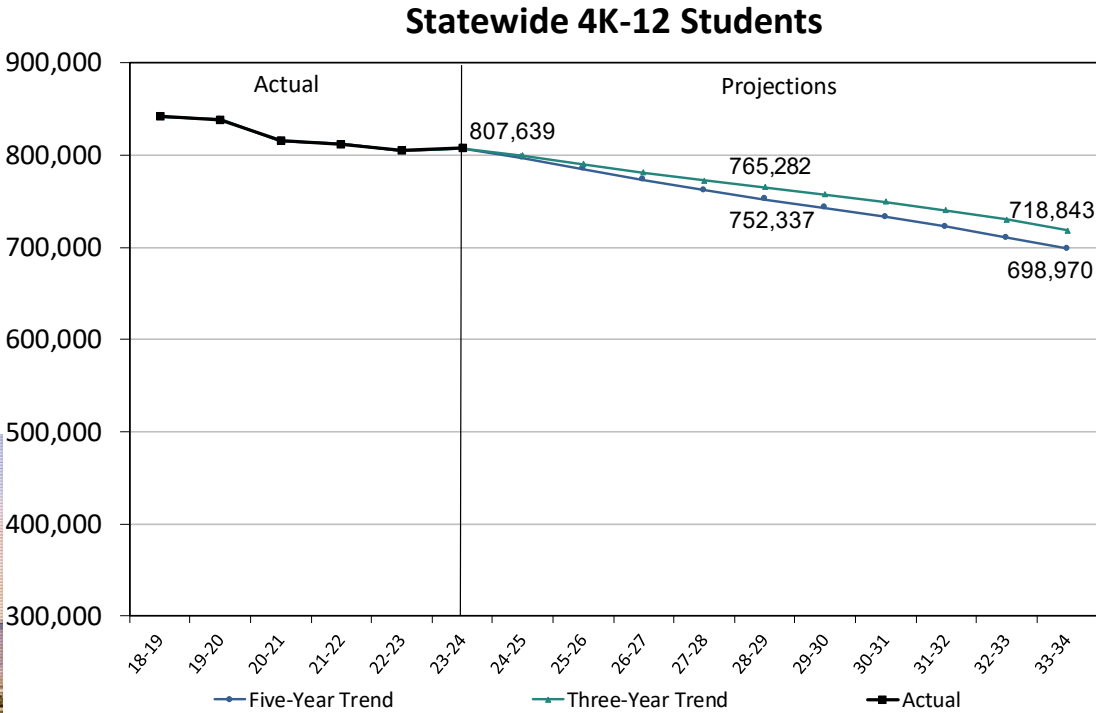
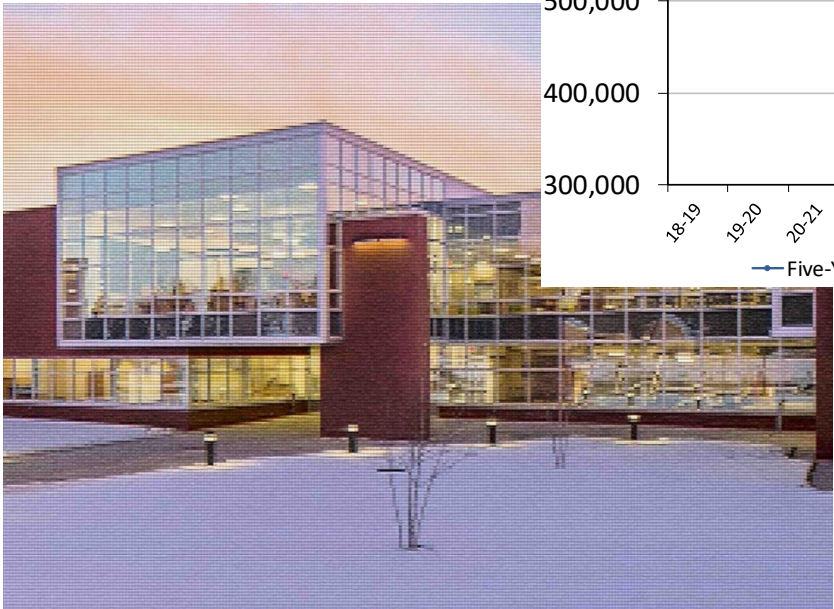


Declining Enrollment: Wisconsin Demographics, School Enrollment, and Statewide Projections

Sarah Kemp, Researcher Emerita
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Applied Population Laboratory

