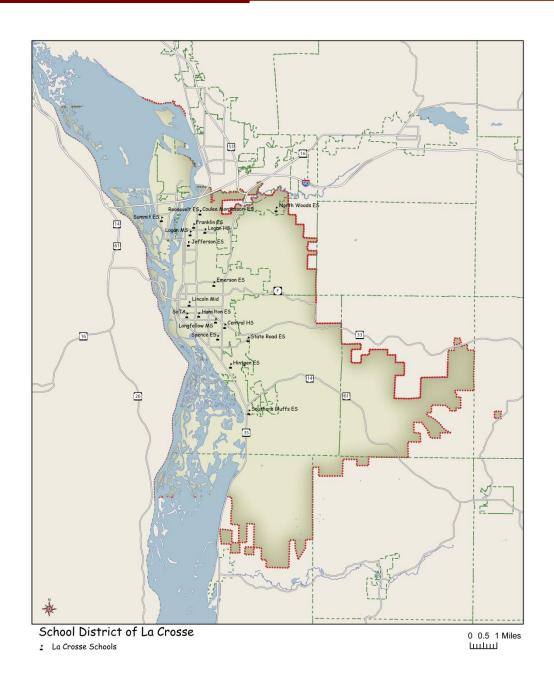
Planning for the Schools of Tomorrow



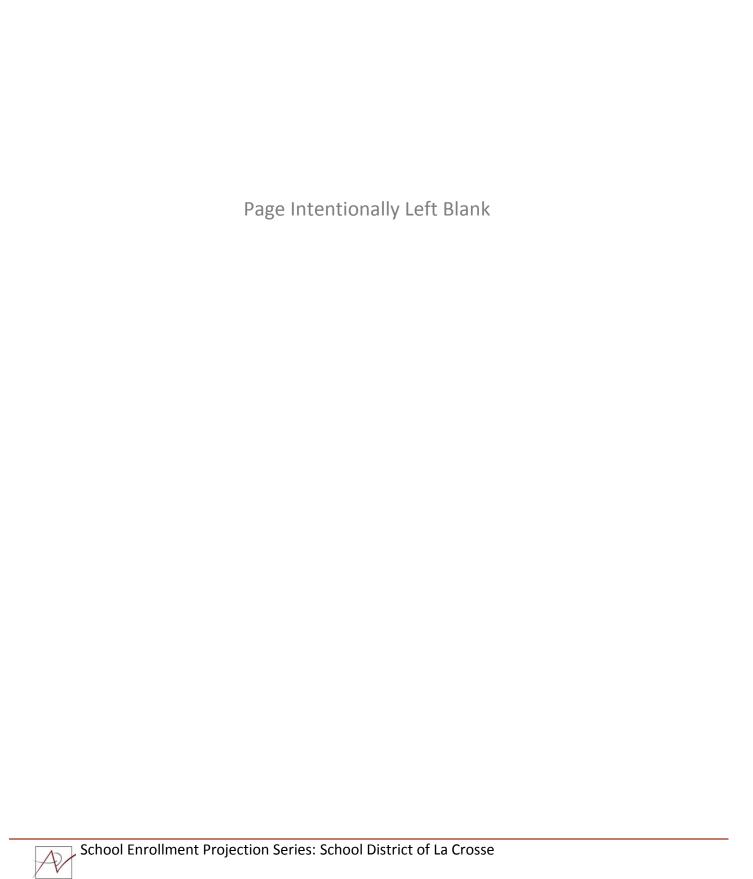
School Enrollment Projections Series
School District of La Crosse
May 2013

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School Enrollment Projection Series: School District of La Crosse

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Introduction

This report offers a summary of the Enrollment Projection Analysis completed for the School District of La Crosse by the Applied Population Laboratory (APL), University of Wisconsin-Madison. Projections (2013/2022) are provided for the district as a whole, and individually for each grade and grade grouping. The projection process uses a combination of historical enrollment data, birth trends and projections, housing information, and population trends to create reasonable assumptions about future growth scenarios and the likely impact on the school district.

District Enrollment History

Figure 1-A and Tables 1 and 2 display the last ten years of enrollment history in the School District of La Crosse. The district enrollment history includes resident students attending La Crosse schools and open enrollment "in" students from other districts. 4K-12 enrollment has decreased by 751 students since 2003/04, or a 10% decrease over the last ten years.

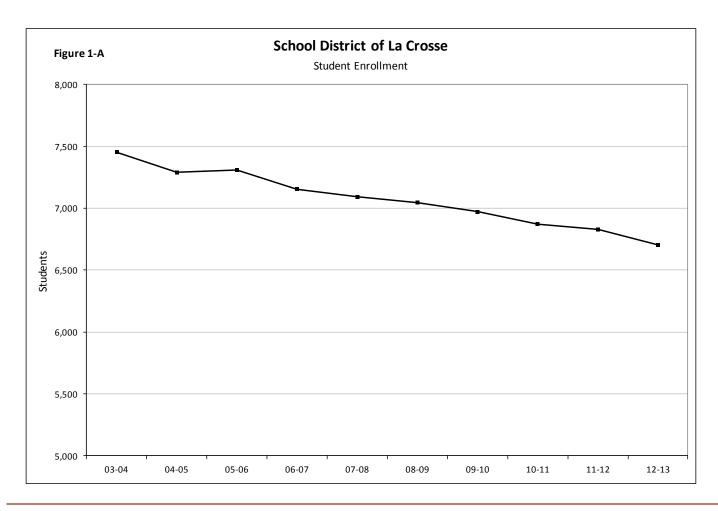


TABLE 1
Student Enrollment
School District of La Crosse

					SCHOO	L YEAR				
	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13
4K	332	331	392	357	409	419	422	429	478	448
K	502	458	455	526	465	503	533	485	498	547
1	478	477	475	433	506	455	506	502	483	473
2	503	464	459	445	433	518	452	496	491	483
3	441	511	475	443	463	431	510	452	496	468
4	495	421	517	473	442	473	432	503	442	504
5	552	503	427	498	479	442	475	424	493	429
6	515	548	528	446	508	477	432	470	427	484
7	571	536	572	529	458	514	477	441	472	427
8	550	574	547	572	537	462	502	492	449	465
9	630	579	611	578	590	560	485	548	493	457
10	612	636	572	619	582	575	557	494	541	493
11	596	615	644	587	613	584	588	542	475	522
12	677	636	635	649	608	633	600	594	590	503
TOTAL	7,454	7,289	7,309	7,155	7,093	7,046	6,971	6,872	6,828	6,703
K-12	7,122	6,958	6,917	6,798	6,684	6,627	6,549	6,443	6,350	6,255
K-5	2,971	2,834	2,808	2,818	2,788	2,822	2,908	2,862	2,903	2,904
6-8	1,636	1,658	1,647	1,547	1,503	1,453	1,411	1,403	1,348	1,376
9-12	2,515	2,466	2,462	2,433	2,393	2,352	2,230	2,178	2,099	1,975

TABLE 2
Student Enrollment Changes
School District of La Crosse

	ABS	OLUTE CHAI	NGE	PEI	RCENT CHAN	GE		ERAGE ANNU	
GRADE	'03 to '12	'03 to '07	'08 to '12	'03 to '12	'03 to '07	'08 to '12	'03 to '12	'03 to '07	'08 to '12
4K	116	77	29	34.9	23.2	6.9	3.9	5.8	1.7
K	45	-37	44	9.0	-7.4	8.7	1.0	-1.8	2.2
1	-5	28	18	-1.0	5.9	4.0	-0.1	1.5	1.0
2	-20	-70	-35	-4.0	-13.9	-6.8	-0.4	-3.5	-1.7
3	27	22	37	6.1	5.0	8.6	0.7	1.2	2.1
4	9	-53	31	1.8	-10.7	6.6	0.2	-2.7	1.6
5	-123	-73	-13	-22.3	-13.2	-2.9	-2.5	-3.3	-0.7
6	-31	-7	7	-6.0	-1.4	1.5	-0.7	-0.3	0.4
7	-144	-113	-87	-25.2	-19.8	-16.9	-2.8	-4.9	-4.2
8	-85	-13	3	-15.5	-2.4	0.6	-1.7	-0.6	0.2
9	-173	-40	-103	-27.5	-6.3	-18.4	-3.1	-1.6	-4.6
10	-119	-30	-82	-19.4	-4.9	-14.3	-2.2	-1.2	-3.6
11	-74	17	-62	-12.4	2.9	-10.6	-1.4	0.7	-2.7
12	-174	-69	-130	-25.7	-10.2	-20.5	-2.9	-2.5	-5.1
TOTAL	-751	-361	-343	-10.1	-4.8	-4.9	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2
K-12	-867	-438	-372	-12.2	-6.1	-5.6	-1.4	-1.5	-1.4
K-5	-67	-183	82	-2.3	-6.2	2.9	-0.3	-1.5	0.7
6-8	-260	-133	-77	-15.9	-8.1	-5.3	-1.8	-2.0	-1.3
9-12	-540	-122	-377	-21.5	-4.9	-16.0	-2.4	-1.2	-4.0



Figure 1-B shows enrollment history broken down by grade groupings (4K, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12). 4K enrollment has increased by 4% annually over the last ten years. Grades K-5 enrollment decreased by -0.3% annually in the last ten years, but increased slightly by 0.7% annually over the last five years. Grades 6-8 enrollment declined by -1.8% annually, while grades 9-12 enrollment decreased the most by -2.4% annually over the last ten years.

