

School Enrollment Projections for the City School District of Albany

2011-12 School Year



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Introduction

In October 2011, the City School District of Albany authorized the Capital District Regional Planning Commission to prepare district-wide school enrollment projections for the 2012-13 through 2016-17 school years.

The following is a description of the data, assumptions, activities, and trends that influence the number of students enrolled in the City School District of Albany, and the projections.

It should be noted that the uncertainty associated with charter school activity in Albany makes it difficult to project future enrollment in the city school district. Until there is some stability in charter school enrollment, public school enrollment will continue to be somewhat unpredictable.

Base Data

The preparation of the projections depended primarily upon the cohort survival methodology. Supporting data included the following:

1. The 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census information on the number of persons and housing units located within the school district;
2. Historical school enrollment data beginning with the 1992-93 school year;
3. Annual birth data for the period 2002-2009;
4. Charter and private school enrollment, and
5. Building permit and existing home sales data.

A series of projections was prepared using the cohort survival method. Using this method, survival ratios are derived by dividing the number of students in any given year by the number of students in the succeeding grade the following year. The survival ratio for kindergarten enrollment was derived by dividing the number of kindergarten students in any given year by the number of births five years earlier. Additionally, the survival ratio for pre-kindergarten enrollment was derived by dividing the number of pre-k students in any given year by the number of births four years earlier. The historical enrollment data were derived from the First Attendance Period Enrollment records taken during the last week in September that were provided by the District, and from Public School Enrollment and Staff reports published by the New York State Department of Education. The final set of projections was prepared upon review of the historical survival ratios and the other factors as noted below.

Historical Enrollment Trends

Based upon conversations with District officials, the decision was made to include pre-Kindergarten students in the total enrollment for the 20 year period shown in the Tables section, though District figures have only included those students in total enrollment since 2009-10. Pre-Kindergarten is not mandated by the New York State Department of Education, leading to significant variability in enrollment. Pre-k enrollment has trended upward during the last 20 years, from the low 100s in the early 1990s to the mid-300s during the mid-2000s, and reached over 500 students for the first time this year.

Additionally, with the exception of 2003-04, integrated special education students are included in the grade totals, rather than in the special education total. In 2003-04, integrated high school students were not included in the grade totals. The special education total includes in-District self-contained students in all grades. Students receiving special education services outside of the District are included in a distinct line from 2003-04 onward.

Finally, a distinction was made beginning in 2010-11 between the Montessori multi-grade class sessions, and the traditional grade sessions. For the purposes of the projections included in this report, the multi-grade Montessori classes were broken down into their individual grades, and combined with the traditional grade sessions.

The data shown on Table 1 represent the number of students enrolled by grade between 1992-93 and 2011-12. Overall enrollment rose steadily from 1992-93 through 1998-99, surpassing 10,000 students in 1997-98. Following a peak of 10,460 in 1998-99, enrollment declined gradually until 2008-09, hitting a low of 8,645 students. After hovering at approximately 8,700 for two years, enrollment rose to 8,880 this year.

Kindergarten enrollment fluctuated between the mid-700s and the mid-800s for the ten year period between 1992-93 and 2002-03, and then declined steadily to the high 600s by 2006-07. It dropped again to the mid-500s for two years, then rebounded to the mid-600s in 2009-10 and 2010-11. 2011-12 Kindergarten enrollment was 732.

As shown on Table 2, Pre-K through 5th grade enrollment rose from 4,681 in 1992-93 to 5,363 in 1998-99. Subsequently, it experienced a decline to 3,752 in 2008-09. The last three years, elementary enrollment has increased; this year's enrollment was 3,893.

Enrollment in grades 6-8 generally increased through 2000-01, from 1,596 in 1992-93 to 2,053 in 2000-01. It declined very gradually for three years before jumping back up to peak at 2,064 in 2004-05. Following that one-year increase, middle school enrollment resumed its decline, and finally stabilized in the mid-1,400s from 2008-09 through 2010-11.

Enrollment in grades 9-12 generally increased from 2,082 in 1992-93 to a peak of 2,826 in 2006-07. After declining to 2,018 in 2010-11, it rose slightly to 2,116 this year.

Grade-to-Grade Survival Ratios

A review of the historical grade-to-grade survival ratios shows mixed results for this year's ratios as compared to the historical averages. The following table identifies the grade-to-grade survival ratio last year compared to the five- and ten-year average for each grade.