Wisconsin State Education
Convention
January 22, 2025

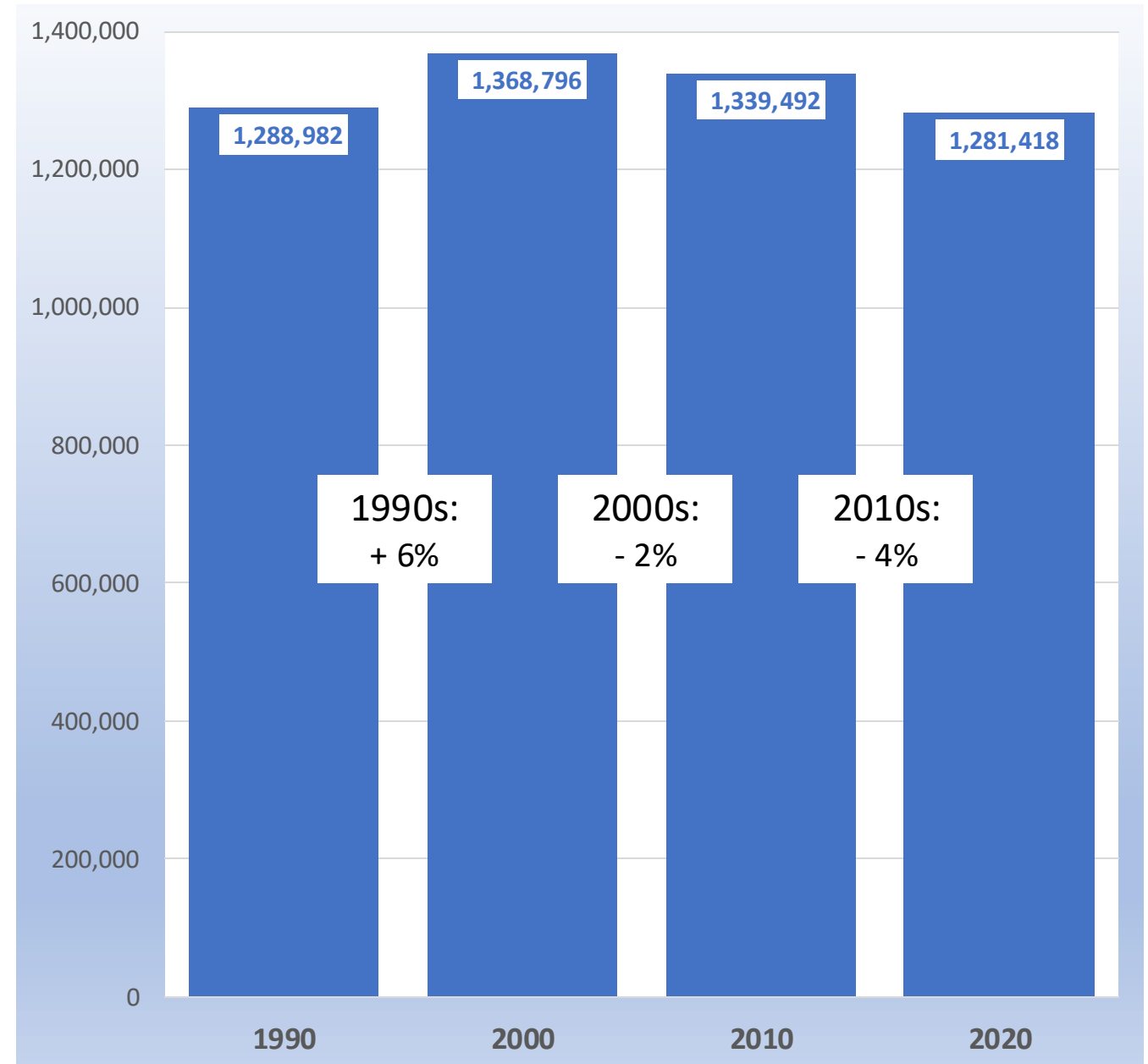


Wisconsin Demographics



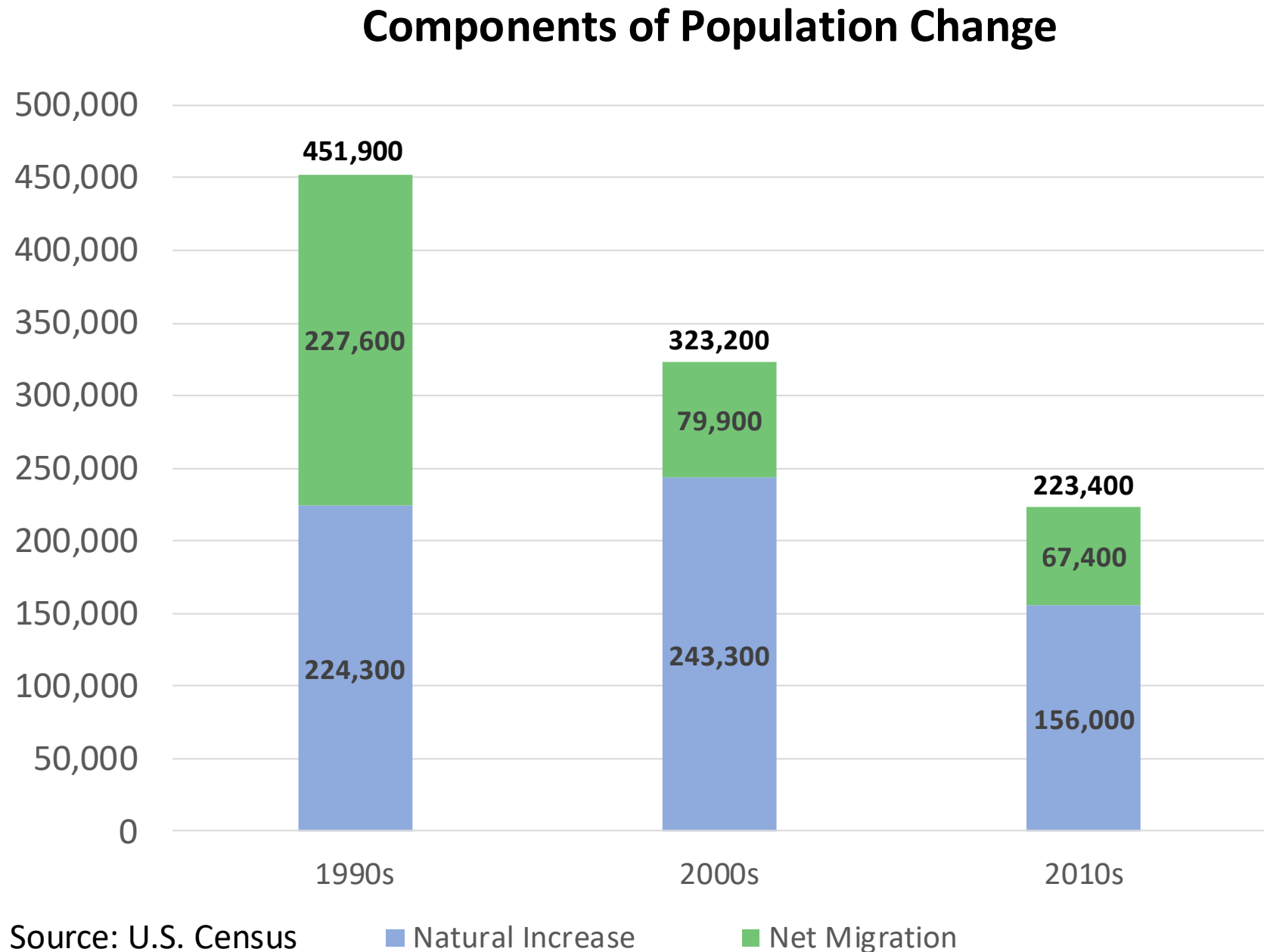
**The youth
population
declined by
2% in 2000s
4% in 2010s**

Youth (Ages 0-17) Population



Source: U.S. Census

**Population
growth slowed
because of
fewer births &
fewer people
moving into WI**

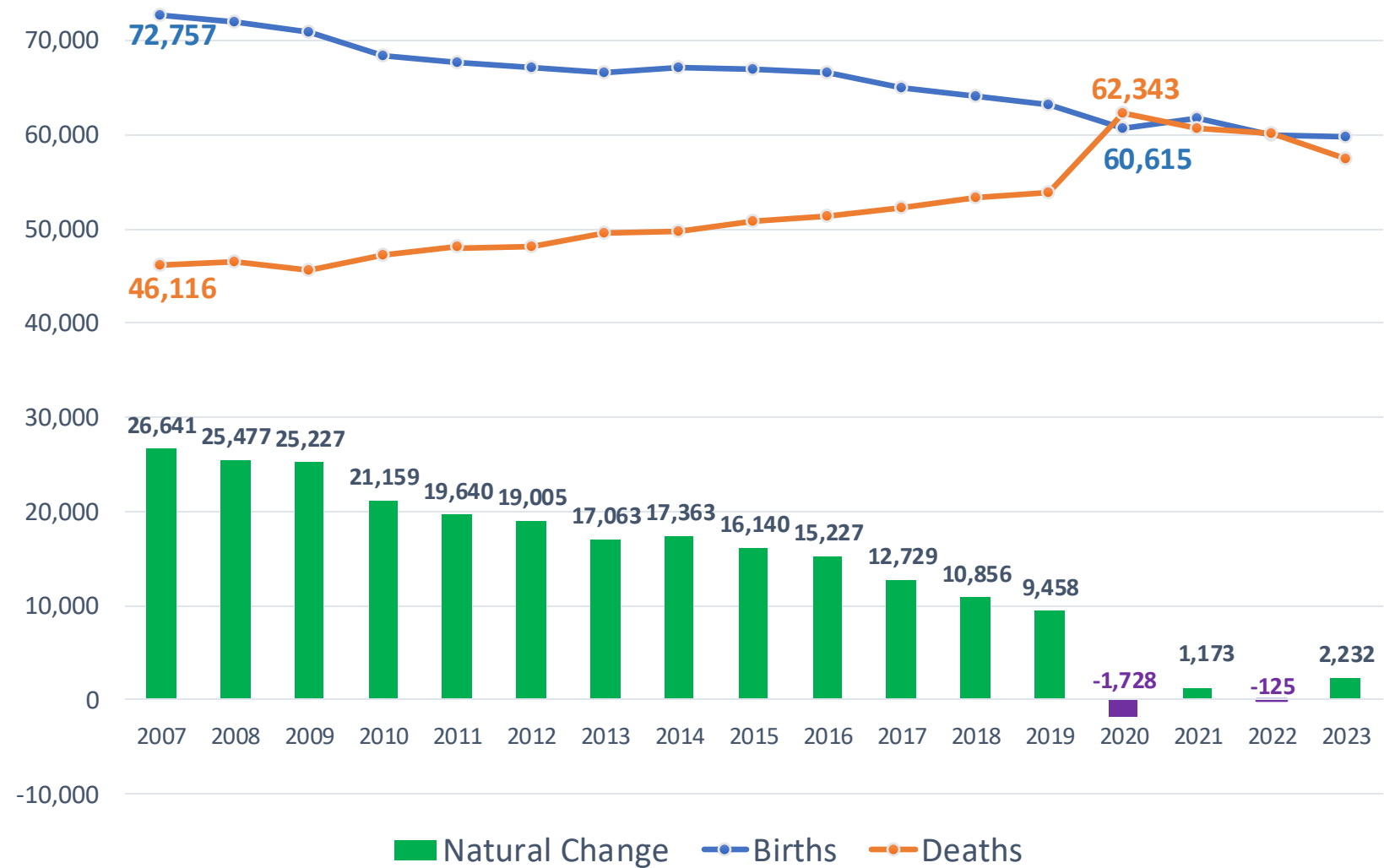


Population Change = (Births + Immigration) - (Deaths + Emigration)