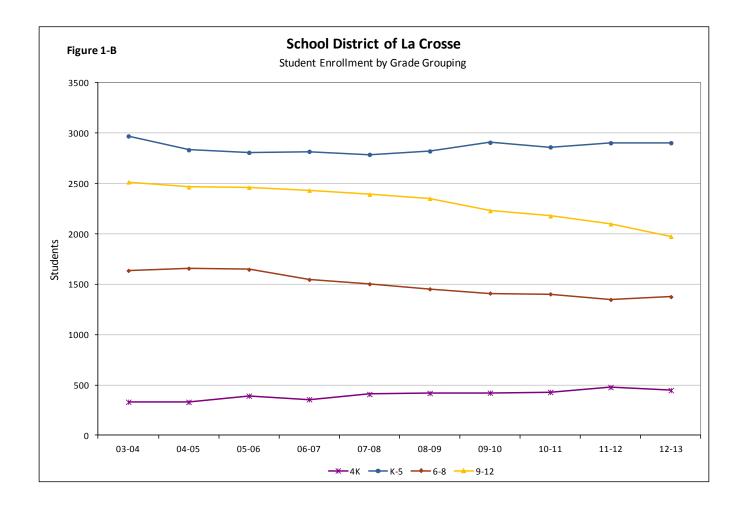
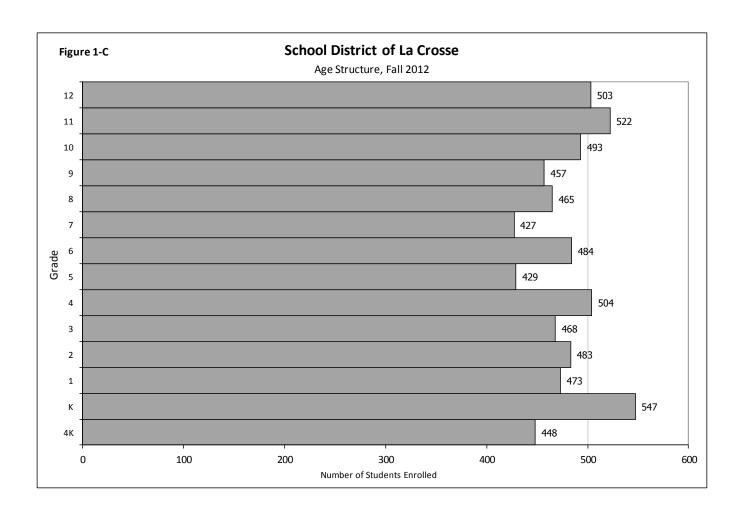
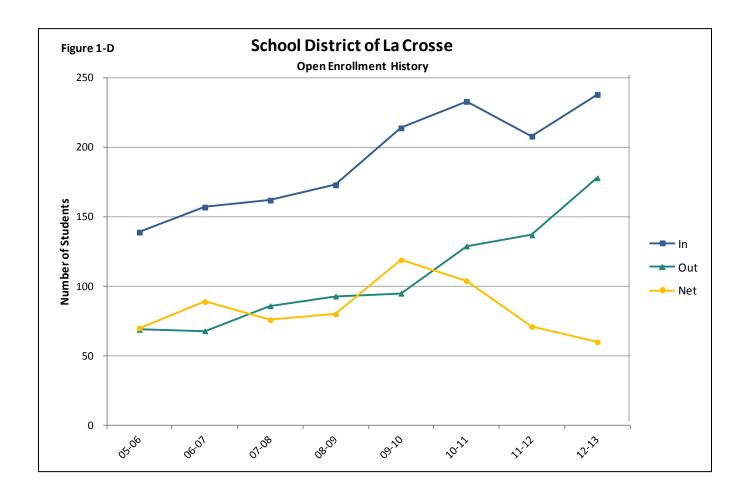


Figure 1-C shows the age structure in fall 2012 of the student population with the number of 4K students at the bottom and the number of 12^{th} graders at the top. The greatest number of students are in kindergarten and 11^{th} grades, while 5^{th} and 7^{th} grades contain the fewest number of students.



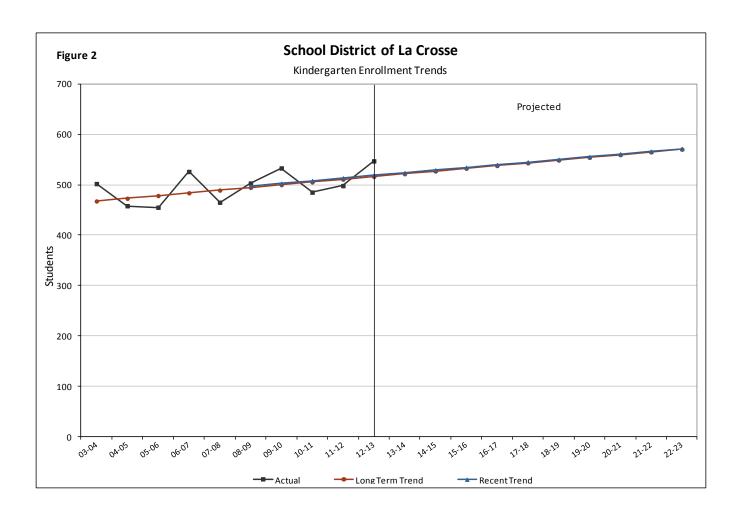
The open enrollment program permits children to attend school in a district other than where they live. Since, the 1998/1999 school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has offered families this choice, and it has become increasingly popular. Due to the uncertainty of families' decisions to utilize the open enrollment program it remains difficult to project future trends in open enrollment.

Figure 1-D breaks down open enrollment into those who live in another school district, but attend La Crosse schools (Enrollment IN) and those who live in the School District of La Crosse, but attend school elsewhere (Enrollment OUT). The figure also shows the net open enrollment in the district over this eight year period. Between 2005/06 and 2012/13, the school district has always had more open enrollment IN students than open enrollment OUT students with both increasing over time.



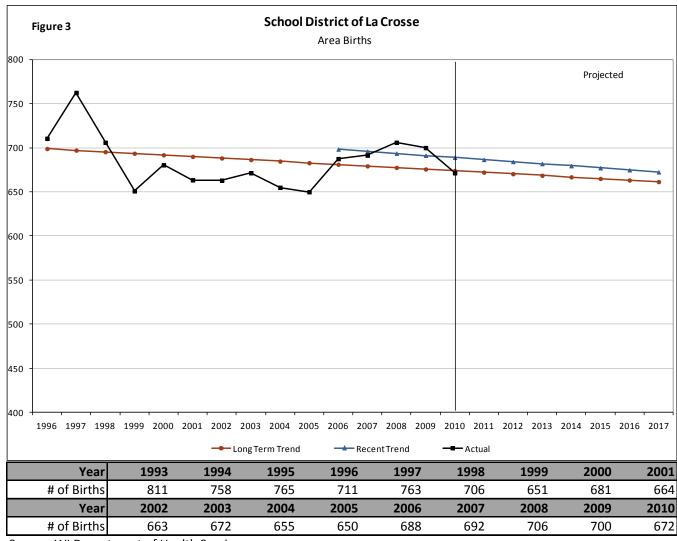
Kindergarten Enrollment Trends

Examining trends in kindergarten enrollment is particularly informative for gaining perspective on future district enrollment, as today's kindergartners will gradually make up tomorrow's students at the higher grade levels as they age and move through the school system. Figure 2 shows kindergarten enrollment history and trend lines depicting future enrollment trends. The "Long Term Trend" line (shown in red) averages enrollment changes between 2003/02 and 2012/13. The "Recent Trend" line emphasizes enrollment changes over the last five years. In the School District of La Crosse, the long term and recent trends indicate increasing enrollment for kindergarten.



Birth Trends

We use historical and projected birth data to forecast the number of kindergarten students who will enroll in the School District of La Crosse in future years. Figure 3 shows (in black) the number of births to mothers living in the City of La Crosse, towns of Bergen, Campbell, Shelby and Medary and half of the Town of Greenfield, by year, from 1996-2010, as collected from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. We extrapolate these birth trends into the future to correspond with our Baseline and Recent Trend projection models, using the grade progression ratios to convert births into future kindergarteners. The red line represents birth trends over the long term and the blue line examines birth patterns for the last five years. Both trends show decreasing births over time.



Source: WI Department of Health Services

Population Trends

This section examines population trends in the municipalities that are within the School District of La Crosse. Changes in the total population of the district area, particularly when examined by age, provide clues into how the school age population may be changing. Table 3 and Figures 4-A and 4-B provides U. S. Census population totals and the Department of Administration estimates. The School District of La Crosse's population totals can be compared with populations of La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin. The district area has seen very little population growth from 2000 to 2010 except in the Town of Greenfield which grew by almost 4%.

