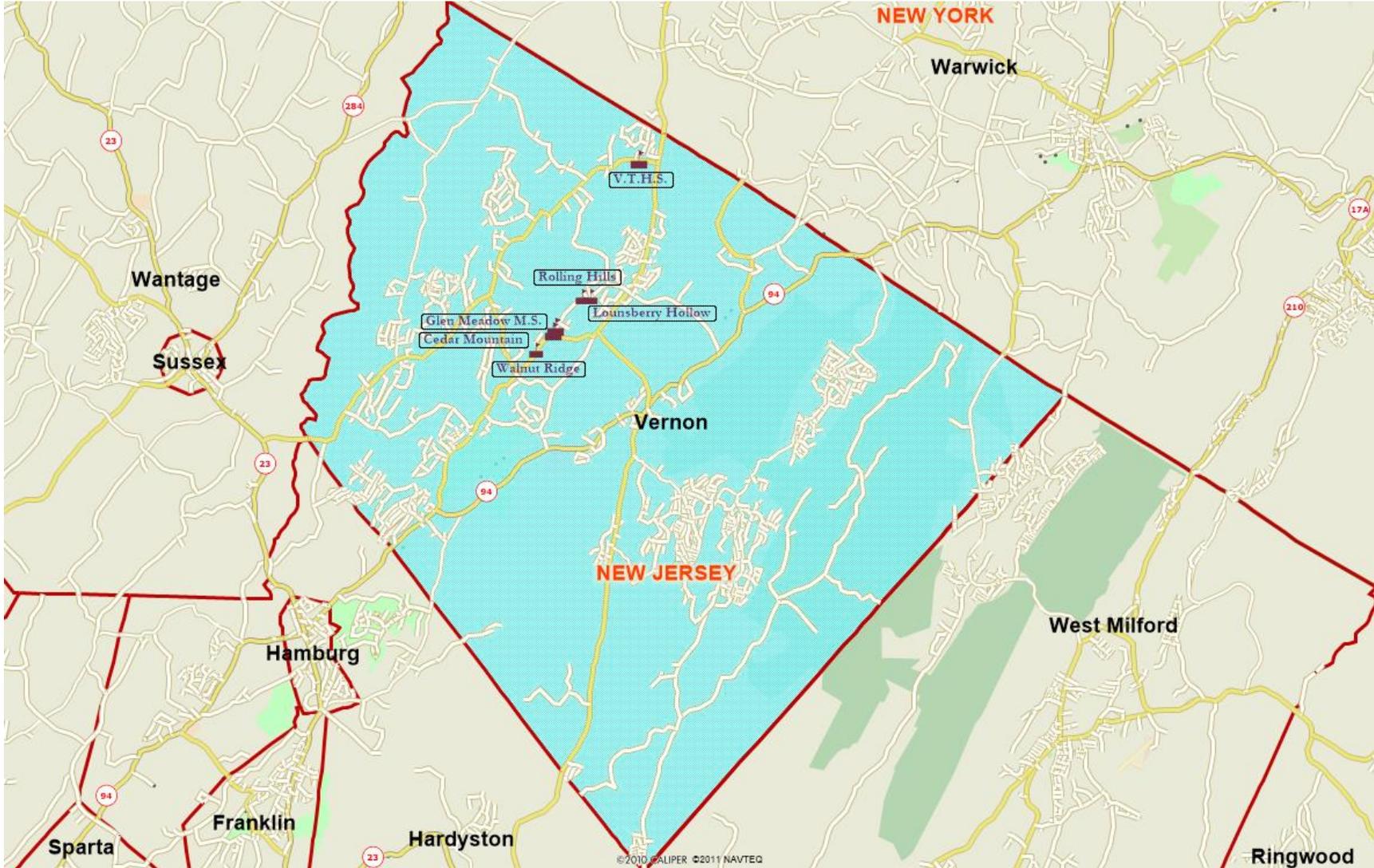
District Overview

The Vernon Township School District has six schools that serve grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth. The locations of each of the schools are shown in Figure 2. Since our previous demographic study, the district reconfigured the grade levels of all of its schools in 2017-18, except for the high school. Walnut Ridge Primary School (“Walnut Ridge”) is an early education center that contains pre-kindergarten students, both for regular and special education. Children then attend Cedar Mountain Primary School for grades K-1 (“Cedar Mountain”), Rolling Hills Primary School (“Rolling Hills”) for grades 2-3, and Lounsberry Hollow School (“Lounsberry”) for grades 4-5. Glen Meadow Middle School (“Glen Meadow”) educates children in grades 6-8 while Vernon Township High School educates children in grades 9-12.

According to the district’s Long Range Facility Plan (“LRFP”), total educational capacity in the district is 4,778 using District Practices methodology and 3,736 using Facilities Efficiency Standards (“FES”) methodology. The District Practices methodology considers how the building is utilized by the school district and its targeted student-teacher ratios. This method does not take into account square footage allowances per student, which is the FES methodology. Since buildings cannot be 100% utilized, due in part to scheduling conflicts, most districts employ either an 85% or 90% utilization factor to determine school capacity. Capacity using FES methodology is often lower than when using District Practices methodology. A breakdown of each grade configuration’s capacity compared to current/projected enrollments is provided later in the report.

In this study, historical enrollments from the October 15th Fall Reports and the NJ SMART database were used to project enrollments for five years into the future. With the advent of NJ SMART, the Fall Report was eliminated by the New Jersey Department of Education (“NJDOE”) in the 2010-11 school year. In the past, the Fall Report was used by the NJDOE as a tool to uniformly compare school district enrollment data across the state. Unfortunately, the method of reporting special education students for NJ SMART is different, as these students are now referred to as “ungraded.” To maintain a level of consistency, “ungraded” student counts in the forthcoming tables were listed under the self-contained special education heading. Future enrollments were then projected using the Cohort-Survival Ratio method.

Figure 2
School Locations – Vernon Township School District



Explanation of the Cohort-Survival Ratio Method

In 1930, Dublin and Lodka provided an explicit age breakdown, which enabled analysts to follow each cohort through its life stages and apply appropriate birth and death rates for each generation. A descendant of this process is the Cohort-Survival Ratio (“CSR”) method, which is the NJDOE-approved methodology to project public school enrollments. In this method, a survival ratio is computed for each grade progression, which essentially compares the number of students in a particular grade to the number of students in the previous grade during the previous year. The survival ratio indicates whether the enrollment is stable, increasing, or decreasing. A survival ratio of 1.00 indicates stable enrollment, less than 1.00 indicates declining enrollment, while greater than 1.00 indicates increasing enrollment. If, for example, a school district had 100 fourth graders and the next year only had 95 fifth graders, the survival ratio would be 0.95.

The CSR method assumes that what happened in the past will also happen in the future. In essence, this method provides a linear projection of the population. The CSR method is most applicable for districts that have relatively stable increasing or decreasing trends without any major unpredictable fluctuations from year to year. In school districts encountering rapid growth not experienced historically (a change in the historical trend), the CSR method must be modified and supplemented with additional information. In this study, survival ratios were calculated using historical data for birth to kindergarten, kindergarten to first grade, first grade to second grade, etc. Due to the fluctuation in survival ratios from year to year, it is appropriate to calculate an average survival ratio, which is then used to calculate grade enrollments five years into the future.

Historical Enrollment Trends

Historical enrollments for the Vernon Township School District from 2009-10 through 2018-19, a ten-year period, are shown in Figure 3 and Table 4. In the last ten years, enrollment (PK-12) has declined in each year, losing 1,285 students (-30.1%) over this time period. While not shown in the figure, enrollment has declined for 14 consecutive years, starting in 2005-06. As recently as 2004-05, there were 5,323.5 students in the district. Since then, the district's enrollment has been nearly cut in half, as enrollment is 2,982 in 2018-19.