Since 2007, births
have decreased
while deaths
have increased

Result:
population
growth slows

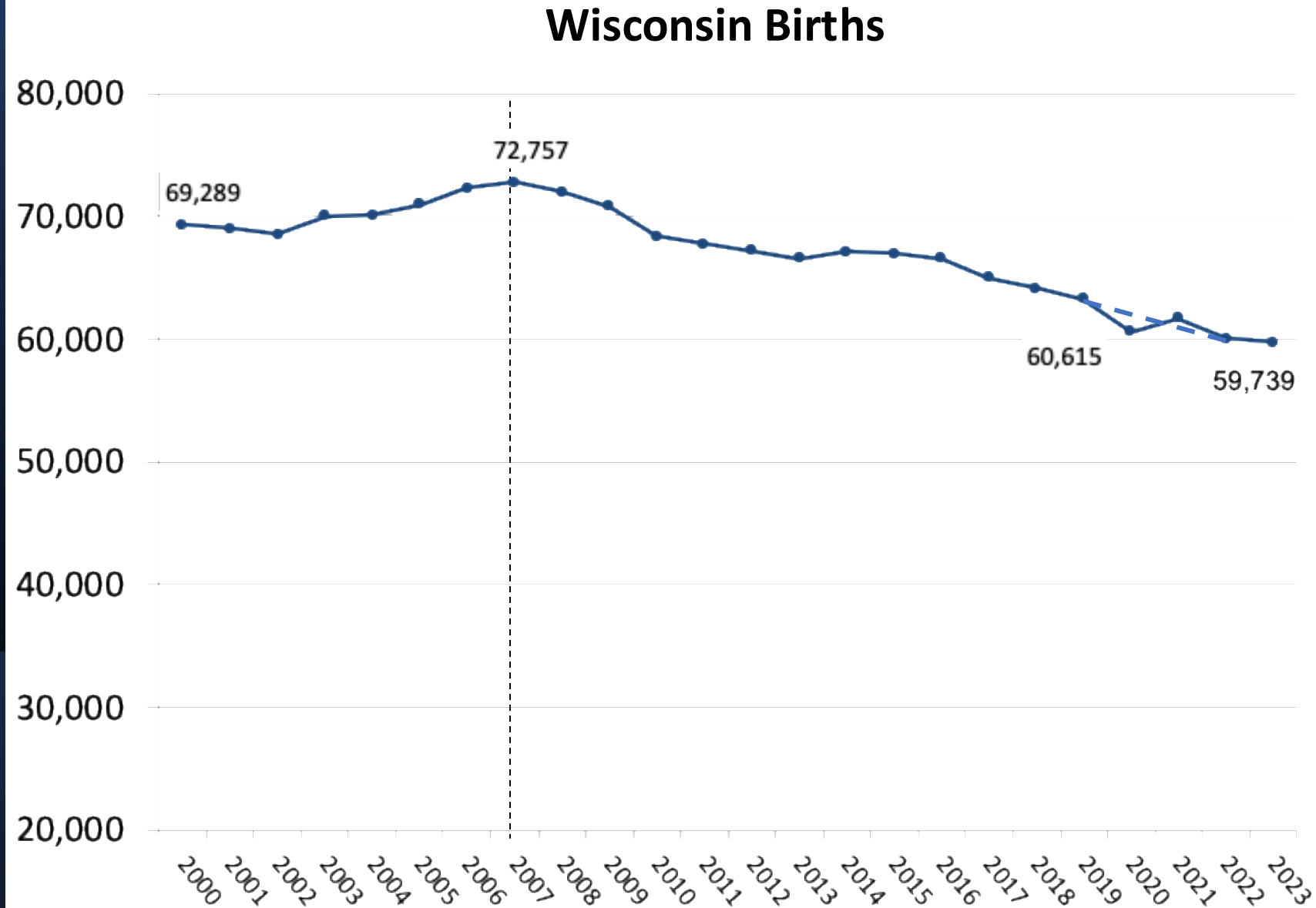
Natural Population Change



Source: Department of Health Services

**Births peaked
in 2007**

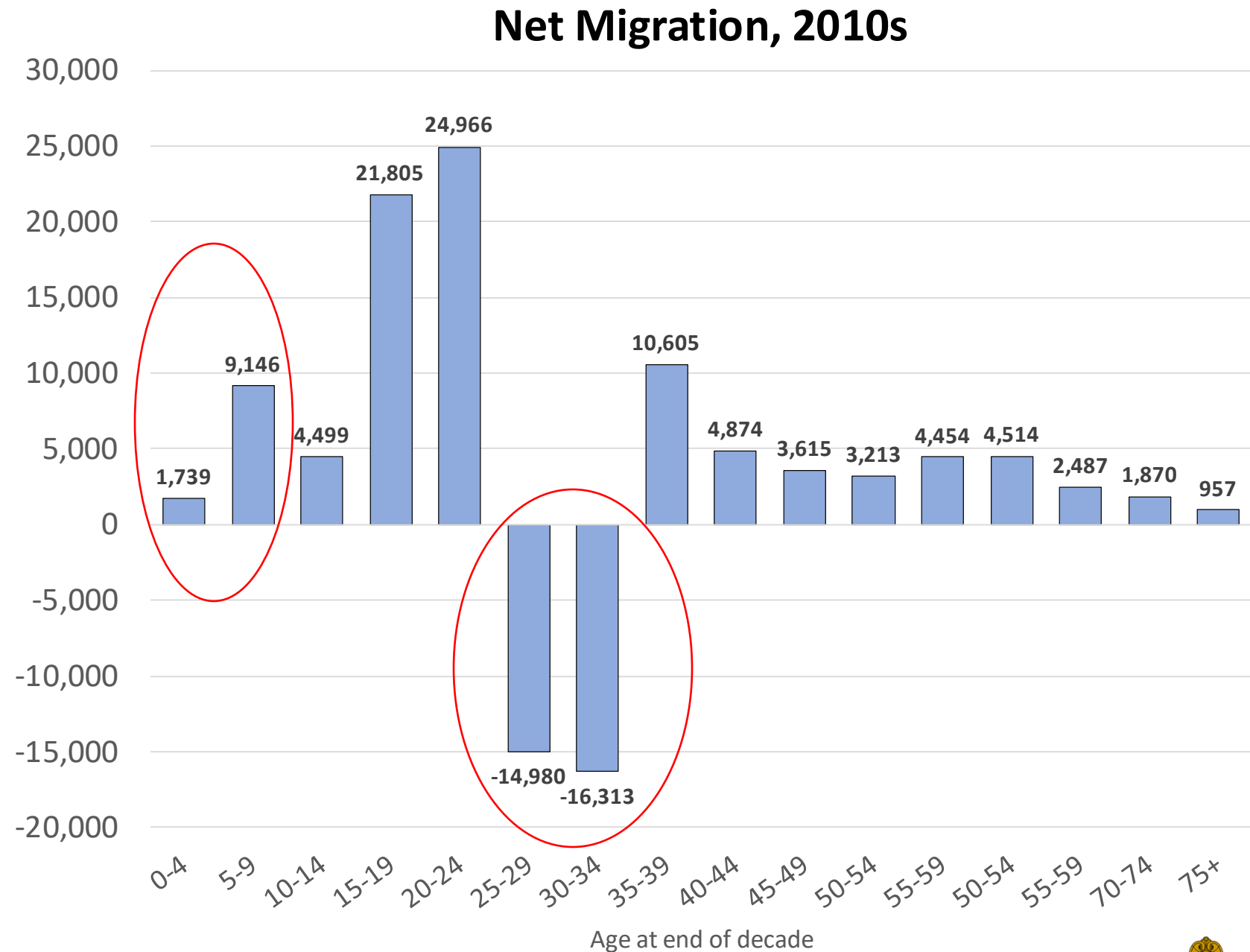
**Followed by
16 years of
18% decline**



Source: Department of Health Services

**A net increase of
10,885 children
(age 0-9)**

**More young
adults (age 25-
34) left the state
than moved in**

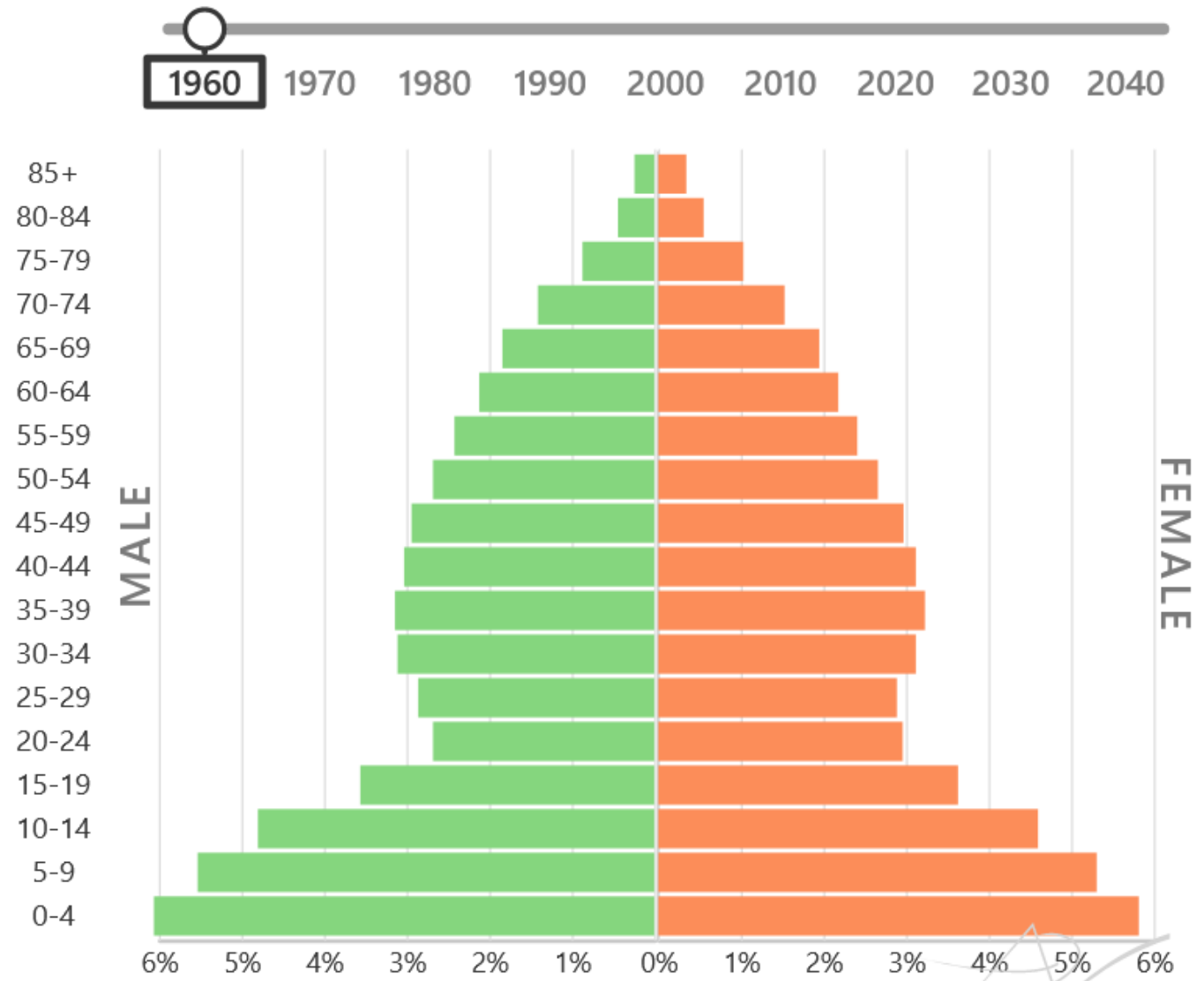


Source: APL Net Migration Project

60 years ago,
there was a
younger
population

In 15-20 years,