TABLE 3

Total Population by Municipality: 1990-2012

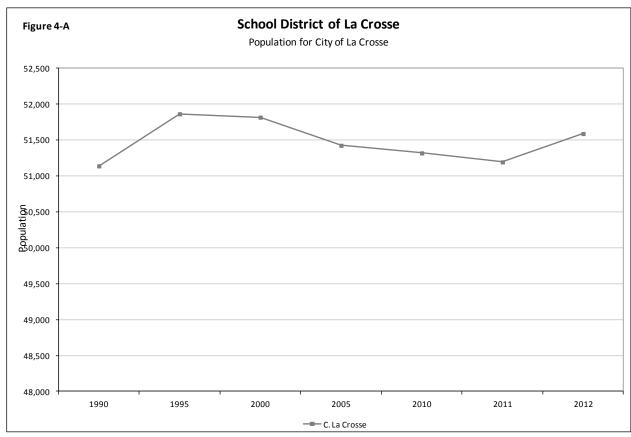
School District of La Crosse

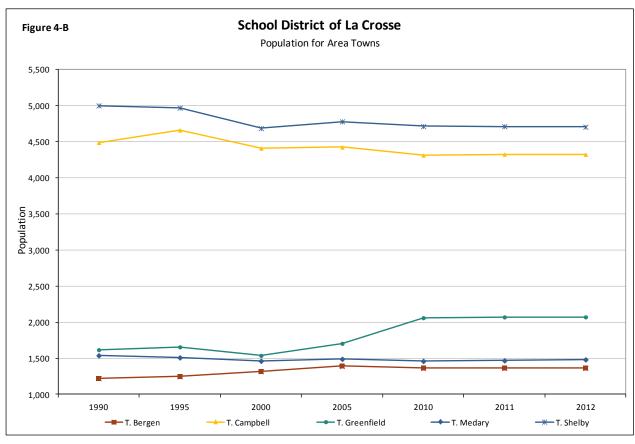
			P	OPULATION			
	Census	est.	Census	est.	Census	est.	est.
Municipality	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012
C. La Crosse	51,140	51,865	51,818	51,426	51,320	51,195	51,590
T. Bergen	1,223	1,247	1,317	1,391	1,364	1,365	1,364
T. Campbell	4,490	4,663	4,410	4,426	4,314	4,327	4,325
T. Greenfield	1,617	1,656	1,538	1,705	2,060	2,071	2,072
T. Medary	1,539	1,510	1,463	1,490	1,461	1,469	1,482
T. Shelby	5,002	4,971	4,687	4,781	4,715	4,714	4,707
District Area	65,011	65,912	65,233	65,219	65,234	65,141	65,540
La Crosse County	97,904	102,269	107,120	110,128	114,638	114,919	115,577
State of Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,101,581	5,363,715	5,580,757	5,686,986	5,694,236	5,703,500

			PERCENT	CHANGE			AVG.
	1990 to	1995 to	2000 to	2005 to	2010 to	2011 to	ANNUAL
Municipality	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2000-2010
C. La Crosse	1.4%	-0.1%	-0.8%	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.8%	-0.1%
T. Bergen	2.0%	5.6%	5.6%	-1.9%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.4%
T. Campbell	3.9%	-5.4%	0.4%	-2.5%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.2%
T. Greenfield	2.4%	-7.1%	10.9%	20.8%	0.5%	0.0%	3.8%
T. Medary	-1.9%	-3.1%	1.8%	-1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%
T. Shelby	-0.6%	-5.7%	2.0%	-1.4%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%
District Area	1.4%	-1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.6%	0.0%
La Crosse County	4.5%	4.7%	2.8%	4.1%	0.2%	0.6%	0.8%
State of Wisconsin	4.3%	5.1%	4.0%	1.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0.7%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau & Demographic Services Center, WIDOA









Race/Ethnicity

Breakdown of the population by race/ethnicity for the school district area municipalities are provided in Table 4. The municipal population is majority non-Hispanic white, although the School District of La Crosse does have a notable minority population of all race/ethnic groups. The Asian population is the largest minority population (4.5%) in the district area.

TABLE 4
Race/Ethnicity Population by Municipality: 2010
School District of La Crosse

Municipality	Total	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian
C. La Crosse	51,320	45,423	1,517	1,012	2,704	463
T. Bergen	1,364	1,335	4	11	2	10
T. Campbell	4,314	4,069	58	41	98	37
T. Greenfield	2,060	2,018	5	15	12	6
T. Medary	1,461	1,404	6	24	21	4
T. Shelby	4,715	4,493	38	45	105	20
District Area	65,234	58,742	1,628	1,148	2,942	540
La Crosse County	114,638	104,417	2,213	1,741	5,120	816
State of Wisconsin	5,686,986	4,738,411	380,660	336,056	143,931	68,593

Percent of Total Population

Municipality	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian
C. La Crosse	88.51%	2.96%	1.97%	5.27%	0.90%
T. Bergen	97.87%	0.29%	0.81%	0.15%	0.73%
T. Campbell	94.32%	1.34%	0.95%	2.27%	0.86%
T. Greenfield	97.96%	0.24%	0.73%	0.58%	0.29%
T. Medary	96.10%	0.41%	1.64%	1.44%	0.27%
T. Shelby	95.29%	0.81%	0.95%	2.23%	0.42%
District Area	90.05%	2.50%	1.76%	4.51%	0.83%
La Crosse County	91.08%	1.93%	1.52%	4.47%	0.71%
State of Wisconsin	83.32%	6.69%	5.91%	2.53%	1.21%

Source: http://legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb/redistricting/data.htm

Table 5 separates the total population for the City of La Crosse into racial and ethnic categories, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Between 2000 and 2010, La Crosse saw a decline in the total population of non-Hispanic whites (-3.7%), while all minority populations increased. Of particular interest to the school district is the school age population of under 18 years of age. The two or more races, Hispanic, and African American populations increased while proportionally the American Indian (-21%) and Asian (-35%) school age population declined more than the non-Hispanic white population which declined by -18% between 2000 and 2010.

TABLE 5

Detailed Race and Ethnicity Characteristics, 2000-2010

City of La Crosse

Race/Ethnicity		Total Pop	oulation		Population under 18				
	2000	2010	Change	% Change	2000	2010	Change	% Change	
Two or More Races	607	983	-1,590	61.9%	321	523	202	62.9%	
Hispanic	592	1,012	-1,604	70.9%	194	334	140	72.2%	
African American	775	1,114	-1,889	43.7%	280	352	72	25.7%	
American Indian	244	253	-497	3.7%	76	60	-16	-21.1%	
Asian	2,391	2,482	-4,873	3.8%	1,247	809	-438	-35.1%	
White	47,158	45,423	-92,581	-3.7%	7622	6,231	-1391	-18.2%	

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 2010

Age Structure

Table 6 shows population change by age for the period from 1990 to 2010 for the City of La Crosse. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children under age 10 declined by almost -20%, while the number of children age 10-19 increased by 12.5%. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of children under age 10 decreased (the number of children under age 5 increased by 90, while the 5-9 year age group declined by 465). The age groups that decreased in population from 2000 to 2010 were school age populations (5 to 9, 10 to 14, and 15 to 19) and 75 and older. The largest population increase from 2000 to 2010 was the Baby Boom generation (ages 55 to 74).

TABLE 6
Age Structure, 1990-2010
City of La Crosse

	Number of People			Populatio	n Change	Percent	Change	Avg. Annual % Change	
Age	1990	2000	2010	1990-2000	2000-2010	1990-2000	2000-2010	1990-2000	2000-2010
Under 5	3,349	2,496	2,586	-853	90	-25.5%	3.6%	-2.83%	0.40%
5 to 9	3,081	2,651	2,186	-430	-465	-14.0%	-17.5%	-1.55%	-1.95%
10 to 14	2,556	2,836	2,100	280	-736	11.0%	-26.0%	1.22%	-2.88%
15 to 19	4,759	5,433	5,357	674	-76	14.2%	-1.4%	1.57%	-0.16%
20 to 54	25,398	27,250	27,428	1,852	178	7.3%	0.7%	0.81%	0.07%
55 to 74	7,819	6,854	7,766	-965	912	-12.3%	13.3%	-1.37%	1.48%
75 and over	4,041	4,298	3,897	257	-401	6.4%	-9.3%	0.71%	-1.04%
Total population	51,003	51,818	51,320	815	-498	1.6%	-1.0%	0.18%	-0.11%

Source: U.S. Census 1990, 2000, 2010

Figure 5 and Table 7 illustrate the population for the School District of La Crosse showing the change in age structure between 2000 and 2010. In the school district, between 2000 and 2010, the proportion of children under age 5 increased slightly, while the proportion of 5-14 year olds declined (the same pattern as the city). As would be expected, the proportion of 55-69 year olds increased, as the Baby Boom generation aged another ten years. The proportion of people age 20-29 also grew from 2000 to 2010.

Appendix A, on page 40, shows a series of maps representing 2010 age cohorts by block group for the School District of La Crosse. The maps allow the reader to observe the distinction between areas of the district by age group.



TABLE 7
Population by Age
School District of La Crosse

	2	2010 Total		2000 Total				
Age	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total		
Under 5	1,591	1,574	3,165	1,584	1,537	3,121		
5 to 9	1,453	1,331	2,784	1,828	1,623	3,451		
10 to 14	1,458	1,388	2,846	1,889	1,838	3,727		
15 to 19	2,748	3,325	6,073	2,803	3,474	6,277		
20 to 24	4,794	5,428	10,222	4,473	5,000	9,473		
25 to 29	2,631	2,275	4,906	2,098	1,795	3,893		
30 to 34	1,842	1,614	3,456	1,936	1,796	3,732		
35 to 39	1,456	1,320	2,776	2,034	1,955	3,989		
40 to 44	1,626	1,598	3,224	2,099	2,170	4,269		
45 to 49	1,950	1,918	3,868	1,996	2,048	4,044		
50 to 54	1,984	2,068	4,052	1,677	1,746	3,423		
55 to 59	1,859	1,934	3,793	1,180	1,301	2,481		
60 to 64	1,513	1,638	3,151	1,039	1,223	2,262		
65 to 69	994	1,105	2,099	945	1,168	2,113		
70 to 74	802	1,024	1,826	943	1,169	2,112		
75 to 79	700	975	1,675	748	1,169	1,917		
80 to 84	567	864	1,431	470	977	1,447		
85plus	435	1,104	1,539	351	1,039	1,390		



Housing Trends

Historical Housing Trends

Table 8 shows the number of housing starts in the School District of La Crosse from 2002 to 2011. The table shows the number of new homes in the entire town although only a portion of some towns are within the district.