Figure 3
Vernon Township School District Historical Enrollments
2009-10 to 2018-19

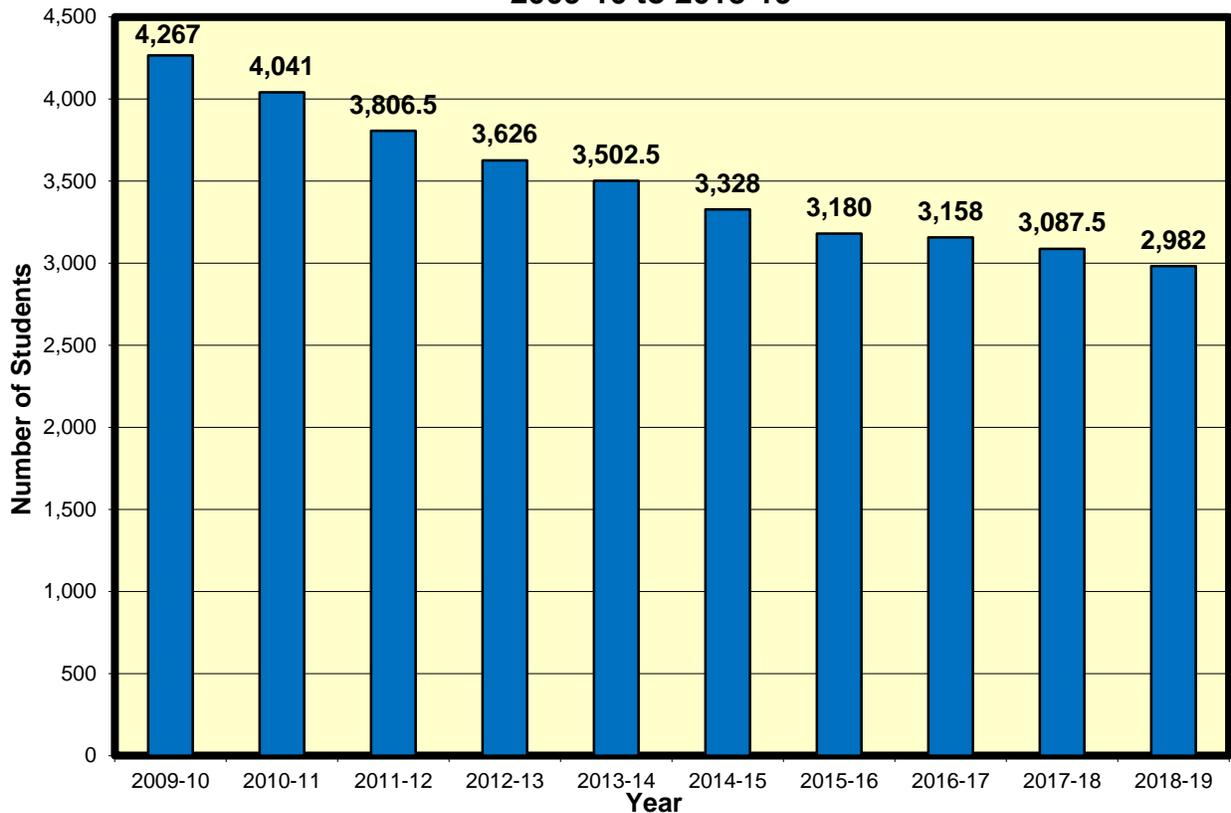


Table 4 following shows computed grade-by-grade survival ratios from 2009-10 to 2018-19. In addition, the average, minimum, and maximum survival ratios are shown for the past ten years along with the four- and five-year averages, which were used to project enrollments. The average survival ratios also indicate the net migration by grade, where values over 1.000 reflect net inward migration and values below 1.000 reflect net outward migration. Eight of the thirteen average survival ratios in the five-year trend were below 1.000, indicating a net outward migration of students. All of the ratios in the high school grades were below 1.000. Of the ratios that were above 1.000, three were in the elementary grades and two were in the middle school grades. In comparing the five-year averages with the ten-year averages, the differences were very small, demonstrating the long-term stability of the survival ratios over the last decade.

Table 4
Vernon Township School District Historical Enrollments (PK-12)
2009-10 to 2018-19

Year¹	PK RE²	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SE³	PK-5 Total	6-8 Total	9-12 Total	PK-12 Total
2009-10	31	231	274	256	299	278	304	299	330	324	357.5	354	389	420.5	120	1,763	969	1,535	4,267
2010-11	19	221	247	266	254	295	269	303	291	317	305	349	352	394	159	1,691	932	1,418	4,041
2011-12	59	220	226	251	269	254	291	264	291	283	292	291.5	334.5	348.5	132	1,655	862	1,289.5	3,806.5
2012-13	21	221	229	233	250	267	259	277	260	294	284	288	279.5	325.5	138	1,563	855	1,208	3,626
2013-14	71	208	234	231	246	264	284	258	286	267	285	274	290	283.5	21	1,554	812	1,136.5	3,502.5
2014-15	42	187	211	240	230	237	246	260	246	267	244	276.5	272.5	282	87	1,450	798	1,080	3,328
2015-16	51	192	192	215	241	232	234	235	255	240	244.5	241.5	268.5	267.5	71	1,398	757	1,025	3,180
2016-17	47	214	202	180	210	241	227	232	246	257	236	247	236.5	271.5	111	1,397	756	1,005	3,158
2017-18	50	185	214	201	180	207	251	213	227	254	249.5	233.5	254	241.5	127	1,387	705	995.5	3,087.5
2018-19	83	162	189	214	201	177	206	220	220	228	247	242	224	249	120	1,319	684	979	2,982

Notes: ¹Data as provided by the New Jersey Department of Education (<http://www.nj.gov/education/data/enr/>) and the Vernon Township School District.

²Pre-kindergarten regular education enrollment

³Self-contained special education enrollment/Ungraded Students

Table 5
Vernon Township School District Historical Survival Ratios
2009-10 to 2018-19

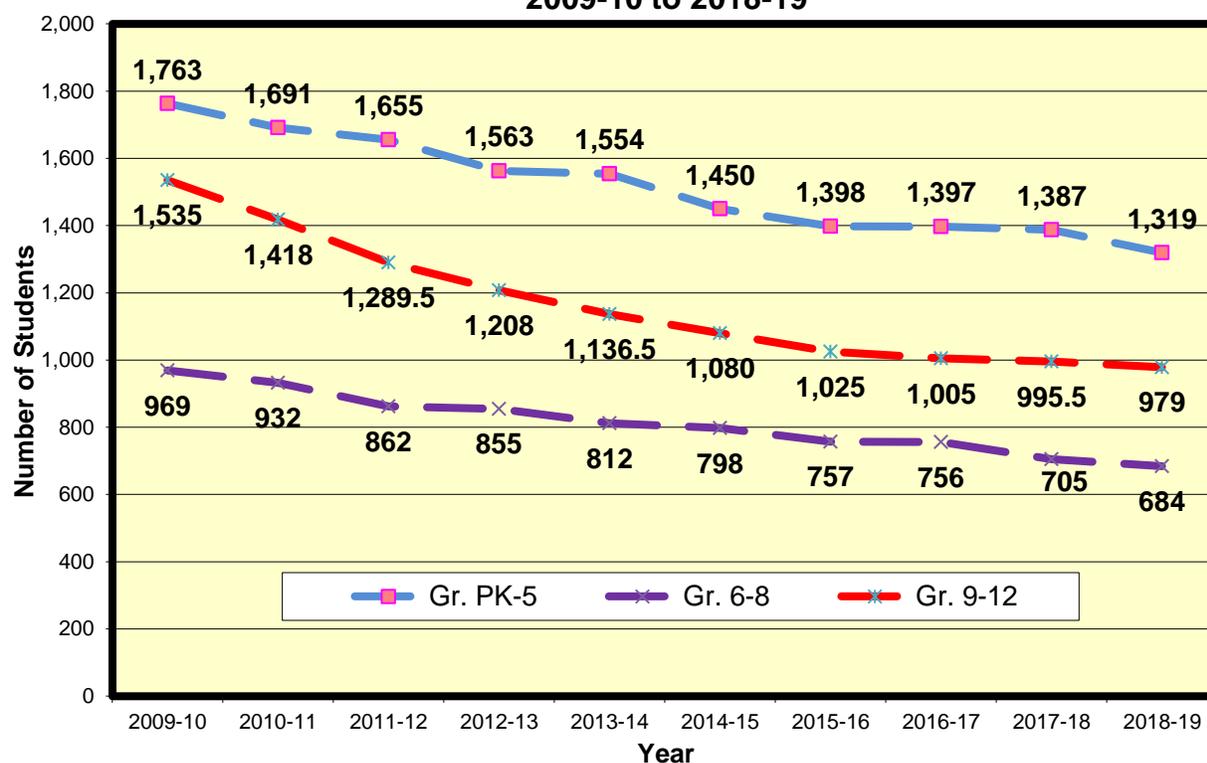
Progression Years	B-K	K-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
2009-10 to 2010-11	0.9567	1.0693	0.9708	0.9922	0.9866	0.9676	0.9967	0.9732	0.9606	0.9414	0.9762	0.9944	1.0129
2010-11 to 2011-12	0.8527	1.0226	1.0162	1.0113	1.0000	0.9864	0.9814	0.9604	0.9725	0.9211	0.9557	0.9585	0.9901
2011-12 to 2012-13	0.9955	1.0409	1.0310	0.9960	0.9926	1.0197	0.9519	0.9848	1.0103	1.0035	0.9863	0.9588	0.9731
2012-13 to 2013-14	1.0097	1.0588	1.0087	1.0558	1.0560	1.0637	0.9961	1.0325	1.0269	0.9694	0.9648	1.0069	1.0143
2013-14 to 2014-15	0.8947	1.0144	1.0256	0.9957	0.9634	0.9318	0.9155	0.9535	0.9336	0.9139	0.9702	0.9945	0.9724
2014-15 to 2015-16	0.9846	1.0267	1.0190	1.0042	1.0087	0.9873	0.9553	0.9808	0.9756	0.9157	0.9898	0.9711	0.9817
2015-16 to 2016-17	1.1383	1.0521	0.9375	0.9767	1.0000	0.9784	0.9915	1.0468	1.0078	0.9833	1.0102	0.9793	1.0112
2016-17 to 2017-18	1.1078	1.0000	0.9950	1.0000	0.9857	1.0415	0.9383	0.9784	1.0325	0.9708	0.9894	1.0283	1.0211
2017-18 to 2018-19	0.8852	1.0216	1.0000	1.0000	0.9833	0.9952	0.8765	1.0329	1.0044	0.9724	0.9699	0.9593	0.9803
Maximum Ratio	1.1383	1.0693	1.0310	1.0558	1.0560	1.0637	0.9967	1.0468	1.0325	1.0035	1.0102	1.0283	1.0211
Minimum Ratio	0.8527	1.0000	0.9375	0.9767	0.9634	0.9318	0.8765	0.9535	0.9336	0.9139	0.9557	0.9585	0.9724
Avg. 4-Year Ratios	1.0290	1.0246	0.9775	0.9922	0.9897	1.0050	0.9354	1.0194	1.0149	0.9755	0.9899	0.9890	1.0042
Avg. 5-Year Ratios	1.0021	1.0251	0.9879	0.9952	0.9944	1.0006	0.9404	1.0097	1.0051	0.9606	0.9898	0.9845	0.9986
Avg. 10-Year Ratios	0.9806	1.0341	1.0004	1.0035	0.9974	0.9969	0.9559	0.9937	0.9916	0.9546	0.9792	0.9835	0.9952
Diff. Between 5-Year and 10-Year Ratios	+0.0215	-0.0089	-0.0126	-0.0083	-0.0029	+0.0038	-0.0155	+0.0160	+0.0135	+0.0060	+0.0107	+0.0010	+0.0033