the population
will be distributed
equally between
young and old

Wisconsin's Age Structure



apl.wisc.edu

Source: U.S. Census

Wisconsin Public School Enrollment



Students in public schools have decreased by 5%

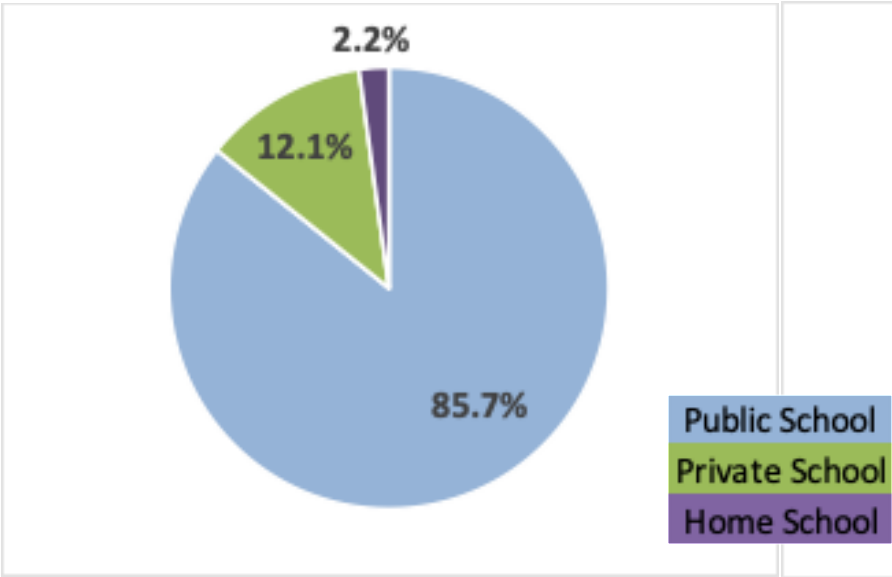
Students in private schools have increased by 7%

Students home schooled have increased by 37%

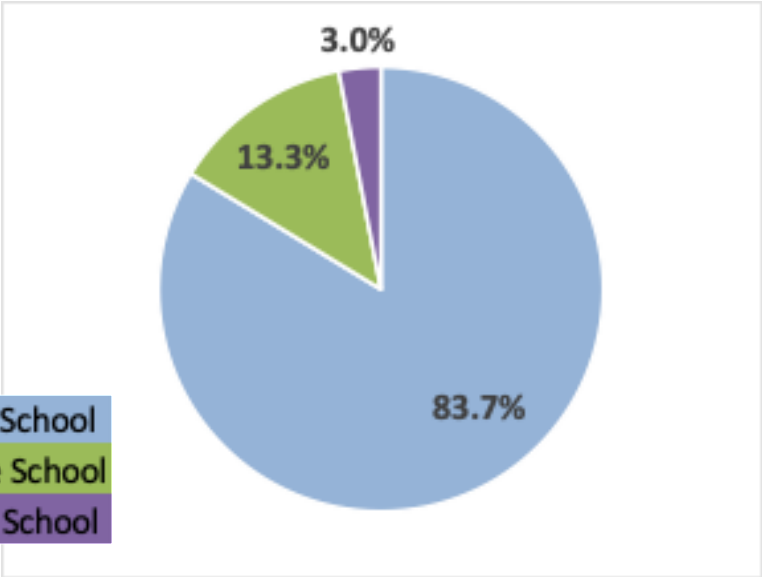
Students by School Type

	2019/20	2023/24	# Change	% Change
Public School	854,959	814,002	-40,957	-4.8%
Private School	120,705	128,988	8,283	6.9%
Home School	21,644	29,599	7,955	36.8%
TOTAL	997,308	972,589	-24,719	-2.5%