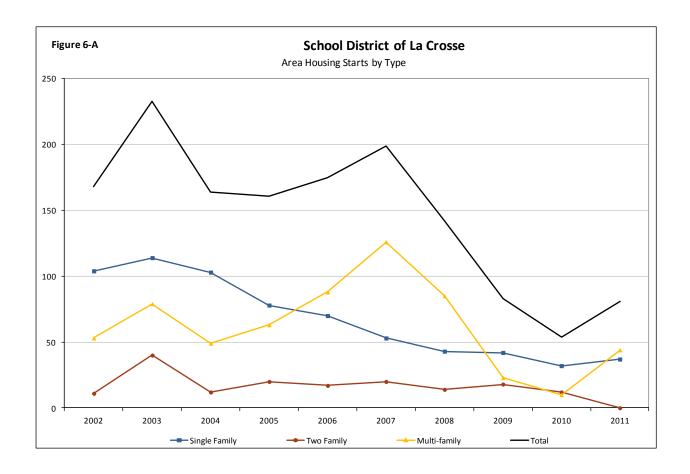
TABLE 8
School District Area Housing Starts
School District of La Crosse

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
District Area										
TOTAL	168	233	164	161	175	199	142	83	54	81
Single Family	104	114	103	78	70	53	43	42	32	37
Two Family	11	40	12	20	17	20	14	18	12	0
Multi-family	53	79	49	63	88	126	85	23	10	44
C. La Crosse										
TOTAL	104	120	97	74	126	157	78	37	20	66
Single Family	41	43	46	35	36	23	26	17	16	22
Two Family	10	28	2	6	2	8	6	4	4	0
Multi-family	53	49	49	33	88	126	46	16	0	44
T. Bergen										
TOTAL	11	12	8	4	5	2	1	1	1	0
Single Family	11	12	7	4	3	2	1	1	1	0
Two Family	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. Campbell										
TOTAL	7	40	10	36	5	7	46	12	16	3
Single Family	6	10	7	6	5	3	5	3	4	3
Two Family	1	0	3	0	0	4	2	2	2	0
Multi-family	0	30	0	30	0	0	39	7	10	0
T. Greenfield										
TOTAL	27	23	23	13	15	14	5	10	7	2
Single Family	27	23	23	11	14	14	5	10	7	2
Two Family	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. Medary										
TOTAL	5	8	12	18	11	12	9	19	8	8
Single Family	5	8	6	10	3	4	3	7	2	8
Two Family	0	0	6	8	8	8	6	12	6	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. Shelby										
TOTAL	14	30	14	16	13	7	3	4	2	2
Single Family	14	18	14	12	9	7	3	4	2	2
Two Family	0	12	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

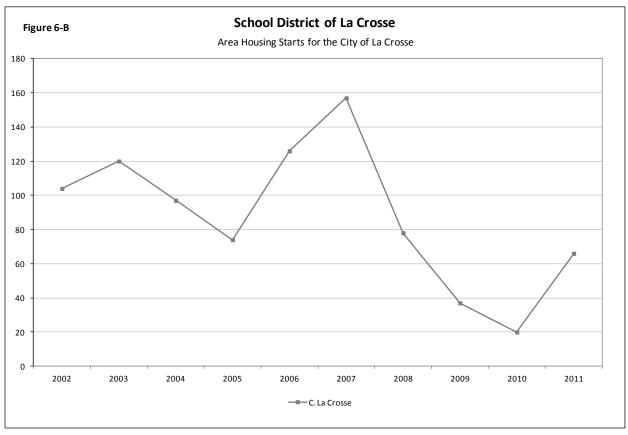
Source: Demographic Services Center, WIDOA

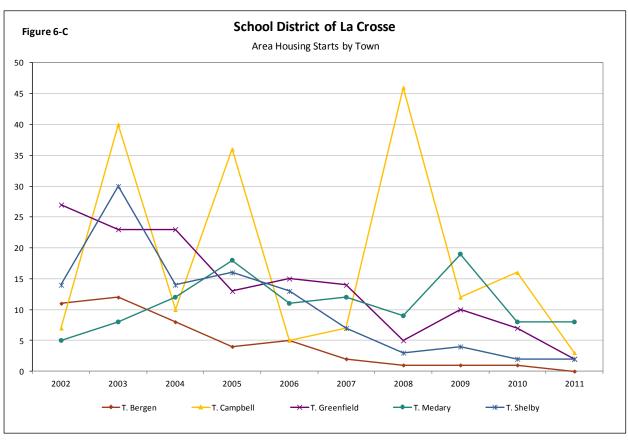


Figure 6-A shows housing starts in the area by type of housing unit—single family, two family, and multi-family housing unit. Figures 6-B and 6-C show the total number of residential building permits issued for the City of La Crosse and the towns in the School District of La Crosse.



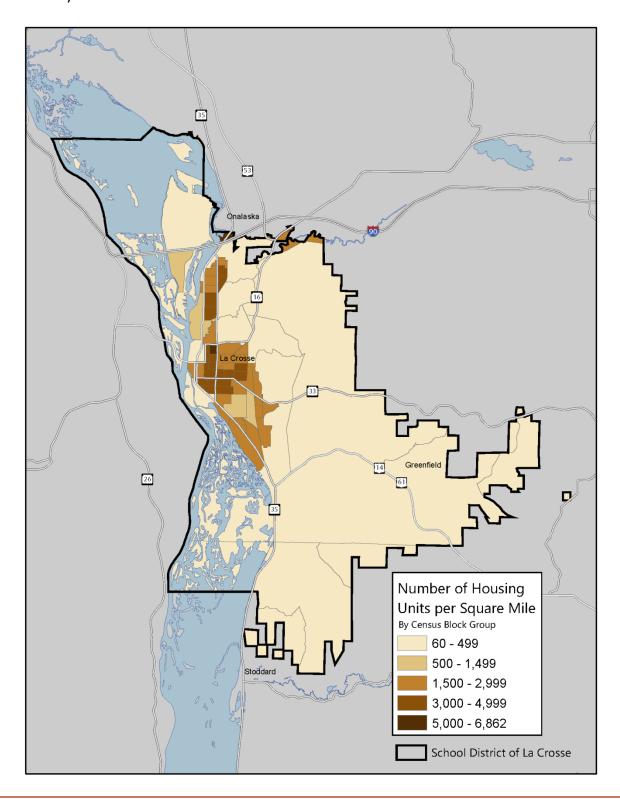
The majority of housing development over the last ten years has occurred in the City of La Crosse and Town of Greenfield. Development in the area has consisted of single-family homes and multifamily units. Households in single family homes, on average, contain more school-aged children than in two-family and multi-family complexes. The entire district area has experienced a decline in housing development over the past several years. Despite these challenges, the School District of La Crosse area still saw 37 new single family housing starts and 44 new multi-family units in 2011, indicating that development is still occurring within the district area but at a slower rate.



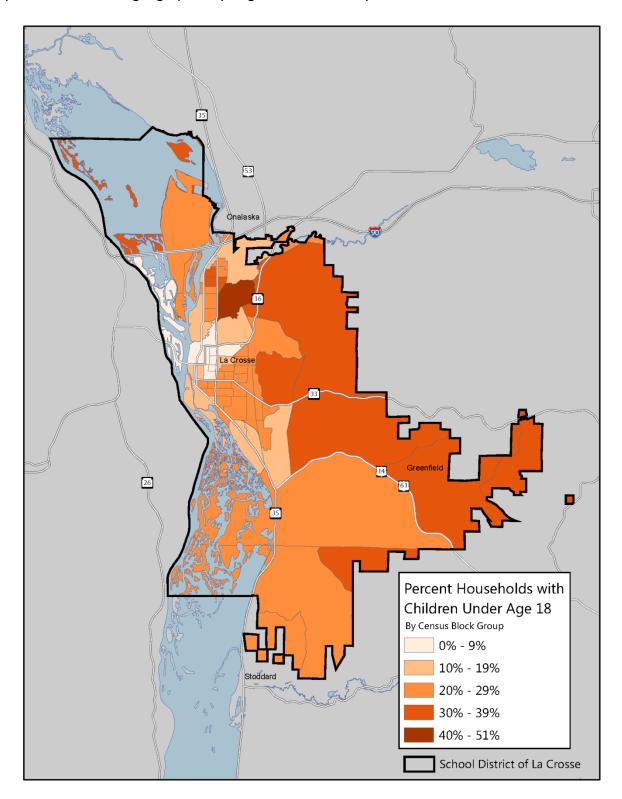




For planning purposes, it is helpful to know how characteristics of housing stock vary across space. This map shows the total number of housing units per square mile by block group for the school district in 2010. As would be expected, housing units are most dense in the City of La Crosse while the areas around the city are less dense.



This map illustrates the percent of all households with children under 18 years of age by block group. Households with children are dispersed throughout the district, but keep in mind that the Census block groups in the towns are geographically larger than in the City of La Crosse.



Housing Turnover

It is important to consider that turnover in ownership of existing housing stock also contributes to changes in enrollment. A district may increase or decrease in enrollment depending upon the cycle of resident homeowners, regardless of housing starts. For instance, a younger community will have a higher child-per-household ratio, whereas an older community will have a lower child-per-household ratio. At some point in time turnover in ownership in an older community may result in an increase in the child-per-household number. As younger families move into the area, the school district will tend to see new students enrolling into the district's schools. Absent new housing development or housing turnover, householders age in place and the number of school-aged children eventually declines. Turnover in ownership does not happen overnight, however, and slow turnover may occur for several years at varying rates.