Grade to Grade	2011-12	5-Year Average	10-Year Average
Birth to Pre-Kindergarten	0.3822	0.3465*	N/A*
Birth to Kindergarten	0.6010	0.5213*	N/A*
Kindergarten to 1st	1.0118	1.0096	0.9885
1st to 2nd	0.9514	0.9713	0.9792
2nd to 3rd	1.0313	1.0200	0.9945
3rd to 4th	0.9730	1.0087	0.9796
4th to 5th	0.8953	0.9254	0.9145
5th to 6th	0.8712	0.8959	0.9140
6th to 7th	0.9690	1.0312	1.0148
7th to 8th	1.0020	0.9937	0.9414
8th to 9th	1.4423	1.3565	1.3923
9th to 10th	0.7867	0.7612	0.7608
10th to 11th	0.9229	0.7585	0.7852
11th to 12th	1.1013	0.9740	0.9979

*Birth data is only available from 2002 onward, limiting historical comparability to 4 years.

Kindergarten-to-1st and 2nd-to-3rd grades had survival ratios that were higher than the historical averages. 3rd -to-4th through 6th-to-7th grades all had survival ratios that were lower than the historical averages. Finally, 7th-to-8th through 11th-to-12th grades had survival ratios that were higher than historical averages.

Live Births

Due to the institution of a new geo-coding system, live birth data prior to 2002 is not available from the New York State Department of Health. The number of resident live births in the City of Albany from 2002 through 2009 is listed in Table 3. Births were projected for 2010 and 2011 based on the historical data.

Births have remained between the high 1,100s and the low 1,300s. The largest number of live births occurred in 2007 at 1,316. The past two years of data show births stabilizing around 1,260.

Total Residential Permits, City of Albany

Year	Permitted Buildings	Permitted Units
2009	24	25
2008	27	327
2007	25	31
2006	25	31

Based on building permit records, there has been limited new residential development in the City of Albany in the recent past.

Housing Turnover

Due to Albany's large housing stock, existing home sales play a larger role in school enrollments than new residential construction. It bears noting that existing home sales both in the City of Albany and across the Region have dropped in recent years. From 1997 through 2007, existing home sales in the City rose from 408 to 760 in 2005. In 2007, existing annual home sales in Albany dropped to 632, and by 2009 had dropped to 507. 2010 annual home sales in Albany further declined to 424.

Another potential factor in future enrollment growth is the availability of affordable housing in the City. Based on the 2010 Census, 63.4% of the occupied housing units in the City were renter-occupied. Housing turnover, especially in the rental housing market, reinforces the need to monitor enrollment on an annual basis.

Charter and Private/Parochial Schools

The first charter school in the Albany School District, New Covenant Charter School, opened its doors in September 2000. Today, there are 11 charter schools within the District. As noted in Table 4, charter school enrollment has increased steadily since 2002 (the first year of record-keeping). The number of District students enrolled in charter schools is listed in Table 4. In 2002-03, 824 students attended charter schools. In 2011-12, 2,249 City School District students were enrolled in charter schools, giving charters in the District a 20.21% market share. This substantial increase has undoubtedly affected District enrollment.

District records from 2008-09 through 2011-12 indicate that the number of students attending private and parochial schools has dropped, from 1,481 in 2008-09 to 1,254 this year. The continuing economic downturn and the rise in charter schools are likely factors contributing to decreasing private school enrollments.

Enrollment Projection Assumptions

Since 2000, 12 charter schools have opened in Albany, one of which has since closed. The challenge in preparing enrollment projections is partially attributable to the opening and closing of charter schools since the public schools are required to accommodate the surge or decline in students due to the sudden and oftentimes uncertain changes associated with the status of charter school located in the district. The status of charter schools requires continuous and constant monitoring, due to the impact that they have on public school enrollment.

The closing of the New Covenant Charter School at the end of the 2009-10 school year caused District schools to absorb a number of students in the 2010-11 school year, as evidenced by the high survival ratios for that year. Accordingly, these survival ratios were given less weight in determining the ratios used to project future enrollment.

As noted earlier, historical pre-kindergarten enrollment has varied greatly. Additional uncertainty is apparent because it, unlike kindergarten, is unmandated, making projections subject to volatility. Because of the uncertainty, a 4 year average (2008-09 through 2011-12) was used to project to the next five.

Kindergarten projections take into account projected charter school enrollment as part of our analysis of historical and future trends. We assume that there will be no changes in charter school status and the number of charter schools in the District.