2019/20 Students



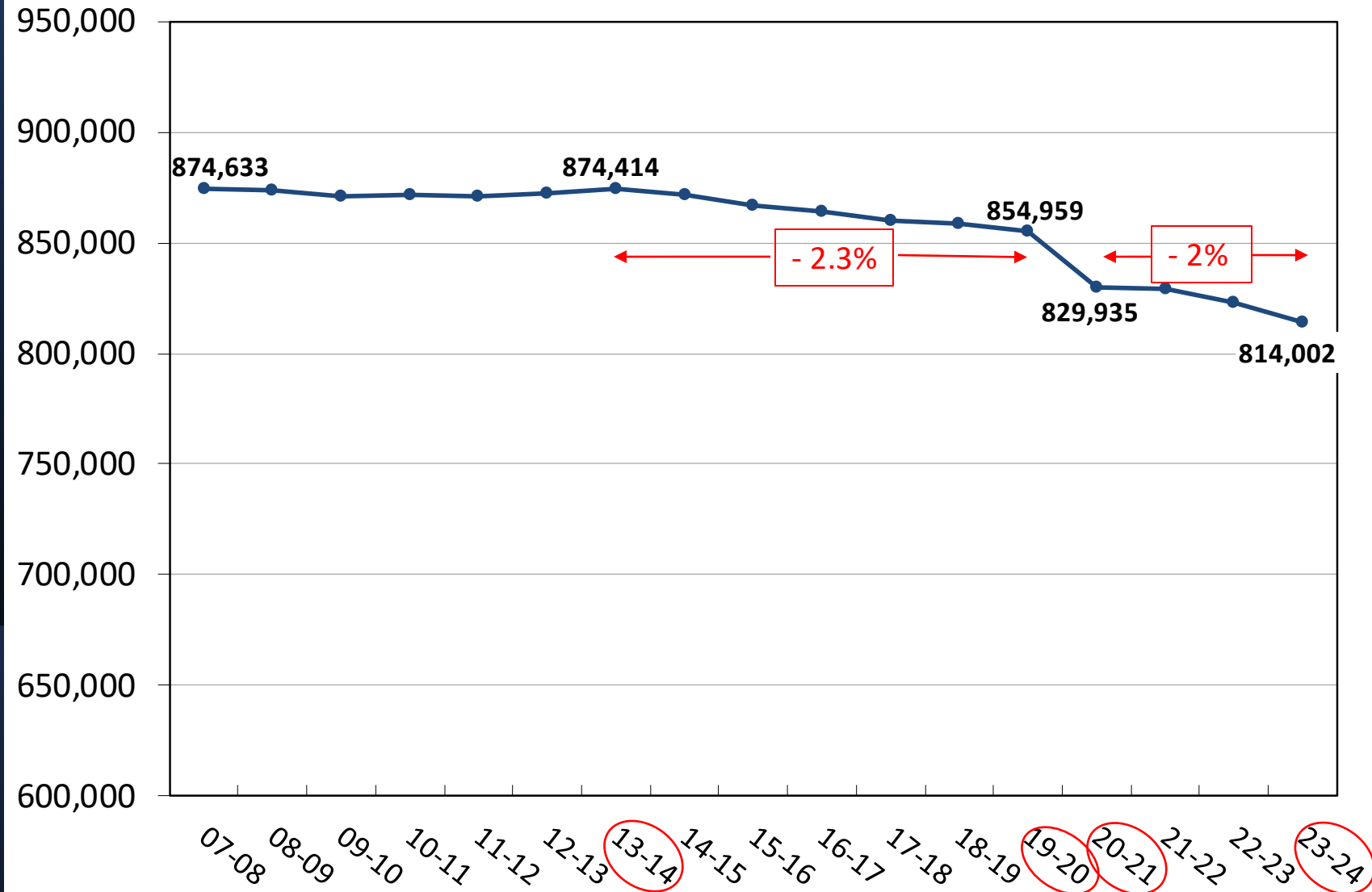
2023/24 Students



Declined by 2.3%
2013/14 - 2019/20

Similar decline
2020/21 - 2023/24
(in half the time)

Wisconsin Public School 3rd Friday Count

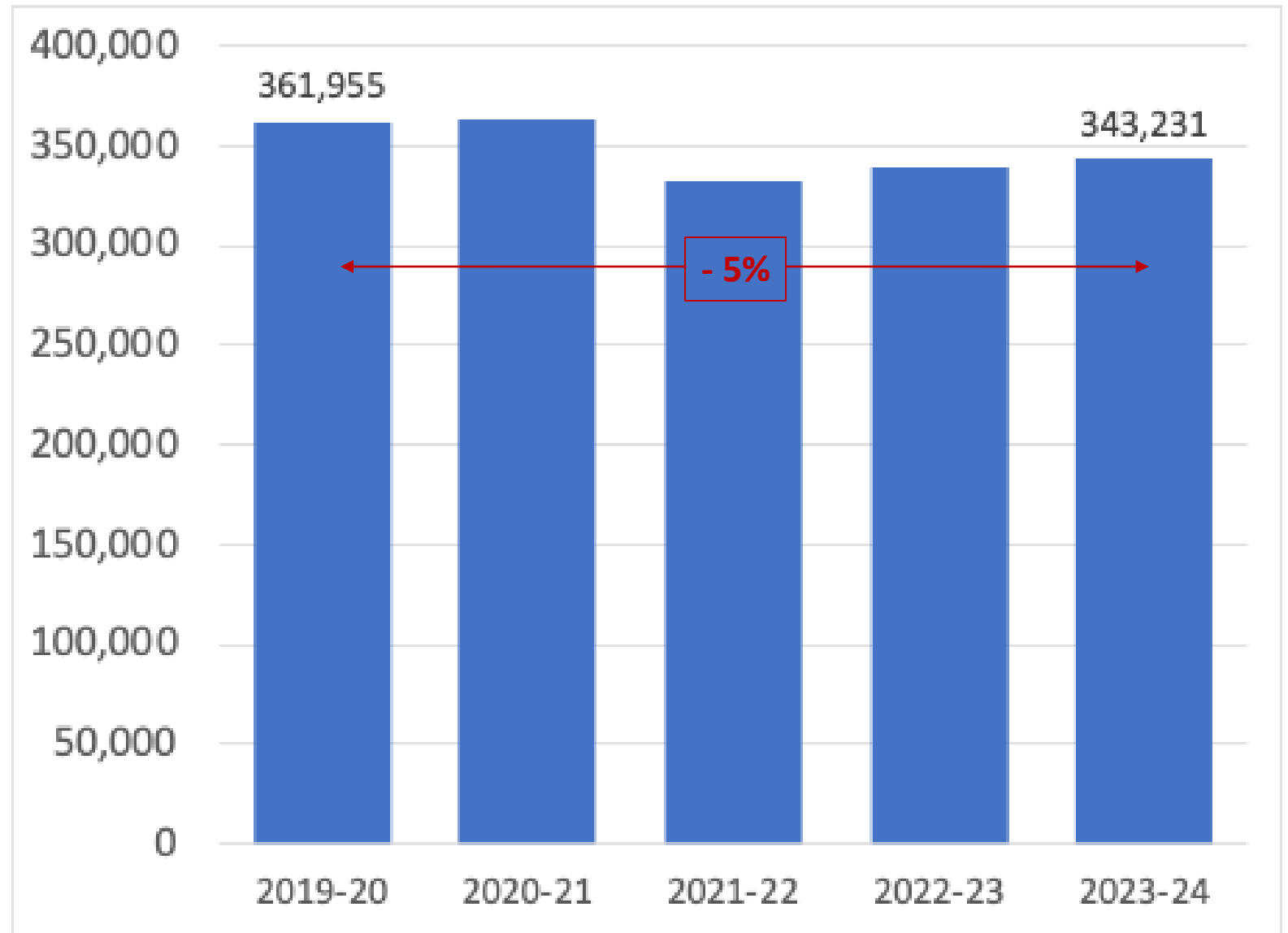


Source: Department of Public Instruction, 3rd Friday count



Since 2021/22,
economically
disadvantaged
students grew each
year but have not
returned to pre-
pandemic levels