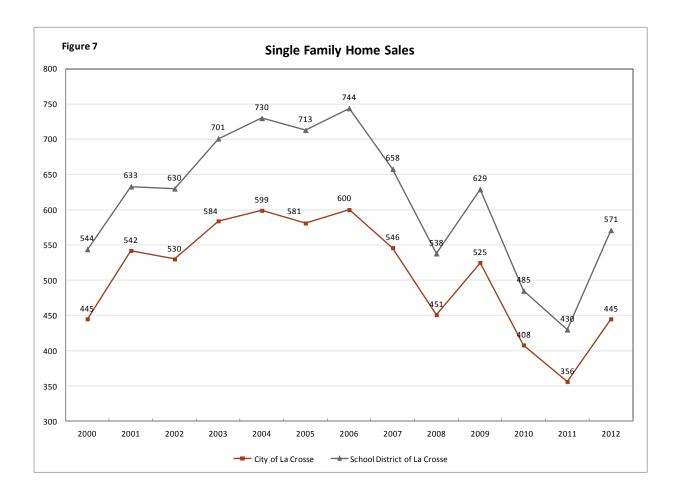
Table 9 shows the in-migration of the City of La Crosse, the School District of La Crosse and La Crosse County. 72% of city residents live in the home they lived in one year ago while the school district residents are slightly higher at 75%. The economic downturn experienced in the last few years may have influenced the migration of residents who have not been able to afford to move at this time.

TABLE 9
In-migration, one year ago

Municipality	Population age 1 and over, 2010	% Living in the Same House	% Moved within Same County	% Moved in from Different County	% Moved in from Different State	% Moved from Abroad
City of La Crosse	50,989	71.8%	17.6%	7.1%	3.1%	0.4%
School District of La Crosse	62,512	74.9%	16.1%	6.1%	2.6%	0.3%
La Crosse County	112,667	80.2%	12.9%	4.3%	2.4%	0.3%

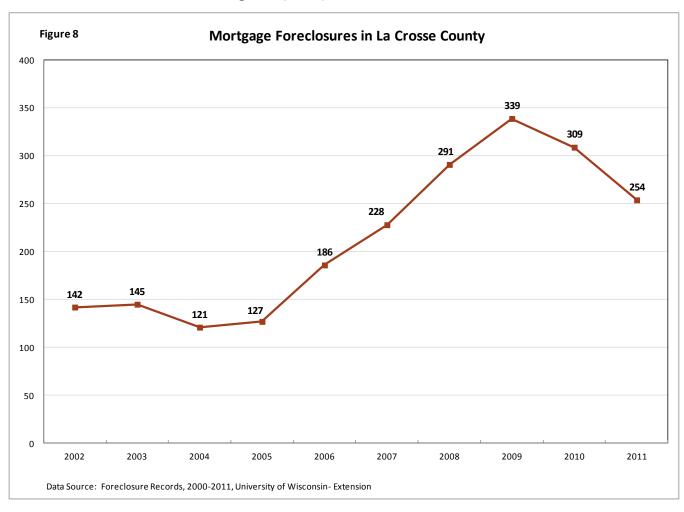
Source: ACS 2007-2011

Both home sales and foreclosures influence housing turnover and may affect school enrollment. Figure 7 displays home sales from 2000 to 2012 for the City of La Crosse and the School District of La Crosse. Housing sales have fluctuated over the last thirteen years. Sales increased over time in the early 2000s. In 2006 home sales began to drop and continued to decline during the economic recession. However, in 2012 home sales have increased significantly and may be an indication that the economy is beginning to recover.



Since 2007, the overall trend in median housing sale price has increased slightly but has remained fairly steady over the last year. In the City of La Crosse, the average housing price of single family homes was \$162,905 and the average housing price of townhouses or other attached units was \$160,674 in 2010 according to city-data.com.

Home foreclosure is another important issue that is having impacts on the housing market in La Crosse County and could correspondingly affect school enrollment in the school district. In 2009, the county had the highest rate of foreclosure in this ten year period. However, the number of foreclosure cases has declined. In 2009, La Crosse County had the largest number of foreclosures of 339 homes in a ten year period. The number of foreclosure cases declined in 2010 (309) and 2011 (254) in the county. According to the U. S. Census, 5.8% of the total housing stock was vacant housing in 2010. Figure 8 shows the number of foreclosures in the county between 2002 and 2011 as reported by Wisconsin's Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP).



Predicting future school district enrollment and the future age structure of the population in the City of La Crosse due to housing turnover is not easily answered. Several factors are difficult to predict that affect housing turnover. These include demand and supply variables like attractiveness to young families (demand), and suitable and available rental and owner occupied housing (supply). In addition, housing turnover depends on even more elusive variables, determined by housing market conditions and the individual preferences of homeowners. Addressing supply and demand components of housing turnover including housing value, educational attainment, employment, travel to work, housing tenure, and age of housing structure will be discussed in the following pages.



Housing Value

Young families need housing that is both affordable and can accommodate children. In general, young families have lower incomes and occupy less expensive housing than families with older, more established householders. Table 10 shows median value of owner occupied homes and average household size in the City of La Crosse, the School District of La Crosse, and La Crosse County. In the City of La Crosse the median housing value has increased from \$85,100 in 2000 to \$126,800 in 2011.

TABLE 10
Owner Occupied Housing Units

			Average
	Count	Median Value	Household Size
City of La Crosse	10,901	\$126,800	2.30
School District of La Crosse	14,812	\$135,400	2.36
La Crosse County	29,818	\$151,900	2.52

Source: ACS 2007-2011

Education Attainment and Employment

Table 11 shows the educational attainment for the city and school district population in 2011. 31% of residents have graduated from high school, and 34% of residents have some college or an Associate's degree. 26.5% of city residents have a Bachelor's, Master's, Professional, or Doctoral degree.

TABLE 11
Educational Attainment

Education	City of La	a Crosse	School District of La Crosse			
	Population	Percent	Population	Percent		
No High School Diploma	2,453	8.3%	2,892	7.6%		
High School Graduate	9,262	31.2%	11,549	30.4%		
Some College	6,543	22.0%	8,074	21.2%		
Associate's Degree	3,588	12.1%	4,732	12.5%		
Bachelor's Degree	4,878	16.4%	6,465	17.0%		
Master's or Doctorate Degree	3,000	10.1%	4,287	11.3%		

Source: ACS 2007-2011

The average travel time of the city's residents is 16 minutes to work and 29% are reported to be in management and business occupations according to the U.S. Census. 26.6% of the residents are employed in the educational and health services industries. Table 12 provides the top employers in the county who employ over 1,000 employees.

TABLE 12
Top Largest Employers
La Crosse County

Employer	Industry Description	# of Employee
Gundersen-Lutheran	Medical Center	5,000
Mayo Clinic Health System	Medical Center	3,225
Trane Company	Air Cond/Heating Equipment	2,900
Reinhart Companies	Grocery Wholesaler	2,000
County of La Crosse	Government	1,150
School District of La Crosse	Education	1,080

Source: City of La Crosse's Website

Housing Tenure

Table 13 shows owner-occupied and renter-occupied by age in the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County. In the City of La Crosse, about 51% of householders own their homes. In households likely to have school age children, 15% of householders age 35 to 44 are homeowners and 24% of householders age 45 to 54 are homeowners. Householders age 25 to 34 are the largest renters at 25%. In general, home ownership is spread out throughout the age groups except for the very young and very elderly populations.

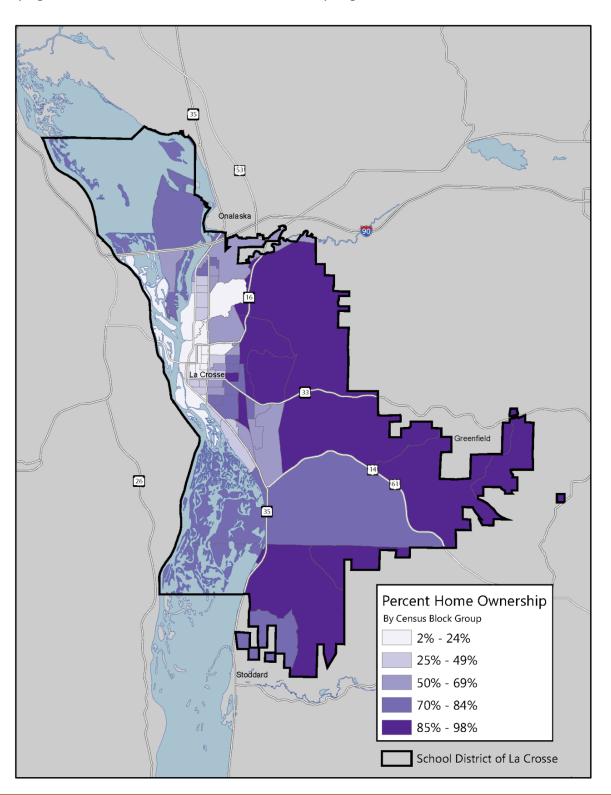
TABLE 13 Homeownership by Age

Householder		a Crosse	La Crosse County					
	Owners	Percent	Renters	Percent	Owners	Percent	Renters	Percent
15 to 24 years	174	2%	3,255	31%	317	1%	4,049	25%
25 to 34 years	1,319	12%	2,606	25%	3,591	12%	3,885	24%
35 to 44 years	1,688	15%	1,060	10%	5,481	18%	1,925	12%
45 to 54 years	2,569	24%	1,295	12%	7,107	24%	2,104	13%
55 to 64 years	1,975	18%	883	8%	6,279	21%	1,446	9%
65 to 74 years	1,374	13%	493	5%	3,734	13%	745	5%
75 to 84 years	1,136	10%	566	5%	2,350	8%	967	6%
85 years & over	666	6%	398	4%	959	3%	765	5%

Source: ACS 2007-2011



For planning purposes, it is helpful to know how characteristics of housing stock vary across space. Observing the block group geography allows for a detailed examination of how home ownership is distributed across the district. Home ownership is spread out throughout the school district, and it is the outlying areas of the district where home ownership is greatest.