Notes: Blue shaded cells reflect birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios for a full-day kindergarten program.
Green shaded cells reflect survival ratios from full-day kindergarten to first grade.

Factors related to inward migration include families with school-age children purchasing an existing home or new housing unit. The reasons for families moving into a community vary. For instance, a family could move into Vernon for economic reasons and proximity to employment, or the presence of affordable housing. Another plausible reason for inward migration is the reputation of the school district, as the appeal of a school district draws families into a community, resulting in the transfer of students into the district. On the flip side, outward migration is caused by families with children moving out of the community, perhaps due to difficulty in finding employment or affordable housing. Outward migration in the school district can also be caused by parents choosing to withdraw their children from public school to attend private, parochial, or charter schools, or to attend a different public school district. In the case of the Vernon Township School District, the reasons for migration are not explicitly known (such as for economic reasons or the appeal of the school district), as exit and entrance interviews would need to be conducted for all children leaving or entering the district.

Since the district recently changed its grade configuration at the school level in 2017-18, historical enrollments are shown in Table 4 and Figure 4 by elementary, middle, and high school grade configuration (PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12) so that historical comparisons could be made. Self-contained special education/ungraded students were incorporated into the totals by grade configuration.

Figure 4
Vernon Township School District
Historical Enrollments by Level
2009-10 to 2018-19



For grades PK-5, enrollments have been steadily declining for the last ten years. In 2018-19, enrollment is 1,319, which is a loss of 444 students from the 2009-10 enrollment of 1,763.

For grades 6-8, enrollments have also been steadily declining. Enrollment is 684 in 2018-19, which is a loss of 285 students from the 2009-10 enrollment of 969.

At Vernon Township High School (9-12), which is the only school to maintain its grade-level configuration in the last ten years, enrollments have also steadily declined. However, the rate of decline has been much slower in the last four years. In 2018-19, enrollment is 979, which is a loss of 556 students from the 2009-10 enrollment of 1,535.

Kindergarten and First Grade Replacement

Kindergarten replacements were analyzed to determine whether there was any relationship between overall enrollment change and kindergarten replacement, which is the numerical difference between the number of graduating 12th graders and the number of entering kindergarten students. Since the district had a half-day kindergarten program prior to 2011-12, it is more appropriate to compare the twelfth grade student population to the first grade student population in those years, as the district gains a number of students from kindergarten to first grade when parents elect to send their child to a full-day kindergarten program elsewhere before enrolling them in the public school district for the first grade. The district has experienced negative kindergarten/first grade replacement in each of the last nine years. Negative kindergarten/first grade replacement occurs when the number of graduating 12th grade students is larger than the number of kindergarten/first grade students replacing them in the next year. Positive kindergarten/first grade replacement occurs when the number of graduating 12th grade students is less than the number of kindergarten/first grade students entering the district in the next year. As shown in Figure 5, negative kindergarten/first grade replacement has ranged from 53.5-174 students per year with the magnitude decreasing over time. In 2018-19, there was a loss of 79.5 students due to kindergarten replacement, as 241.5 twelfth graders graduated in 2017-18 and were replaced by 162 kindergarten students in 2018-19. In the last five years, the district has lost an average of 81 students per year due to kindergarten replacement.

Figure 5
Vernon Township School District
Historical Kindergarten/First Grade Replacement