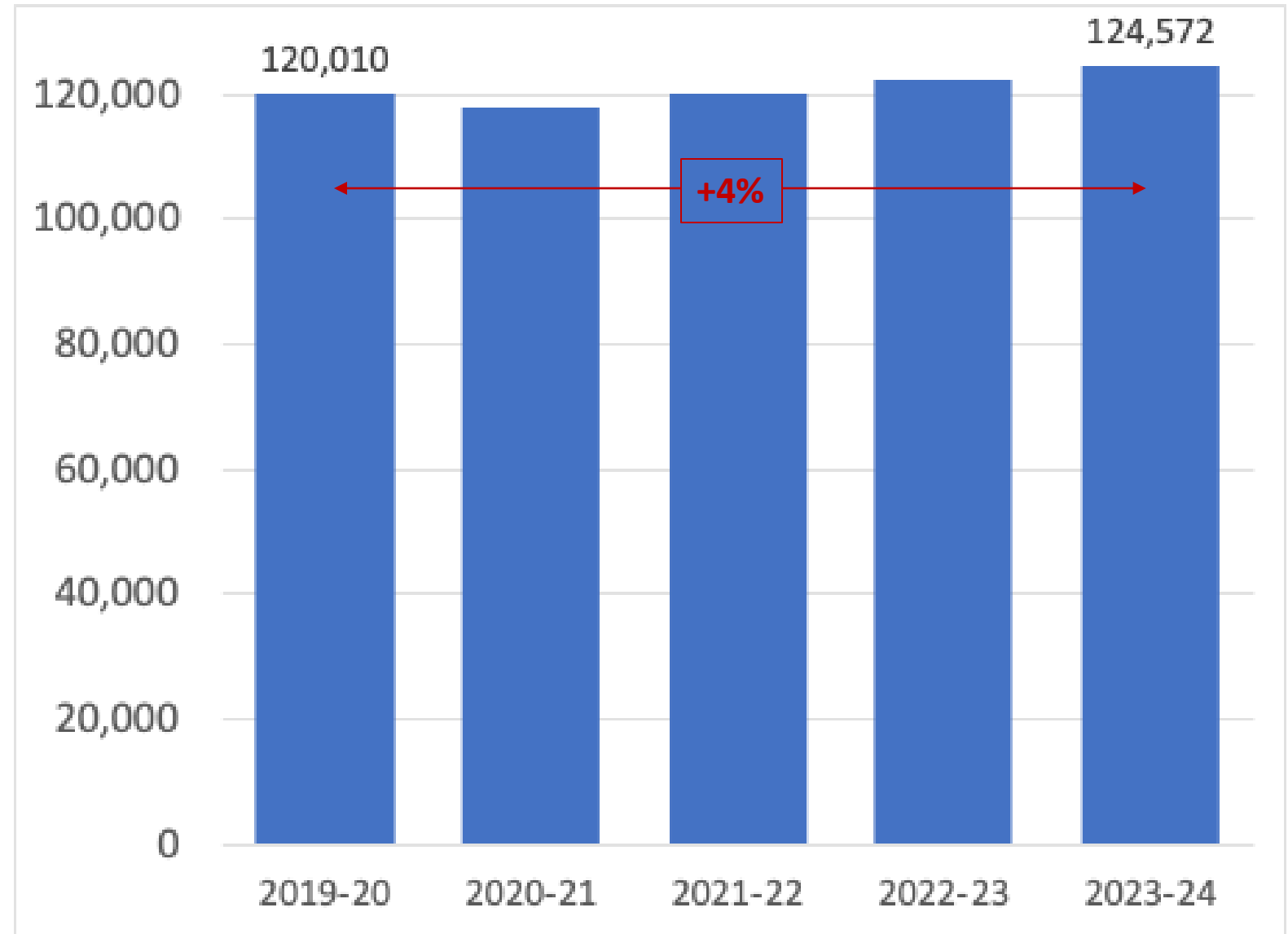
Economically Disadvantaged Students



Source: Department of Public Instruction

**Since 2020/21,
students with
disabilities have
increased by
2,000 each year**

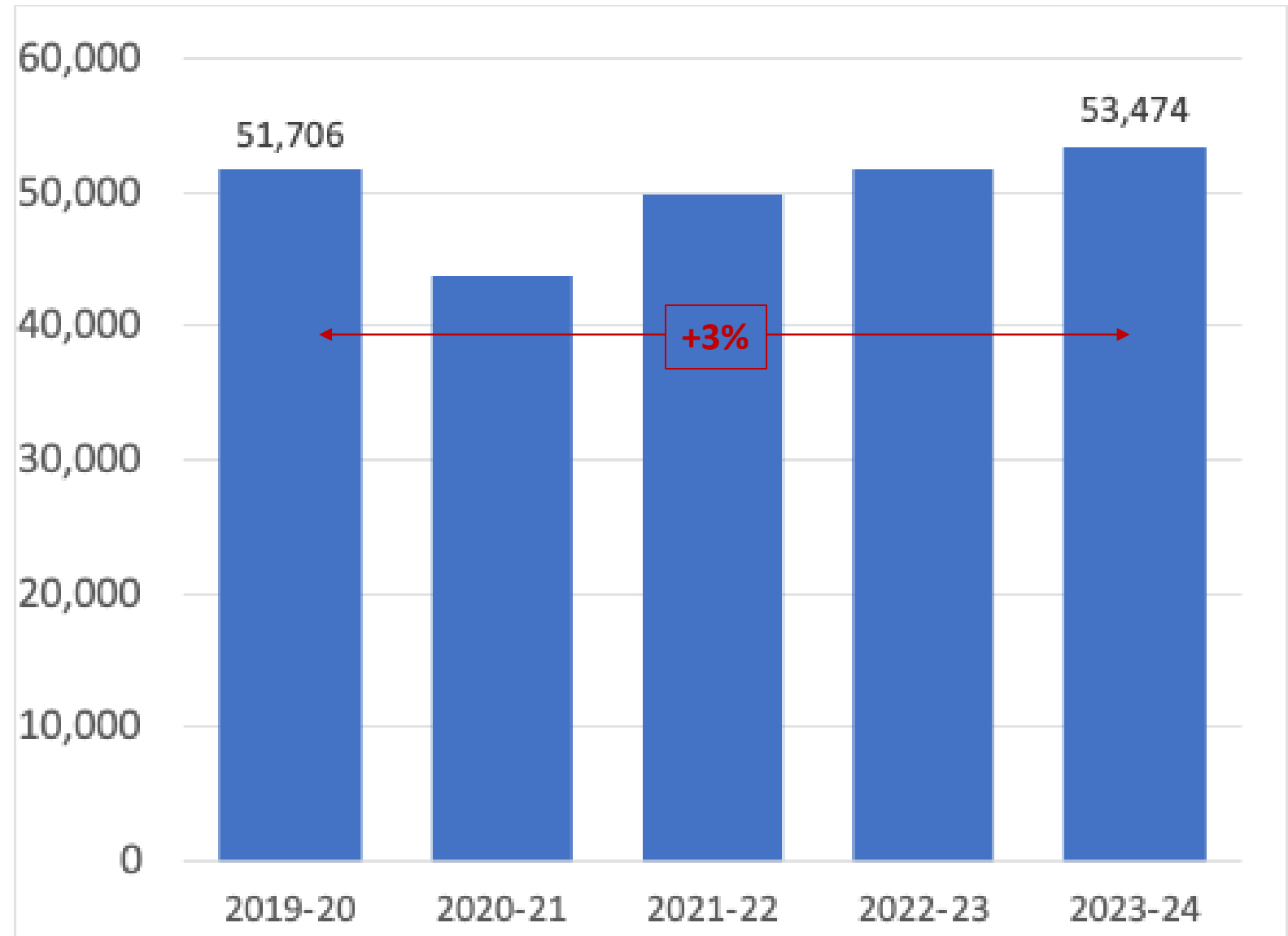
Students with Disabilities



Source: Department of Public Instruction

**From 2020/21
to 2021/22,
English language
learners grew by
6,000 then by
1,800 each year**

ELL Students

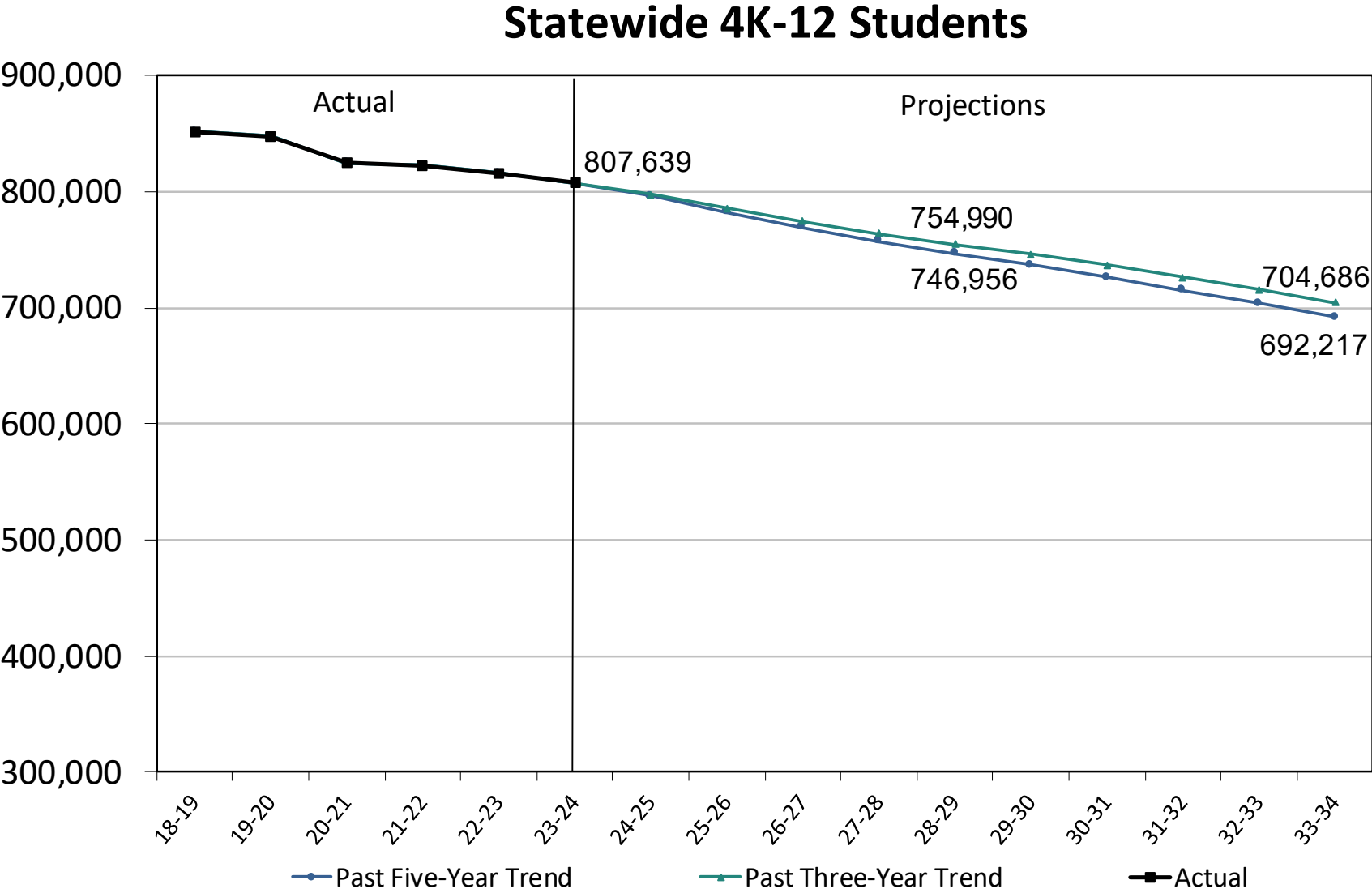


Source: Department of Public Instruction

Wisconsin Public School Projections

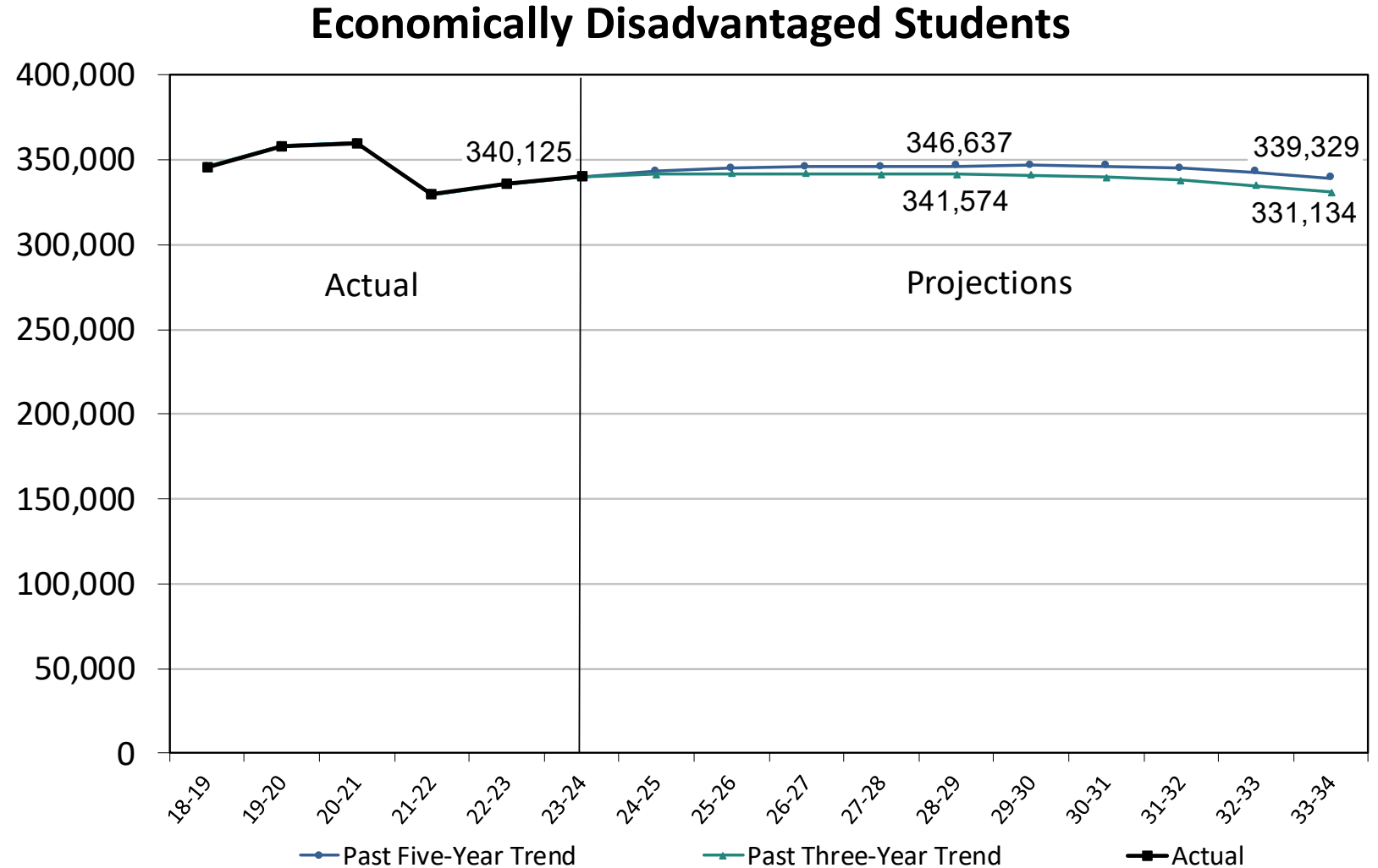


By 2028/29,
public school
enrollment