Rental units are significantly more likely to turnover than owner occupied homes, but rental turnover is less likely to bring increasing numbers of young families. While most young families prefer to own a home, some people are willing to rent to live in a desirable area. Table 14 shows rental unit characteristics in the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County. Most of the rental units in the city have two bedrooms. While this type of unit might serve young professionals or students, families with children often need three or more bedrooms. Gross rent is slightly lower in the city compared to the county as a whole.

TABLE 14
Renter Occupied Housing Units

	City of La Crosse	La Crosse County
Zero bedrooms	664	714
1 bedroom	3,482	4,399
2 bedrooms	4,019	6,690
3 or more	2,391	4,083
Avg. gross rent	\$650	\$690

Source: ACS 2007-2011

Non-family households tend to live in rental units. Table 15 shows the living arrangements of non-family households in the City of La Crosse. 72% live alone while 28% live with another person.

TABLE 15
Population in Non-Family Households
City of La Crosse

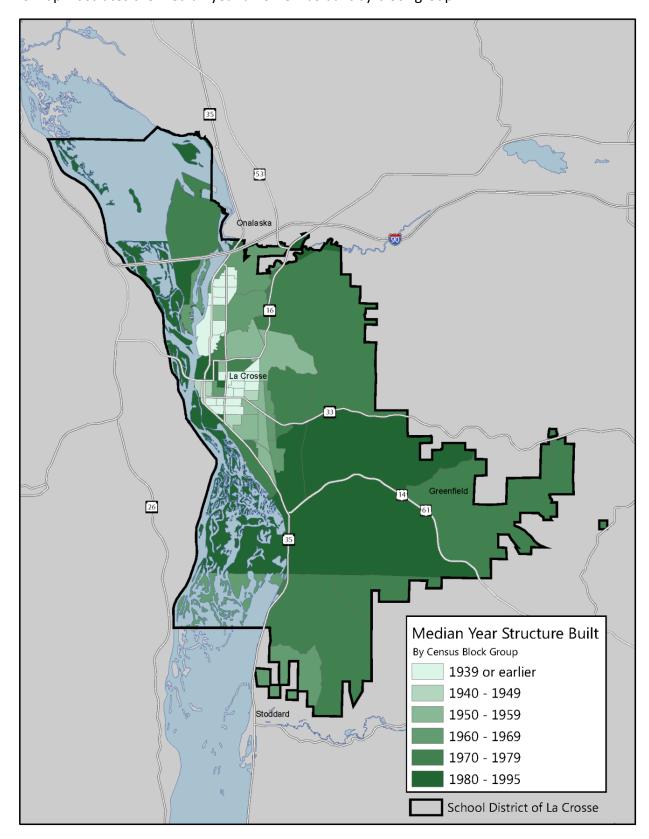
Non-Family Households	Population	Living Alone	Percent of Total	Living w/Others*	Percent of Total	Living Alone Over age 65	Percent of Total
Female householder	6,619	4,926	43%	1,693	15%	1,964	17%
Male householder	4,804	3,281	29%	1,523	13%	640	6%
Total population	11,423	8,207	72%	3,216	28%	2,604	23%

^{*} Other includes Housemates, Roomates, Boarders, or Unmarried partners Source: ACS 2007-2011

Age of Housing Structure

The City of La Crosse contains older housing stock while much of the surrounding towns have newer housing stock. According to the City of La Crosse's comprehensive plan, the city has three types of neighborhoods: older neighborhoods (pre-1940's), "middle-aged" neighborhoods (built 1940's to 1970's) and new neighborhoods (built since 1980). The older and middle-aged neighborhoods have smaller lots, are pedestrian friendly, and were built on a grid street system. The challenges some of these neighborhoods face include incompatible land uses, blighted properties, or other concerns that can affect neighborhood livability and contribute to lack of investment.

This map illustrates the median year a home was built by block group.



Future Housing Trends

To better assess the potential for future housing development interviews were conducted with municipal personal. The School District of La Crosse is not likely to see any significant new housing development in the near future. The information below will discuss the future housing trends in the City of La Crosse and the surrounding towns.

The City of La Crosse is primarily focusing their attention on redevelopment and not new housing development. Currently the city is most interested in preserving owner occupied single family housing within the city and utilizing grant funds to revitalize existing single family homes. The Housing Rehabilitation Program utilizes the Federal Community Development Block Grant funds and is available to the homeowner. The Replacement Housing Program provides new owner occupied single family units and is contingent upon availability of federal funds. Although the program is city-wide past activity has focused on the Hamilton School/Hood Park neighborhood. The city has been active in addressing their housing issues and several documents have been posted to the city's website (http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?nid=2557).

The Town of Greenfield currently has one approved residential development, Riverview Heights, with approximately 50 of 96 lots still available for development. The newly constructed homes are valued on average at \$300,000 and development has slowed since the recent economic downturn.

Both the towns of Campbell and Medary are likely to experience little to no housing development in the near future. Campbell is limited in its ability to develop due to the lack of available land and the economic slowdown has affected Medary's new housing development.

The vision statement of the Town of Shelby's Comprehensive Plan reads, "We foresee our Town to be both urban and rural in character providing a pleasant living environment for our residents." The town's website provides a list of potential development areas which includes:

- 1. Hwy 33 from City limits to Irish Hill Continue to allow development as single family.
- 2. Co Hwy F; Hwy 33 (ease end) Continue to develop as single family residential.
- 3. Hwy 14-61 Corridors Good potential as single family development with many wide valleys.
- 4. Hwy 35 Mostly undeveloped, near city limits. Good topography for single family housing.
- 5. Roads and developments running from City into Shelby, Ebner Coulee Rd, Farnam St, Easter Rd, Crown Blvd, Old Town Hall Rd Continue to develop as single family.

All indications point to slow new housing construction which will likely continue in the near term. The issue of new home development is not as critical for the district to monitor as the observance of the city's activities regarding the maintenance and upgrading of existing housing in the City of La Crosse.

Method

In order to generate school enrollment projections, we rely on a commonly used demographic technique called the "cohort survival" method or the "grade progression ratio" method. This method advances current students through the school system over time and applies rates of transfer (or "survival") as the students who are now in school age from year to year and grade to grade. It is through these rates of transfer that we make assumptions about how migration into and out of the district and transfers to and from different schools will impact future enrollment.

Grade Progression Ratios

Grade progression ratios are used to measure district enrollment changes, year to year and grade to grade, that have occurred within the school district in the recent past. By examining these, we can better understand recent changes in enrollment. We use these ratios as the rates of transfer to inform future student projections.

Table 16 shows the grade progression ratios for the School District of La Crosse. The ratios measure the effects of in- and out-migration and the transfer of students between private and public schools. The ratios are calculated for several pairs of years and then averages of these based on different time frames are calculated for each grade.

TABLE 16
Grade Progression Ratios
School District of La Crosse

YEAR													
CHANGES	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
03-04/04-05	0.649	0.950	0.971	1.016	0.955	1.016	0.993	1.041	1.005	1.053	1.010	1.005	1.067
04-05/05-06	0.693	1.037	0.962	1.024	1.012	1.014	1.050	1.044	1.021	1.064	0.988	1.013	1.033
05-06/06-07	0.794	0.952	0.937	0.965	0.996	0.963	1.044	1.002	1.000	1.057	1.013	1.026	1.008
06-07/07-08	0.712	0.962	1.000	1.040	0.998	1.013	1.020	1.027	1.015	1.031	1.007	0.990	1.036
07-08/08-09	0.772	0.978	1.024	0.995	1.022	1.000	0.996	1.012	1.009	1.043	0.975	1.003	1.033
08-09/09-10	0.807	1.006	0.993	0.985	1.002	1.004	0.977	1.000	0.977	1.050	0.995	1.023	1.027
09-10/10-11	0.743	0.942	0.980	1.000	0.986	0.981	0.989	1.021	1.031	1.092	1.019	0.973	1.010
10-11/11-12	0.775	0.996	0.978	1.000	0.978	0.980	1.007	1.004	1.018	1.002	0.987	0.962	1.089
11-12/12-13	0.822	0.950	1.000	0.953	1.016	0.971	0.982	1.000	0.985	1.018	1.000	0.965	1.059
Baseline	0.756	0.967	0.984	1.003	0.998	0.997	0.995	1.009	1.008	1.045	1.002	1.001	1.038
5 Year Trend	0.784	0.974	0.995	0.987	1.001	0.987	0.990	1.007	1.004	1.041	0.995	0.985	1.044
2 Year "Trend"	0.798	0.973	0.989	0.977	0.997	0.975	0.994	1.002	1.002	1.010	0.994	0.963	1.074

^{*}Shaded progression ratios are excluded from the Baseline Average

The grade progression ratios can be interpreted in the following manner. The Baseline ratio for 2:3 is 1.003. This means that in the School District of La Crosse, the third grade class is on average 0.3%

larger each year than the second grade class was the previous year (the result of transfers from other schools and in-migration into the district). The B:K Baseline ratio of .756 indicates that on average, 75.6% of births in the district area attend kindergarten five years later. Outliers (ratios outside of one standard deviation of the mean) are not included in the calculation of the Baseline average ratios.