With the recent opening of the Brighter Choice Middle Schools, the historical survival ratios for the middle school grades are not a reliable indicator of future enrollment, thereby decreasing the veracity of the projections. The addition of a 7th grade class in both the Brighter Choice Middle Schools in the 2012-13 school year adds to the uncertainty associated with the projections. Because of this uncertainty, a 3 year average (2009-10 through 2011-12) was used to project to the next five. As noted previously, the expansion and contraction of charter schools impacts public school enrollment, and requires continuous and constant monitoring.

Both in-district and out-of-district special education students are projected by taking the ratio of special education students to non-special education students in the current year and projecting it forward.

2012-13 through 2016-17 Enrollment Projections

- Overall enrollment is expected to dip in 2013-14, then increase to 8,899 in 2016-17.
- PK – 5th enrollment is projected to gradually increase to the mid 4,500s by 2016-17.
- 6th – 8th grade enrollment is expected to remain in the mid-1,400s.
- 9th – 12th grade enrollment is projected to decrease to 1,910 in 2013-14, then hover around the mid-1,900s through the end of the projection period.

**City School District of Albany
Enrollment Projections : 2012-2013 to 2016-2017**

Grade	2011-12*	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Pre-K	503	460	460	461	461	461
K	732	735	703	704	705	705
1	687	733	735	704	705	706
2	627	654	697	699	670	671
3	626	643	671	715	717	687
4	612	611	627	655	698	700
5	573	539	538	552	576	614
6	487	513	482	481	494	515
7	469	479	505	474	473	486
8	503	466	476	502	471	470
9	675	682	632	646	681	639
10	439	520	525	487	498	525
11	491	343	407	411	381	389
12	511	495	346	410	414	384
Sub-total	7,935	7,871	7,803	7,899	7,942	7,950
Special Ed	670	665	659	667	671	671
Out-of District SE	275	273	270	274	275	276
Total	8,880	8,811	8,733	8,842	8,890	8,899

Aggregate Enrollment Projections : 2012-2013 to 2016-2017

Grade	2011-12*	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
PK-5	4,360	4,375	4,431	4,490	4,532	4,544
6-8	1,459	1,458	1,463	1,457	1,438	1,471
9-12	2,116	2,040	1,910	1,954	1,974	1,937
Special Ed	670	665	659	667	671	671
Out-of District SE	275	273	270	274	275	276
Total	8,880	8,811	8,733	8,842	8,890	8,899

* Represents Actual Fall Enrollment

TABLES

TABLE 1
City School District of Albany
Historical School Enrollment : 1992-1993 to 2011-2012

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Pre-K	106	170	162	226	233	230	306	278	452	338	280	294	288	282	331	328	367	447	499	503
K	729	744	781	818	811	826	863	716	720	672	700	678	666	657	627	564	552	629	679	732
1	877	880	832	907	995	980	937	907	812	740	679	645	641	645	644	587	567	578	659	687
2	779	827	823	816	848	944	878	825	863	813	712	666	623	612	639	616	550	545	607	627
3	742	773	789	790	756	797	912	799	780	776	744	690	650	605	620	606	583	561	629	626
4	750	716	737	785	740	721	759	803	808	760	764	694	645	596	595	612	569	585	640	612
5	698	747	678	724	744	721	708	680	796	742	709	721	680	550	482	542	564	537	559	573
6	568	660	707	660	708	702	699	667	738	736	716	688	688	654	445	456	469	505	484	487
7	513	530	593	636	650	690	654	738	679	662	705	673	708	735	652	515	477	464	502	469
8	515	502	513	526	631	576	592	620	636	616	570	605	668	663	586	626	517	474	468	503
9	643	675	652	613	689	759	812	713	799	802	771	855	897	997	937	883	774	734	558	675
10	525	504	508	554	532	517	578	566	556	586	550	628	632	708	771	654	675	644	532	439
11	451	404	433	466	444	469	460	501	472	487	491	403	499	518	619	518	476	506	464	491
12	463	452	443	458	444	414	421	448	485	449	491	483	452	515	499	493	515	505	464	511
Sub-total	8,359	8,584	8,651	8,979	9,225	9,346	9,579	9,261	9,596	9,179	8,882	8,723	8,737	8,737	8,447	8,000	7,655	7,714	7,744	7,935
Special Ed*	588	632	672	734	759	904	881	934	581	764	911	963	814	710	641	746	728	715	650	670
Out-of-District SE																				
Total	8,947	9,216	9,323	9,713	9,984	10,250	10,460	10,195	10,177	9,943	9,793	9,920	9,769	9,680	9,345	8,996	8,645	8,711	8,663	8,880

NOTES:
 *Represents self-contained K-12th grade students

Source: City School District of Albany Fall Enrollment Figures.