projected to
DECREASE by 7%



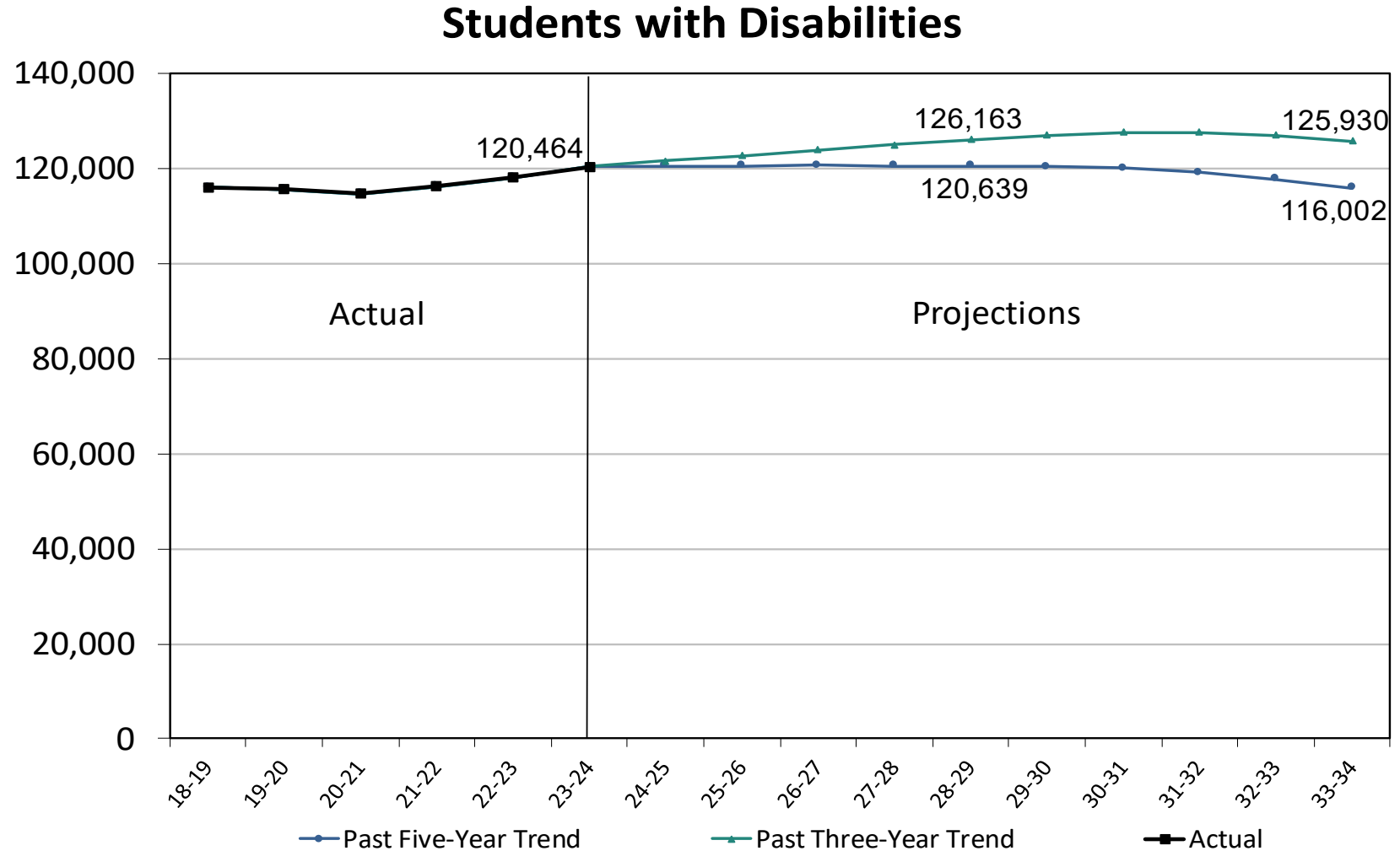
In 2028/29, grade groupings to decrease:
Elementary by **8%**, Middle school by **4%**, and High school by **7.6%**

**By 2028/29,
economically
disadvantaged
students are
projected to
INCREASE by 1.2%**



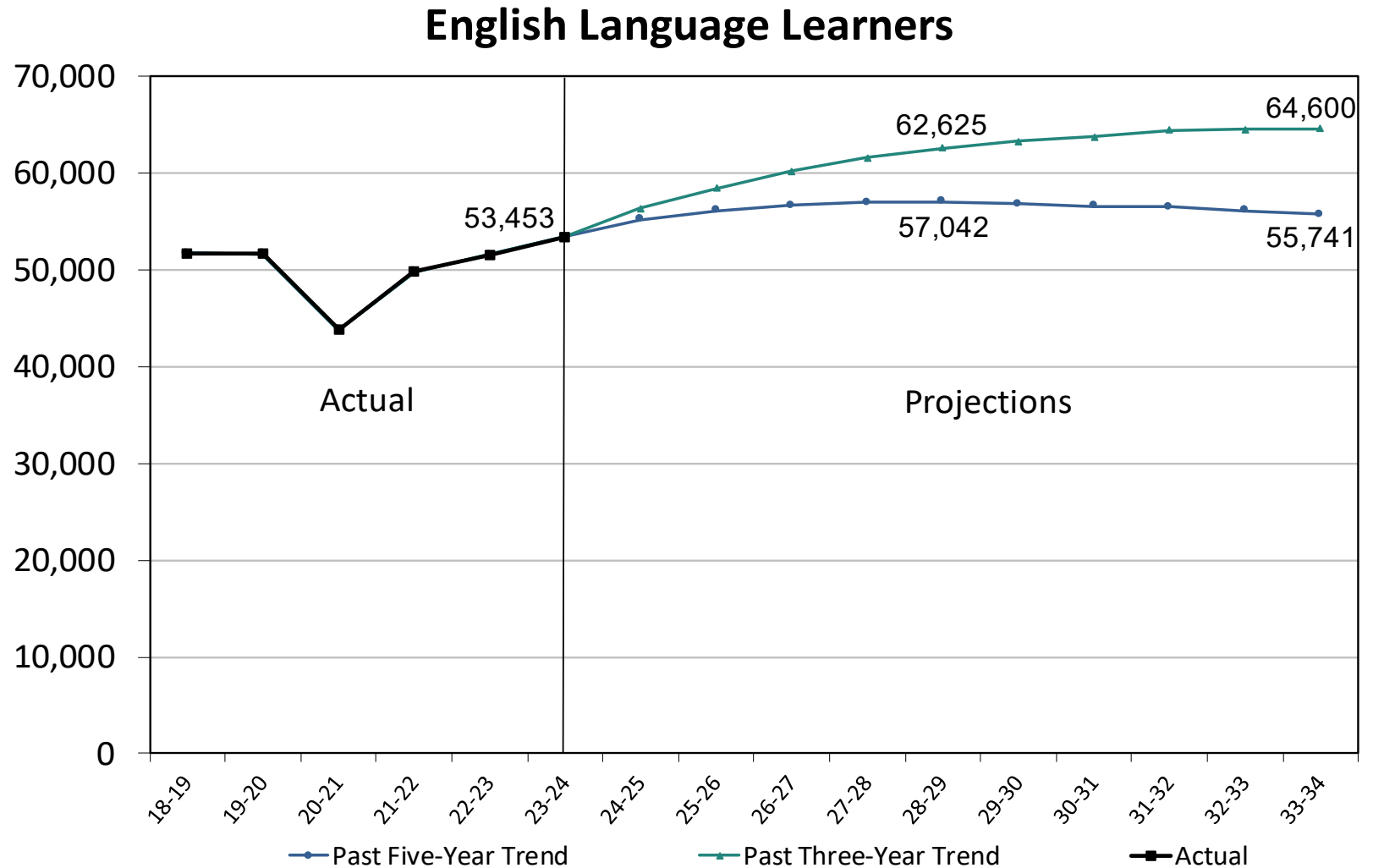
By 2028/29, economically disadvantaged students will grow from 42% to 45% (+ 3% share) of public school students.

**By 2028/29,
students with
disabilities are
projected to
INCREASE by 2.4%**



By 2028/29, students with disabilities will grow from 15% to 16.2% (+ 1.2% share) of public school students.

**By 2028/29,
ELL students are
projected to
INCREASE by 12%**



By 2028/29, English language learners will grow from 6.6% to 8% (+ 1.4% share) of public school students.

Concluding Comments

- Decreasing births and slowing migration result in declining enrollment for school districts.
- Fewer students mean reduced revenue for school districts and/or the need to go to referendum.
- Educational alternatives grew during the pandemic and have continued to grow, especially enrollment in private schools.
- Costs are increasing because of the growing needs of economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