In order to examine future enrollment under different growth assumptions, we generate three sets of grade progression ratios that correspond to the different projection models shown later in this report. In addition to the Baseline ratios (averages 10 years of enrollment), we examine rates of transfer in the last 5 years and last 2 years effectively weighing enrollment change patterns from different time periods more heavily than the Baseline. Any significant deviations from the rates of inand out-migration in the district area will have a corresponding effect on enrollment. These additional models allow us to examine alternative outcomes compared to the overall trends of the Baseline model. Figure 9 shows the differences between these three sets of grade progression ratios.

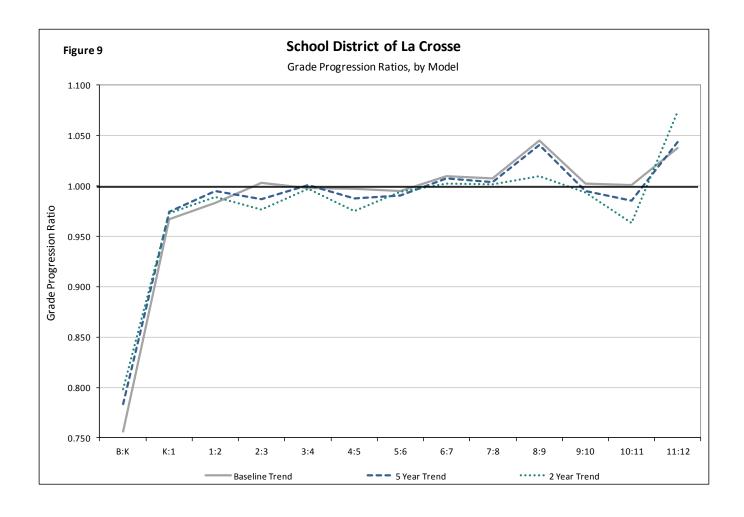


Table 17 shows observed transfer ratios between birth and 4K and the average grade progression ratios between birth and 4K for the three models. These grade progression ratios will be used to project future four year old kindergartners.

TABLE 17
4K Grade Progression Ratios
School District of La Crosse

Birth/4K Year	B:4K
99-00/04-05	0.457
00-01/05-06	0.586
01-02/06-07	0.532
02-03/07-08	0.611
03-04/08-09	0.632
04-05/09-10	0.631
05-06/10-11	0.649
06-07/11-12	0.733
07-08/12-13	0.664
Baseline	0.630
5-Year Trend	0.662
2-Year Trend	0.647

School Enrollment Projections

When considering all of the projections provided in this report for decision-making, it is important to recognize that population projections of all types, including school enrollment projections, are more accurate in the immediate future than they are farther into the future. This is especially true for elementary grades, because the students who will enter kindergarten after 2017 have not yet been born. Overall, our projections are more reliable over the next five years (up to the 2017/18 school year) than they are in the latter half of the next decade. Projections are provided by grade as well as by grade grouping.

Baseline Projections

The Baseline model (Table 18) projects enrollment using the assumption that average trends year to year, grade to grade, will continue into the future. This model assumes that long term trends (past ten years) in enrollment and migration will be representative of future trends in the district. Enrollment is projected to increase by 89 students in five years (6,703 students in 2012/13 to 6,792 students in 2017/18), or 1.3%.

TABLE 18
Baseline Projection Model
School District of La Crosse

	SCHOOL YEAR											
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23		
4K	442	429	423	423	421	420	419	418	417	416		
K	522	523	507	500	500	498	497	496	494	493		
1	529	505	506	490	484	483	482	481	479	478		
2	465	520	497	497	482	476	475	474	473	471		
3	485	467	522	498	499	484	477	477	476	474		
4	467	484	466	521	497	498	483	477	476	475		
5	503	466	482	465	520	496	497	482	475	475		
6	427	500	464	480	462	517	494	494	479	473		
7	489	431	505	468	485	467	522	498	499	484		
8	430	492	434	509	472	488	470	526	502	503		
9	486	450	514	454	532	493	510	491	550	525		
10	458	487	451	516	455	533	494	511	493	551		
11	494	459	488	451	516	455	533	494	512	493		
12	542	512	476	506	468	536	472	554	513	531		
TOTAL	6,738	6,724	6,734	6,778	6,792	6,844	6,826	6,873	6,838	6,841		
K-12	6,296	6,295	6,311	6,355	6,371	6,424	6,407	6,455	6,421	6,425		
K-5	2,971	2,964	2,980	2,972	2,982	2,935	2,911	2,886	2,873	2,866		
6-8	1,346	1,423	1,403	1,457	1,418	1,472	1,486	1,518	1,480	1,459		
9-12	1,979	1,907	1,929	1,926	1,971	2,016	2,010	2,051	2,067	2,100		

The 5 Year Trend model (Table 19) uses the grade progression ratios from the last five years and recent birth trends to project what future enrollments would look like if more recent patterns were representative of future trends. For the 5 Year Trend model, enrollment is projected to increase from 6,703 students in 2012/13 to 6,884 students in 2017/18. With recent migration rates weighted more heavily, enrollment in the School District of La Crosse is projected to increase by 2.7% over the next five years.

TABLE 19
5 Year Trend Projection Model
School District of La Crosse

	SCHOOL YEAR									
GRADE	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
4K	465	451	456	465	469	473	477	481	485	489
K	542	543	526	527	529	528	526	524	522	520
1	533	528	529	513	513	516	514	512	511	509
2	471	530	525	526	510	511	513	512	510	508
3	477	464	523	518	519	504	504	507	505	503
4	468	477	465	524	519	519	504	504	507	505
5	498	462	471	459	517	512	513	498	498	500
6	425	493	458	466	454	512	507	508	493	493
7	488	428	496	461	470	458	516	511	512	496
8	429	490	430	498	463	472	460	518	513	514
9	484	446	510	447	519	482	491	478	539	534
10	455	482	444	507	445	516	480	488	476	536
11	486	448	474	437	499	438	508	473	481	469
12	545	507	467	495	456	521	457	531	493	502
TOTAL	6,763	6,748	6,775	6,844	6,884	6,962	6,970	7,044	7,044	7,079
K-12	6,298	6,298	6,319	6,379	6,415	6,489	6,493	6,563	6,559	6,591
K-5	2,988	3,005	3,039	3,067	3,108	3,090	3,074	3,056	3,052	3,046
6-8	1,341	1,410	1,384	1,426	1,387	1,441	1,483	1,537	1,517	1,503
9-12	1,969	1,883	1,895	1,887	1,920	1,958	1,937	1,970	1,989	2,041

The 2 Year "Trend" model (Table 20) uses the grade progression ratios from the last two years to project what future enrollments would look like if even more recent patterns were representative of future trends. For the 2 Year "Trend" model, enrollment is projected to increase from 6,703 students in 2012/13 to 6,760 students in 2017/18, or 0.8% increase.

TABLE 20
2 Year "Trend" Projection Model
School District of La Crosse

	SCHOOL YEAR									
GRADE	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
4K	452	454	440	446	454	458	462	466	470	474
K	552	553	536	537	539	537	536	534	532	530
1	532	537	538	522	522	525	523	521	519	517
2	468	526	531	532	516	516	519	517	515	514
3	472	457	514	519	519	504	504	507	505	503
4	467	470	455	512	517	518	502	503	505	504
5	492	455	459	444	500	504	505	490	490	493
6	427	489	453	456	442	497	502	502	487	488
7	485	428	490	454	457	443	498	503	503	488
8	428	486	428	491	454	458	443	499	503	504
9	470	432	491	432	496	459	462	448	504	508
10	454	467	429	488	430	492	456	459	445	501
11	475	437	449	413	470	414	474	439	443	429
12	560	510	470	483	444	504	444	509	471	475
TOTAL	6,732	6,700	6,683	6,728	6,760	6,829	6,831	6,897	6,894	6,927
K-12	6,280	6,246	6,243	6,282	6,305	6,371	6,369	6,431	6,424	6,454
K-5	2,982	2,998	3,033	3,065	3,114	3,104	3,089	3,071	3,067	3,061
6-8	1,339	1,402	1,371	1,400	1,353	1,398	1,443	1,504	1,494	1,480
9-12	1,959	1,846	1,839	1,816	1,839	1,869	1,837	1,856	1,863	1,913

Comparison of Projection Models

Figures 10-14 and Tables 21-25 compare the three enrollment projection models broken down by total district enrollment and by grade groupings.

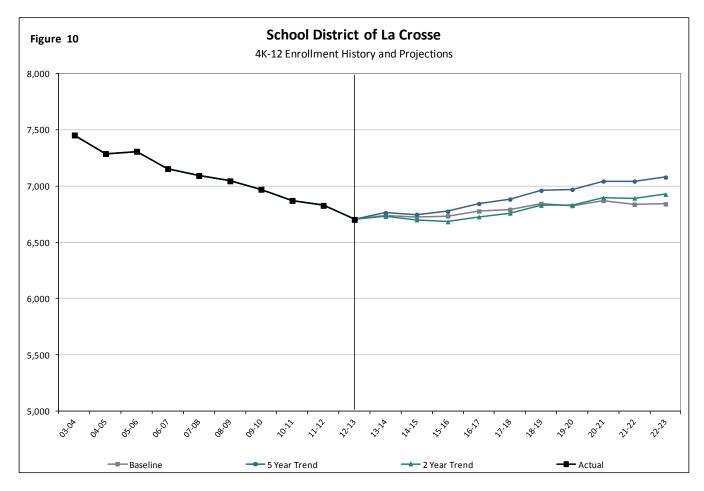


TABLE 21
Summary of 4K-12 Enrollment Projections
School District of La Crosse

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Baseline	6,738	6,724	6,734	6,778	6,792	6,844	6,826	6,873	6,838	6,841
5 Year Trend	6,763	6,748	6,775	6,844	6,884	6,962	6,970	7,044	7,044	7,079
2 Year "Trend"	6,732	6,700	6,683	6,728	6,760	6,829	6,831	6,897	6,894	6,927

All models project increasing 4K-12 enrollment. The Five Year Trend model indicates the greatest increase in enrollment while the Baseline model projects less of an increase in enrollment. 4K-12 enrollment projections five years from now (2017/18) forecast a range of enrollment from 6,760 to 6,884.