TABLE 2
City School District of Albany
Aggregate School Enrollment : 1992-1993 to 2011-2012

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Pre-K - 5	4,681	4,857	4,802	5,066	5,127	5,219	5,363	5,008	5,231	4,841	4,588	4,388	4,193	3,947	3,938	3,855	3,752	3,882	4,272	4,360
6 - 8	1,596	1,692	1,813	1,822	1,989	1,968	1,945	2,025	2,053	2,014	1,991	1,966	2,064	2,052	1,683	1,597	1,463	1,443	1,454	1,459
9 - 12	2,082	2,035	2,036	2,091	2,109	2,159	2,271	2,228	2,312	2,324	2,303	2,369	2,480	2,738	2,826	2,548	2,440	2,389	2,018	2,116
Sub-total	8,359	8,584	8,651	8,979	9,225	9,346	9,579	9,261	9,596	9,179	8,882	8,723	8,737	8,737	8,447	8,000	7,655	7,714	7,744	7,935
Special Ed*	588	632	672	734	759	904	881	934	581	764	911	963	814	710	641	746	728	715	650	670
Out-of-District SE												234	218	233	257	250	262	282	269	275
Total	8,947	9,216	9,323	9,713	9,984	10,250	10,460	10,195	10,177	9,943	9,793	9,920	9,769	9,680	9,345	8,996	8,645	8,711	8,663	8,880

Source: City School District of Albany Fall Enrollment Figures.

TABLE 3
City School District of Albany
City of Albany

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Number of Births</u>	<u>Year to Enter Kindergarten</u>	<u>Number of Kindergarten Students</u>	<u>Survival Ratio</u>
2002	1,196	2007	564	0.4716
2003	1,199	2008	552	0.4604
2004	1,178	2009	629	0.5340
2005	1,258	2010	679	0.5397
2006	1,218	2011	732	0.6010
2007	1,316	2012	735	0.5582
2008	1,260	2013	703	0.5582
2009	1,262	2014	704	0.5582
2010	<i>1,263</i>	2015	705	0.5582
2011	<i>1,263</i>	2016	705	0.5582

Projections are in italics

Source: NYS Department of Health Bureau of Health Statistics, Resident Live Births

TABLE 4
City School District of Albany
Charter School Data

Charter School Name	Date of Opening	Grades	2002*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
City School District of Albany												
Achievement Academy Charter School	Sep-05	5 - 8				46	127	111	138	168	188	134
Albany Community Charter School	Sep-06	K - 4					93	152	195	237	257	299
Albany Leadership Charter High School for Girls	Sep-10	9 - 12									129	174
Albany Preparatory Charter School	Aug-05	5 - 8				42	113	134	135	149	180	182
Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys	Sep-03	K - 4	41	70	92	121	137	176	206	219	221	225
Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls	Sep-03	K - 4	46	71	99	117	143	189	219	214	215	243
Brighter Choice Charter Middle School for Boys	Sep-10	5, 6									42	89
Brighter Choice Charter Middle School for Girls	Sep-10	5, 6									34	93
Green Tech High Charter School	Sep-08	9 - 12							75	140	237	276
Henry Johnson Charter School	Sep-07	K - 4						99	170	228	280	286
KIPP Tech Valley Charter School	Aug-05	5 - 8				79	151	201	252	267	246	248
New Covenant Charter School (CLOSED 6/2010)	Sep-00	K - 6	737	817	647	627	525	478	431	436	—	—
Schenectady City School District												
International Charter School of Schenectady	Sep-05		—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total			824	958	838	1,034	1,289	1,540	1,821	2,058	2,029	2,249

*January enrollment figures

Source: City School District of Albany Charter School enrollment reports

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The Capital District Regional Planning Commission is a multi-county regional planning agency established jointly by the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady in 1967 pursuant to the State of New York local law. Its mission is to promote sound and coordinated land use, economic development, and a healthy environment for the entire Region with various studies, plans and policy recommendations. The commission is also charged to carry out any regional projects, which serve the common interests of member counties and adjacent municipalities.