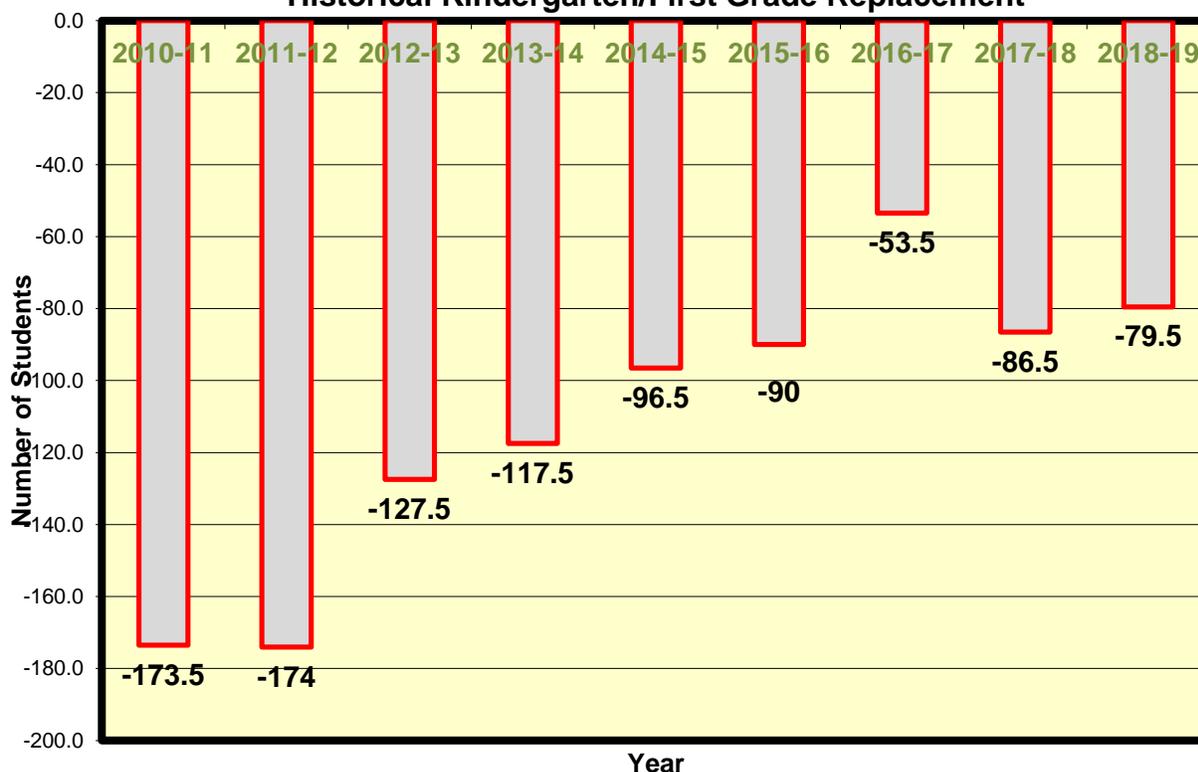
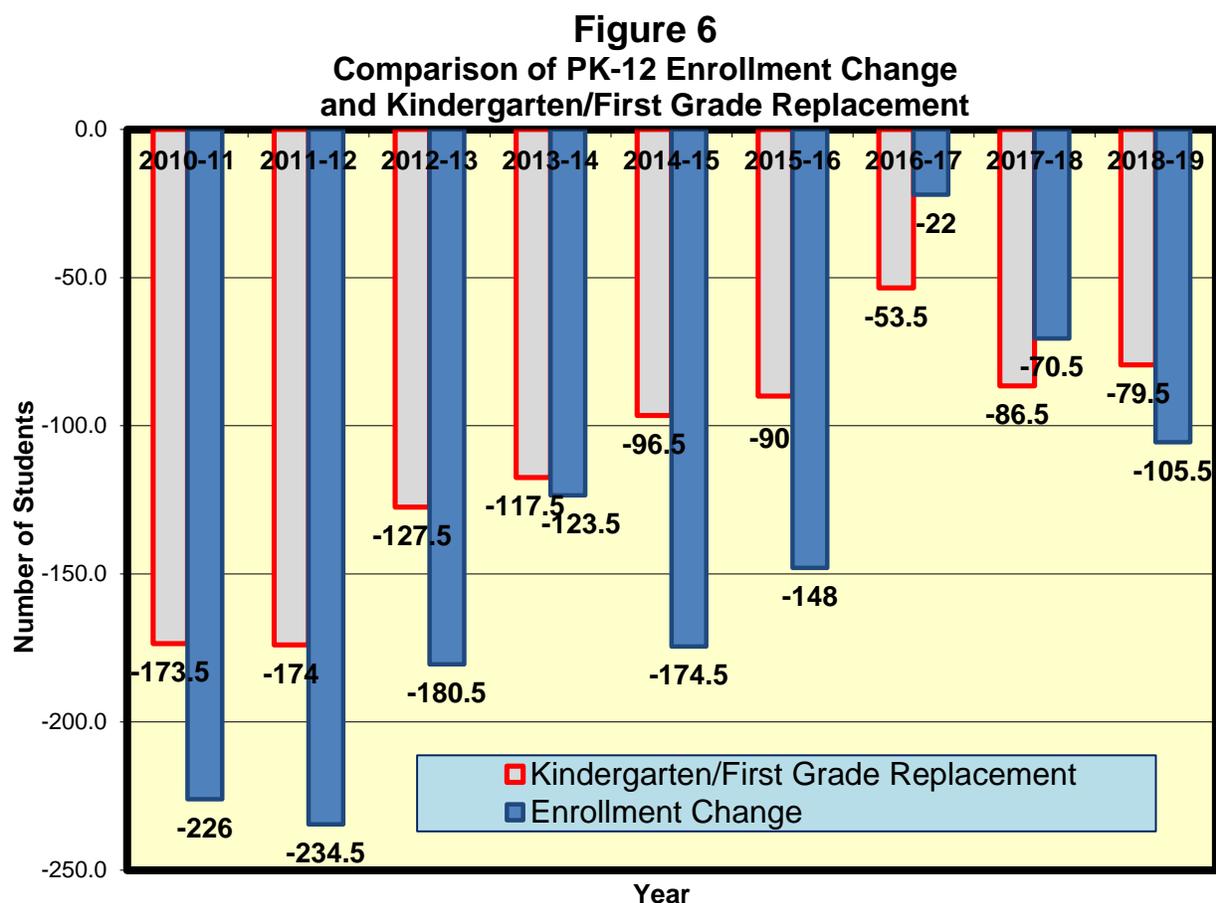


Figure 6 shows the annual change in total enrollment compared to kindergarten/first grade replacement. As the figure demonstrates, there appears to be a strong relationship, statistically speaking, between the overall change in enrollment and kindergarten/first grade replacement. Although this data represents a small sample, the correlation coefficient between the two variables was 0.89. Correlation coefficients measure the relationship or association between two variables; this does not imply that there is cause and effect between the two variables. Other variables, known as lurking variables, may have an effect on the true relationship between kindergarten/first grade replacement and total enrollment change. Negative correlation coefficients indicate that as one variable is increasing (decreasing), the other variable is decreasing (increasing). Positive correlation coefficients indicate that as one of the variables increases (decreases), the other variable increases (decreases) as well. The computed linear correlation coefficient is always between -1 and +1. Values near -1 or +1 indicate a strong linear relationship between the variables while values near zero indicate a weak linear relationship. Based on the correlation of 0.89, there appears to be a strong relationship between enrollment change and kindergarten/first grade replacement in the school district in the last nine years.

In seven of the last nine years, the district's losses due to negative kindergarten/first grade replacement have been compounded by a net outward migration of students in the other grades (K to 1, 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc.), resulting in an even larger enrollment decline. This was confirmed previously as eight of the thirteen average survival ratios in the five-year trend were below 1.000.



Birth Data

Birth data were needed to compute kindergarten enrollments, which were calculated as follows. Birth data, which were lagged five years behind their respective kindergarten classes, were used to calculate the survival ratio for each birth-to-kindergarten cohort. For instance, in 2013, there were 183 births in Vernon. Five years later (the 2018-19 school year), 162 children enrolled in kindergarten, which is equal to a survival ratio of 0.885 from birth to kindergarten. Birth counts and birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios are displayed in Table 6. Values greater than 1.000 indicate that some children are born outside of a community's boundaries and are attending kindergarten in the school district five years later, i.e., an inward migration of children. This type of inward migration is typical in school districts with excellent reputations, because the appeal of a good school district draws families into the community. Inward migration is also seen in communities where there are a large number of new housing starts (or home resales), with families moving into the community having children of age to attend kindergarten. Birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios that are below 1.000 indicate that a number of children born within a community are not attending kindergarten in the school district five years later. This is common in communities where a high proportion of children attend private, parochial, charter, or out-of-district special education facilities, or where there is a net migration of families moving out of the community. It is also common in school districts that have a half-day kindergarten program where parents choose to send their child to a private full-day kindergarten for the first year.

Table 6
Birth Counts and Historical Birth-to-Kindergarten Survival Ratios
in the Vernon Township School District

Birth Year ¹	Number of Births Vernon Township	Kindergarten Students Five Years Later	Birth-to-Kindergarten Survival Ratio
2004	224	231	1.031
2005	231	221	0.957
2006	258	220	0.853
2007	222	221	0.995
2008	206	208	1.010
2009	209	187	0.895
2010	195	192	0.985
2011	188	214	1.138
2012	167	185	1.108
2013	183	162	0.885
2014	162	N/A	N/A
2015	158	N/A	N/A
2016	170	N/A	N/A
2017	189	N/A	N/A

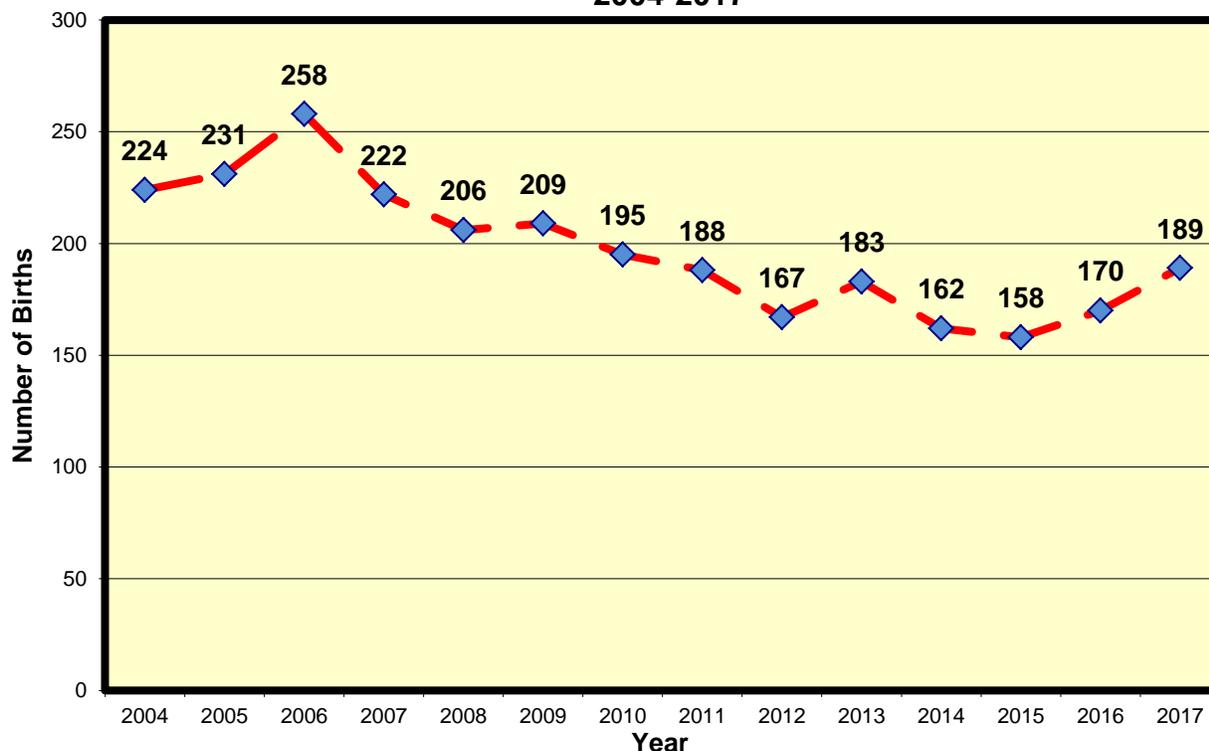
Note: ¹Birth data were provided by the New Jersey Center for Health Statistics from 2004-2017. Blue-shaded areas reflect implementation of a full-day kindergarten program.

Birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios have been below 1.000 in six of the last ten years, ranging from 0.853-1.138. While full-day kindergarten was implemented in the district beginning in September 2011, the effect on the birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios (shaded blue in Table 6) has not been pronounced. Typically, birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios increase when a district changes from a half-day to a full-day kindergarten program. However, there has been little change in Vernon's birth-to-kindergarten survival ratios as compared to other districts that have experienced this type of program change.

Geocoded birth data were provided by the New Jersey Center for Health Statistics ("NJCHS") from 2004-2017 by assigning geographic coordinates to a birth mother based on her street address. Births for 2018 were not yet available. Since the NJCHS did not have geocoded birth data for 2018, an estimate was formulated by averaging historical births. Birth counts were needed for 2018 since this cohort will become the kindergarten class of 2023.

After peaking at 258 births in 2007, birth counts declined to 158 in 2015 as shown in Figure 7. However, births in Vernon appear to be increasing, as there were 189 births in 2017, which is the highest value since 2010. As a result of the decline in the number of births, kindergarten enrollment declined from 231 in 2009-10 to 162 in 2018-19, which is not as large a decline as the birth count.

Figure 7
Vernon Historical Birth Counts
2004-2017



Regarding fertility rates, the fertility rate in Vernon is lower than those of both Sussex County and the State of New Jersey. According to the 2013-2017 ACS, the fertility rate of women aged 15 to 50 in Vernon was 38 births per 1,000 women. In comparison, as reported by the NJCHS, the 2017 Sussex County fertility rate was 50.7 births per 1,000 women (ages 15-49) and was 59.0 births per 1,000 women in New Jersey. However, it should be noted that while all three values are based on a sample, the Vernon data has a margin of error that is much higher than the county and state data and may not reflect the “true” fertility rate in the community.

Figures 8 and 9 show the age pyramids of males and females in Vernon from both the 2000 and 2010 Censuses. The largest number of individuals in 2000 was aged 40-44 for both genders. As these individuals advance in age, the largest cohort in 2010 was aged 45-49 for males and 50-54 for females. As shown in Table 7, the greatest declines (shaded red), both in number and percentage points, occurred in the 35-39 age group for both genders. There was also a significant decline in the 30-34 age group for females, which corresponds to the ages (30-39) when many females have their children. The low fertility rate and the declining number of females in the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups have likely led to the declining birth rate in Vernon. The greatest gains (shaded blue), both in number and percentage points, occurred in the 55-59 age group for males and 60-64 age group for females.

Figure 8
Population Pyramid of Vernon
2000 Census

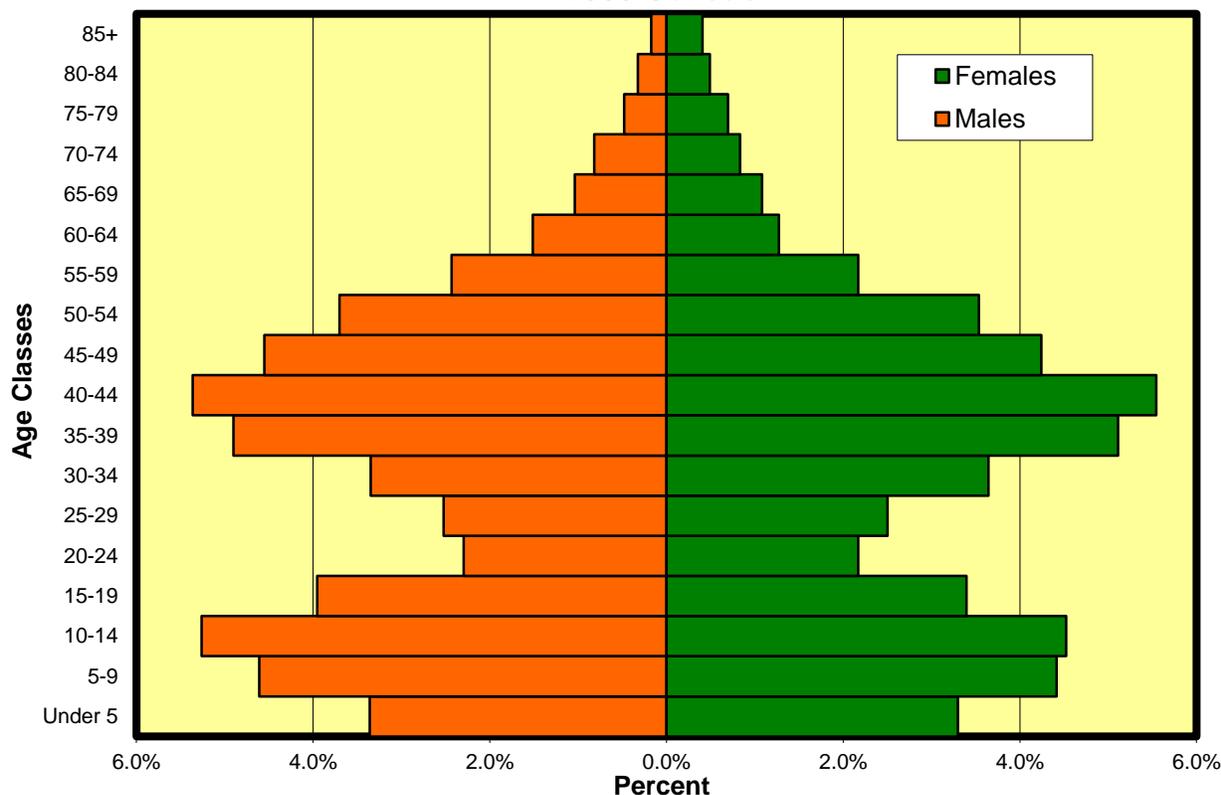


Figure 9
Population Pyramid of Vernon
2010 Census

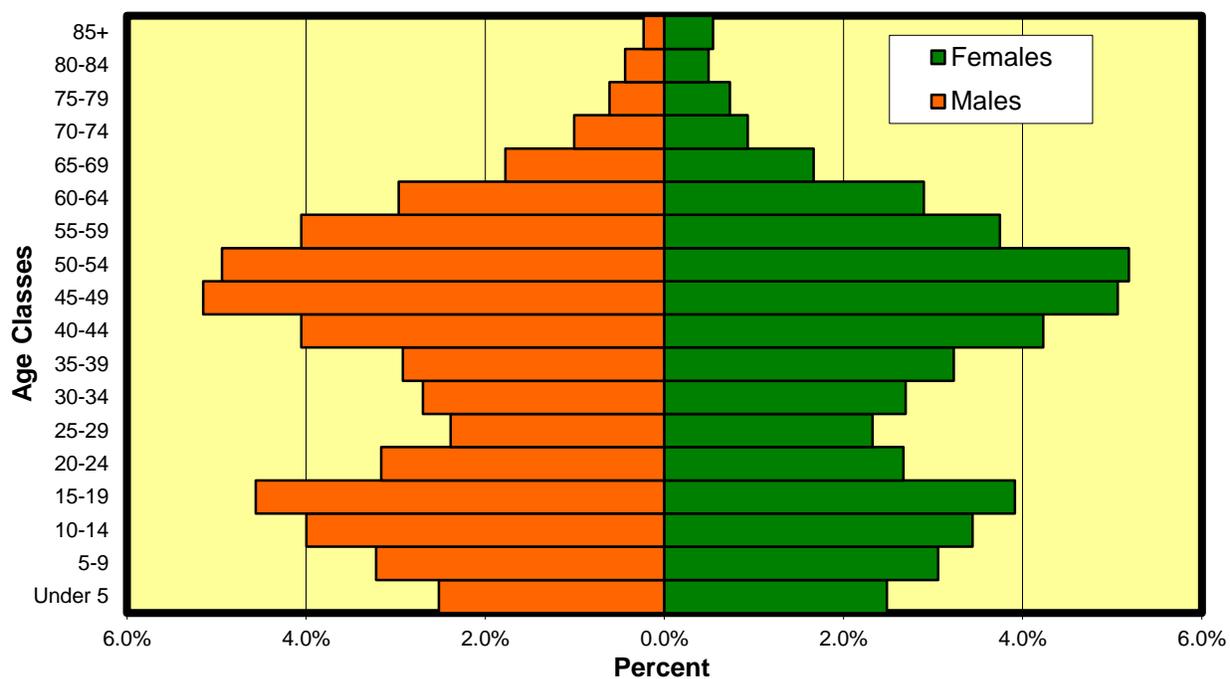


Table 7
Numerical and Percentage Point Changes of Males and Females in Vernon
2000 to 2010