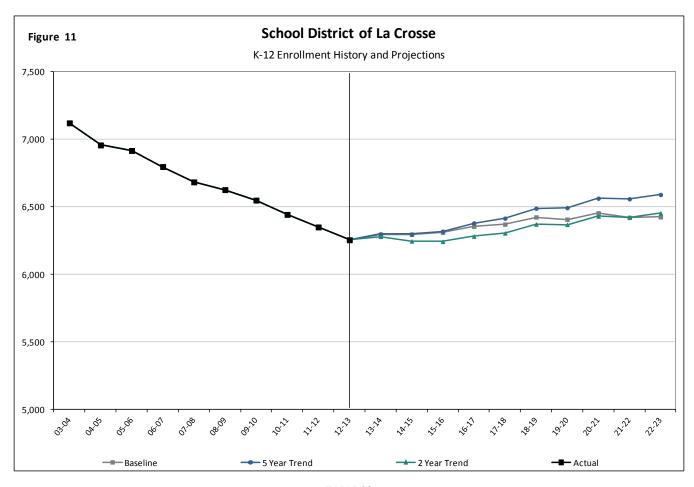


TABLE 22
Summary of K-12 Enrollment Projections
School District of La Crosse

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Baseline	6,296	6,295	6,311	6,355	6,371	6,424	6,407	6,455	6,421	6,425
5 Year Trend	6,298	6,298	6,319	6,379	6,415	6,489	6,493	6,563	6,559	6,591
2 Year "Trend"	6,280	6,246	6,243	6,282	6,305	6,371	6,369	6,431	6,424	6,454

K-12 enrollment projections have a somewhat similar pattern to the 4K-12 enrollment projections. K-12 enrollment projections five years from now (2017/18) forecast a range of enrollment from 6,305 to 6,415.

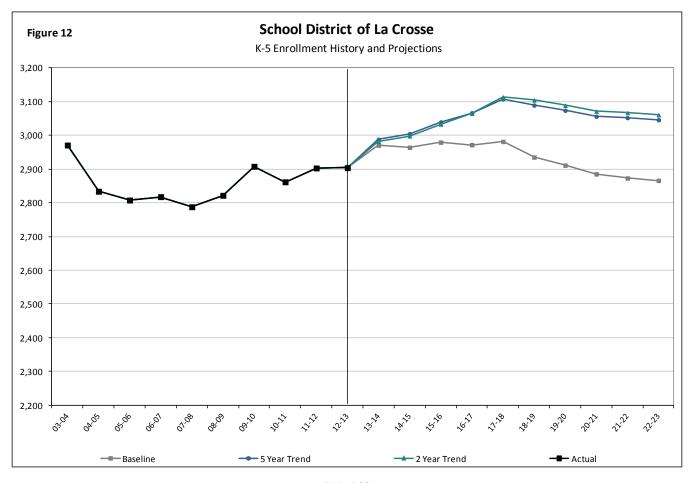


TABLE 23
Summary of K-5 Enrollment Projections
School District of La Crosse

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Baseline	2,971	2,964	2,980	2,972	2,982	2,935	2,911	2,886	2,873	2,866
5 Year Trend	2,988	3,005	3,039	3,067	3,108	3,090	3,074	3,056	3,052	3,046
2 Year "Trend"	2,982	2,998	3,033	3,065	3,114	3,104	3,089	3,071	3,067	3,061

All models project increasing K-5 enrollment for next year. The Five Year and Two Year trend models project increasing enrollment while the Baseline trend model projects steady enrollment during the next five years. The Baseline model projects enrollment returning to similar numbers as this year's enrollment in seven years, while the Five and Two Year models project greater enrollment totals in the long term. K-5 enrollment projections five years from now (2017/18) forecast a range of enrollment from 2,982 to 3,114.

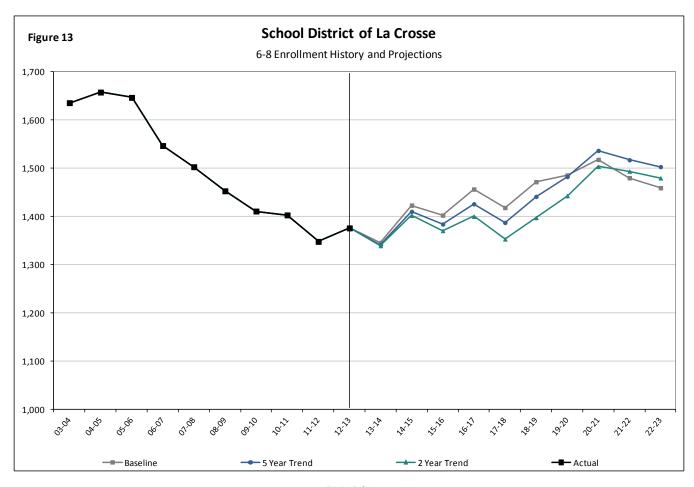


TABLE 24
Summary of 6-8 Enrollment Projections
School District of La Crosse

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Baseline	1,346	1,423	1,403	1,457	1,418	1,472	1,486	1,518	1,480	1,459
5 Year Trend	1,341	1,410	1,384	1,426	1,387	1,441	1,483	1,537	1,517	1,503
2 Year "Trend"	1,339	1,402	1,371	1,400	1,353	1,398	1,443	1,504	1,494	1,480

In middle school, the models project fluctuating enrollment, but an increase will likely occur returning to enrollment similar to the 2007/08 school year in ten years. 6-8 enrollment projections five years from now (2017/18) forecast a range of enrollment from 1,353 to 1,418.

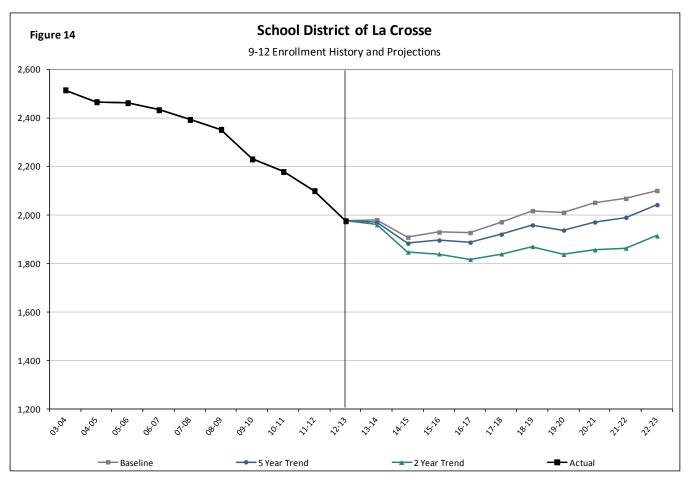


TABLE 25
Summary of 9-12 Enrollment Projections
School District of La Crosse

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Baseline	1,979	1,907	1,929	1,926	1,971	2,016	2,010	2,051	2,067	2,100
5 Year Trend	1,969	1,883	1,895	1,887	1,920	1,958	1,937	1,970	1,989	2,041
2 Year "Trend"	1,959	1,846	1,839	1,816	1,839	1,869	1,837	1,856	1,863	1,913

At the high school, all models forecast similar enrollment next year followed by a declining enrollment three years from now. After enrollment decline, the general trend will be growth in the high school grades. 9-12 enrollment projections five years from now (2017/18) project a range of enrollment from 1,839 to 1,971.

Conclusions

These district-level enrollment projections are based on models that incorporate recent past and current demographic information as well as the district's own enrollment data and assumptions about future housing development in the school district area. Because most of the students in the district's schools over the next few years have already been born or are already in school, and because their grade progression from one year to another is highly predictable, the total district-level projections should be viewed as having high accuracy over the next few years. After a few years, and increasingly for the lower elementary grades, actual enrollment figures will likely deviate from these projections by ever increasing amounts. The reason for this is that birth trends, in-migration of pre-school age children, and transfers into the district are more difficult to predict and therefore this makes meaningful incorporation into enrollment projections a challenge. As with nearly all types of forecasts, accuracy in these enrollment projections decreases over time.

Overall, the information provided in this school enrollment projection report points to enrollment increases largely due to students already in the school system advancing to the higher grades. Birth trends indicate births will slightly decrease over time, while kindergarten enrollment shows growth. Although steady housing and general population trends may not indicate growth, it appears that the school age population will rebound in the coming years. The Five Year Trend model projects higher enrollment than the other models, because of the higher grade progression ratios of the last five years. If these higher levels of in-migration and transfers into the district that have occurred in the past five years continue into the future, then this model would be a good predictor of future enrollment. The district is likely to see increasing enrollment in the grades K-5. Grades 6-8 will experience fluctuating enrollment with a general trend towards growth. After a few years of decline, grades 9-12 will experience increasing enrollment in the long term.

Because the projections found in this report incorporate the consequences of migration to and from the district, any significant and sustained interruption of current or recent past migration patterns will erode these models' accuracy from the initiation point of the new pattern. The various projection models provide a realistic range of migration and transfer effects on the school district. Enrollment growth should be closely monitored for the next few years, and compared with these projections, to determine the trajectory of future growth. This type of monitoring program might help the district to determine which of the models seems to be the most realistic to use for planning purposes.

Appendix A