Age Group	Males		Females	
	Numerical Change	Percentage Point Change	Numerical Change	Percentage Point Change
Under 5	-226	-0.8	-219	-0.8
5-9	-367	-1.4	-358	-1.4
10-14	-342	-1.3	-293	-1.1
15-19	+117	+0.6	+99	+0.5
20-24	+190	+0.9	+103	+0.5
25-29	-51	-0.1	-62	-0.2
30-34	-181	-0.7	-255	-1.0
35-39	-511	-2.0	-489	-1.9
40-44	-353	-1.3	-356	-1.3
45-49	+109	+0.6	+165	+0.8
50-54	+269	+1.2	+369	+1.7
55-59	+370	+1.6	+361	+1.6
60-64	+336	+1.5	+379	+1.6
65-69	+169	+0.7	+132	+0.6
70-74	+39	+0.2	+17	+0.1
75-79	+29	+0.1	+3	0.0
80-84	+25	+0.1	-3	0.0
85+	+13	+0.1	+29	+0.1

Notes: Cells shaded blue reflect the greatest gains over the ten-year period.

Cells shaded red reflect the greatest losses over the ten-year period.

New Housing in Vernon

Ms. Kim Decker, Vernon Land Use Administrator, provided information regarding current and future residential development in the community. Currently, there are no residential developments under construction, nor are there applications for residential subdivisions before the planning board.

Historical Residential Construction

With respect to historical new construction, the number of certificates of occupancy (“COs”) issued for new homes in Vernon from 2014-2018 is shown in Table 8. New residential construction has been limited in Vernon, as only six (6) COs were issued for single- or two-family homes in the last five years.

Table 8
Number of Residential Certificates of Occupancy by Year

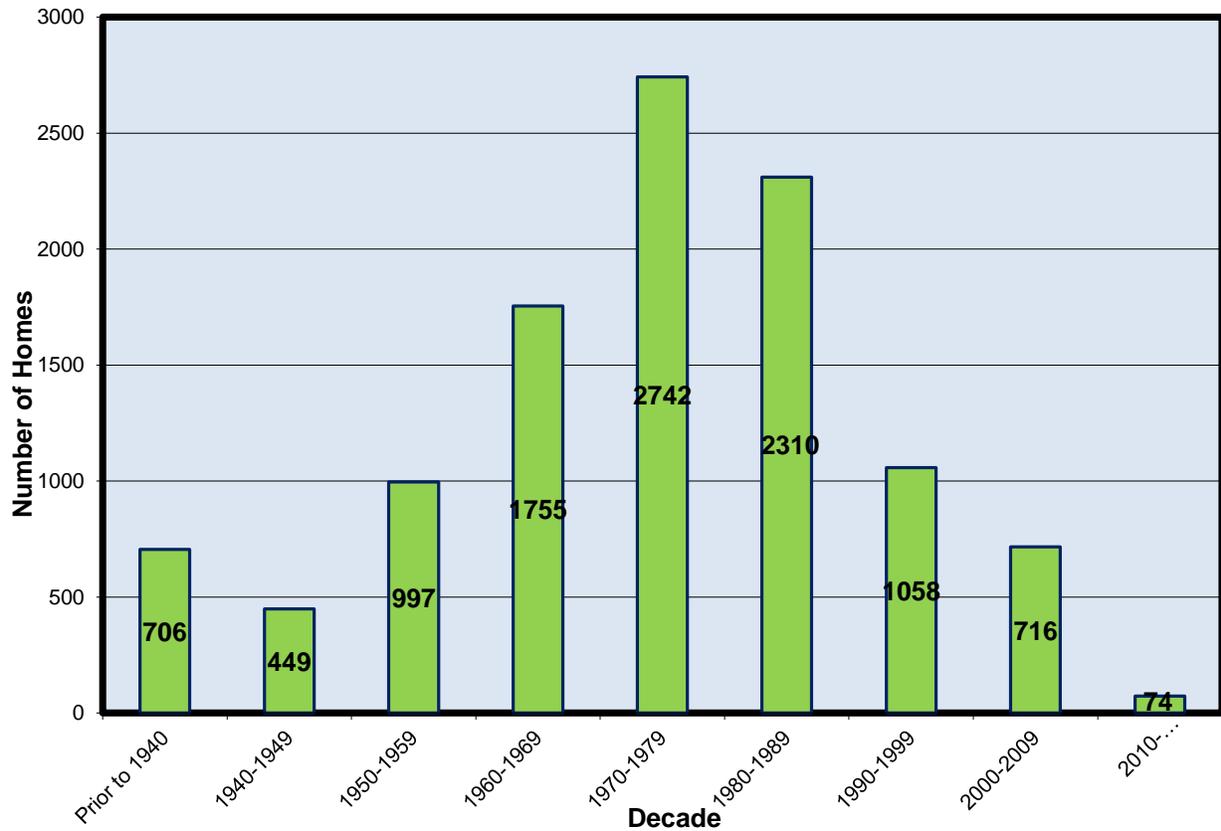
Year	Vernon			
	1&2 Family	Multi-Family	Mixed Use	Total
2014	1	0	0	1
2015	1	0	0	1
2016	2	0	0	2
2017	2	0	0	2
2018	0	0	0	0
Total	6	0	0	6

Source: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

Distribution of Homes by Decade Built

Figure 10 shows the number of homes built by decade in Vernon as provided by the 2013-2017 ACS. Nearly 63% of the homes were built from 1960-1990. Of the decades shown, Vernon had the largest number of homes built in the 1970s, which corresponds to the large population gain (+169.1%) shown previously in Table 2. However, since that time period, the number of homes built per decade has been declining.

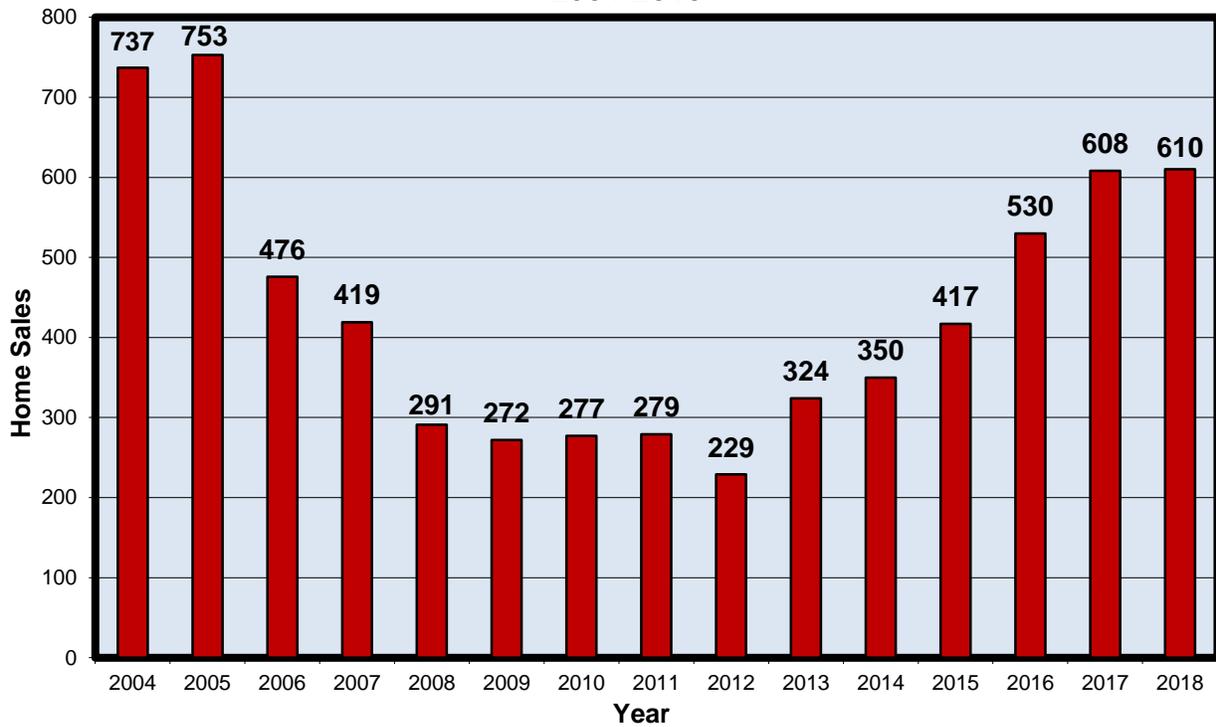
Figure 10
Number of Homes Built by Decade in Vernon



Home Sales

In Figure 11 below, the number of annual home sales in Vernon is shown from 2004-2018. The information was retrieved from the Monmouth County Tax Board database, which possesses tax records and home sales for all municipalities in the state. “Paper sales,” which are sales between members of the immediate family for a low price (e.g., \$1 or \$100) and result in a change in title but often not a change of the occupant, were excluded from the totals below. Home sales peaked at 753 in 2005 before declining to 229 in 2012 due to the housing market crash and banking crisis. Since then, home sales have rebounded, particularly in the last few years. However, the number of sales in 2018 (610) is still below the peak total that occurred in 2005.

Figure 11
Vernon Home Sales
2004-2018



Enrollment Projections

In two separate projections, enrollments were calculated from the 2019-20 school year through the 2023-24 school year, a five-year period.

Self-contained special education/ungraded enrollments were computed by calculating the historical proportion of self-contained special education/ungraded students with respect to the regular education PK-12 subtotals and multiplying that value by the future regular education PK-12 subtotals. As the number of self-contained special education/ungraded students has increased recently, an average proportion from the last three years (0.0404) was used to estimate the future number of self-contained special education/ungraded students in each of the projections.

With respect to grade-level pre-kindergarten students, enrollment was projected by computing an average based on historical data and using this value throughout the five-year projection period. In the last four years, pre-kindergarten enrollment has ranged from 47-83 students per year, which is an average of 58 students. It was estimated that there would be 58 students in the program annually in the future. Pre-kindergarten children with special needs were not included in these counts and were instead included with the special education projections.

On September 10, 2010, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed into law the Interdistrict School Choice Program (“Choice”), which took effect in the 2011-12 school year. This enables students the choice in attending a school outside their district of residence if the selected school is participating in the choice program. The choice school district sets the number of openings per grade level. While the Vernon Township School District does participate in the program, it is not accepting new Choice students in 2019-20 according to its Choice District Profile published by the NJDOE.

As part of the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (“SFRA”), all school districts in New Jersey are to provide expanded Abbott-quality pre-school programs for at-risk 3- and 4-year olds as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:13A. The State of New Jersey intends to provide aid for the full-day program based on projected enrollment. School districts categorized as District Factor Group³ (“DFG”) A, B, and CD with a concentration of at-risk pupils equal to or greater than 40 percent, must offer a pre-school program to all pre-school aged children regardless of income, known as “Universal” pre-school. For all other school districts, a pre-school program must be offered only to at-risk children, known as “Targeted” preschool. School districts may educate the pre-school children in district, by outside providers, or through Head Start programs. School districts were required to offer these programs to at least 90% of the eligible pre-school children by 2013-14.

Due to budgetary constraints, the NJDOE postponed the roll-out of the program, which was scheduled for the 2009-10 school year. According to a recent conversation with Ms. Karin Garver, Educational Program Development Specialist in the NJDOE Early Childhood Education, there are no plans in the imminent future by the State Legislature to fund the program, which

³Introduced by the New Jersey Department of Education in 1975, DFG provides a system of ranking school districts in the state by their socioeconomic status. While the system is no longer used, the number of pre-kindergarten students was determined by the former DFG rankings.

would prevent school districts from implementing the program. The pre-school program would have been rolled out over a five-year period according to the following schedule:

- At least 20% of the eligible pre-school universe in Year 1
- At least 35% of the universe in Year 2
- At least 50% of the universe in Year 3
- At least 65% of the universe in Year 4
- At least 90% of the universe in Year 5

The universe of pre-school children in “Universal” districts is computed by multiplying the 1st grade enrollment in 2007-08 by two. The universe of pre-school children in “Targeted” districts is computed by multiplying the 1st grade enrollment in 2007-08 by two and then multiplying by the percentage of students having free or reduced lunch in the district. The Vernon Township School District is a “Targeted” district since its DFG is “FG” with a concentration of at-risk pupils less than 40 percent (8.78%). In Table 9 following, the estimated number of total eligible pre-school students is provided with the estimated five-year rollout. For the purpose of this study, it has been assumed that the district would educate its pre-school children in-house. As the table shows, there is the potential for 53 pre-kindergarten students as a result of the SFRA. Since it is unclear if and when the program will be funded and subsequently mandated, the forthcoming enrollment projections do not include additional pre-kindergarten students from the SFRA.

Table 9
Estimated Number of Eligible Pre-School Students
as Per School Funding Reform Act of 2008

DFG (2000)	Total eligible	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
FG	53	11	19	27	34	48

Source: New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education

In a different pre-school initiative, the administration of Governor Phil Murphy announced the availability of Preschool Education Expansion Aid (“PEEA”) in 2018. In September 2018, the first round of funding (\$20.6 million) was publicized, where 31 districts received aid to expand their pre-kindergarten programs. A second round of funding targeted districts whose free and reduced lunch percentage was above 20% and had not previously received state preschool aid. In January 2019, an additional 33 districts were awarded aid to expand their pre-kindergarten programs through the second round of funding (\$27 million). Some districts that were eligible to apply for PEEA would fall under the “Universal” category under SFRA while others would be considered “Targeted” districts. However, the main difference with this expansion aid is that districts under SFRA were restricted to serve low-income children where now districts can educate all pre-school age children through PEEA. It appears that the Murphy administration may be moving towards a pre-school program for all children, rather than just for those who are low-income. The Vernon Township School District

did not receive a PEEA grant in either the first or second round of funding and therefore has no bearing on the outcome of this study.

Projected PK-12 enrollments, using cohort-survival ratios based on historical data from the last four years, follows in Table 10 and Figure 12. Total enrollment is projected to steadily decline throughout the projection period. Enrollment is projected to be 2,563 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 419 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 2,982.

Table 10
Vernon Township School District Projected Enrollments (PK-12)
Using Cohort-Survival Ratios and 4 Years of Historical Data
2019-20 to 2023-24

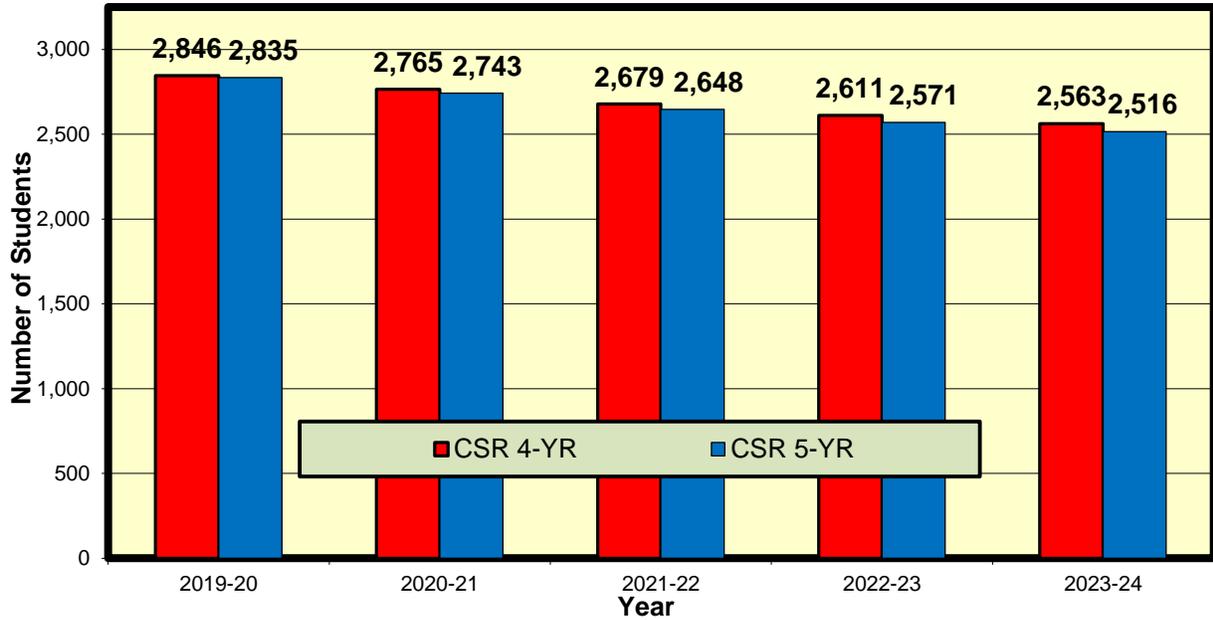
Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SE	PK-12 Total
2019-20	58	167	166	185	212	199	178	193	224	223	222	244	239	225	111	2,846
2020-21	58	163	171	162	184	210	200	167	197	227	218	220	241	240	107	2,765
2021-22	58	175	167	167	161	182	211	187	170	200	221	216	218	242	104	2,679
2022-23	58	194	179	163	166	159	183	197	191	173	195	219	214	219	101	2,611
2023-24	58	185	199	175	162	164	160	171	201	194	169	193	217	215	100	2,563

In the next projection, PK-12 enrollments were computed using cohort-survival ratios based on historical data from the last five years as shown in Table 11 and Figure 12. Total enrollment is also projected to decline throughout the projection period, but at a slightly faster rate. Enrollment is projected to be 2,516 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 466 students from the 2018-19 enrollment.

Table 11
Vernon Township School District Projected Enrollments (PK-12)
Using Cohort-Survival Ratios and 5 Years of Historical Data
2019-20 to 2023-24

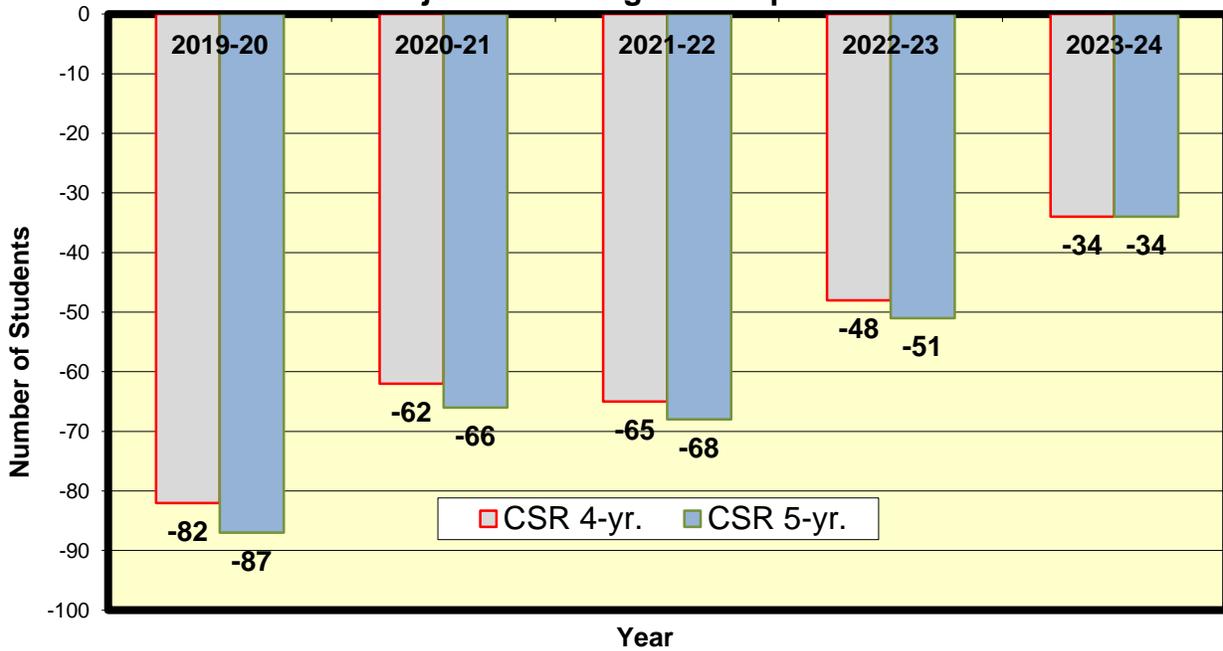
Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SE	PK-12 Total
2019-20	58	162	166	187	213	200	177	194	222	221	219	244	238	224	110	2,835
2020-21	58	158	166	164	186	212	200	166	196	223	212	217	240	238	107	2,743
2021-22	58	170	162	164	163	185	212	188	168	197	214	210	214	240	103	2,648
2022-23	58	189	174	160	163	162	185	199	190	169	189	212	207	214	100	2,571
2023-24	58	180	194	172	159	162	162	174	201	191	162	187	209	207	98	2,516

Figure 12
Vernon Township School District Projected Enrollments
2019-20 to 2023-24



Negative kindergarten replacement is expected to continue to occur in the future as shown in Figure 13. However, the magnitude of the negative kindergarten replacement is projected to slowly decline throughout the projection period, ranging from 34-87 students per year.

Figure 13
Projected Kindergarten Replacement



Projected Enrollments by Grade Configuration

In Table 12 following, projected enrollments are shown by grade configuration (PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12) in the Vernon Township School District. Ungraded special education students were reassigned into each of the grade configurations.

For grades PK-5, enrollment is projected to decline through 2022-23 before stabilizing. In the first projection using CSR based on four years of historical data, enrollment is projected to be 1,176 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 143 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 1,319. In the second projection using CSR based on five years of historical data, enrollment is projected to be 1,158 in 2023-24, which would represent a loss of 161 students from the 2018-19 enrollment.

For Glen Meadow (grades 6-8), enrollment is projected to steadily decline through 2021-22 before stabilizing. In each projection, enrollment is projected to be 579 in 2023-24, which would represent a loss of 105 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 684.

Finally, for grades 9-12 at Vernon Township High School, enrollment is projected to steadily decline throughout the projection period. In the first projection using CSR based on four years of historical data, enrollment is projected to be 808 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 171 students from the 2018-19 enrollment of 979. In the second projection using CSR based on five years of historical data, enrollment is projected to be 779 in 2023-24, which would be a loss of 200 students from the 2018-19 enrollment.

Table 12
Projected Enrollments for Grades PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12
2019-20 to 2023-24

Historical	PK-5		6-8		9-12	
2018-19	1,319		684		979	
Projected	PK-5 CSR 4-YR	PK-5 CSR 5-YR	6-8 CSR 4-YR	6-8 CSR 5-YR	9-12 CSR 4-YR	9-12 CSR 5-YR
2019-20	1,245	1,242	655	652	946	941
2020-21	1,226	1,222	605	599	934	922
2021-22	1,196	1,188	571	567	912	893
2022-23	1,176	1,164	574	571	861	836
2023-24	1,176	1,158	579	579	808	779
5-Year Change	-143	-161	-105	-105	-171	-200

Capacity Analysis

Table 13 shows the educational capacities of the grade configurations (PK-5, 6-8, and 9-12) in the Vernon Township School District in comparison to both the current enrollments in 2018-19 and the enrollment projections in the 2023-24 school year. Capacities are shown by grade configuration for the elementary level since the enrollment projections were not performed at the school level. Using the building capacities as provided by the district's LRFP, the differences between capacity and current/projected number of students were computed. Positive values indicate available extra seating while negative values indicate inadequate seating (also known as "unhoused students"). It should be noted that the capacity values are not fixed and can change from year-to-year based on classroom usage. For instance, additional special education classes in a building would reduce the building's capacity. Districts with unhoused students can accommodate these children by increasing class sizes, which in turn increases the school's capacity. As such, the capacity of a school is not a fixed value and can be changed depending on how the building is used.

While there were two sets of projections, only the highest projection is shown. All of the grade configurations have surplus seating in 2018-19, with the largest occurring at the elementary level (+1,150). By 2023-24, the surplus seating in each grade configuration is projected to increase due to declining enrollment. The elementary configuration is projected to have the largest number of surplus seats (+1,293) in 2023-24.

Table 13
Capacity Analysis

Grade Configuration	Capacity ^{1,2}	Current Enrollment 2018-19	Difference	Projected Enrollment 2023-24	Difference
Elementary (PK-5)	2,469	1,319	+1,150	1,176	+1,293
Glen Meadow M.S. (6-8)	877	684	+193	579	+298
Vernon Township H.S. (9-12)	1,432	979	+453	808	+624

Notes: ¹District Practices Capacity from the Vernon Township School District Long Range Facility Plan (2005)

²As the capacities were last calculated in 2005, the actual capacities of the buildings in 2019 may have changed if the buildings' instructional spaces are being used differently than in 2005.