

**School Enrollment
Projections
for the
Averill Park
Central School District**

2014-15 School Year



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**Capital District Regional Planning Commission
One Park Place, Suite 102, Albany, New York 12205**

Phone: 518/453-0850 Fax: 518/453-0856

Web Site: <http://www.cdrpc.org> E-Mail: cdrpc@cdrpc.org

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Introduction

In July 2014, the Averill Park Central School District authorized the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) to prepare district-wide school enrollment projections annually through 2016. Each report is scheduled for release in the fall and will include projections for the following five school years. This report includes the five year projection starting in the 2015-16 school year through 2019-20 school year. Each subsequent year will adjust the projections and extend them out within a five year window.

The following is a description of the data, assumptions, activities, and trends that influence the number of students enrolled in the Averill Park Central School District. The projections can be located in the accompanying tables.

Base Data Assumption

The following data sets were evaluated and used in the preparation of the projections:

1. The 2000 and 2010 Census information on the number of persons and housing units located within the school district;
2. Historical enrollment data beginning with the 1994-95 school year;
3. Annual birth data for the period 2002-2012;
4. Building permit data to determine the number of housing units added or removed due to demolitions, new construction, or rehabilitation within the District for the period 1990-2013;
5. Residential Housing Sales
6. Anticipated residential building activity within the school district through 2018.

The grade-to-grade cohort survival method involved the preparation of three sets of projections based upon 5, 10, and 20 year historical enrollment data. The 5 year survival ration method took the average grade-to-grade survival ratio from the previous five years and projected that average forward to establish school enrollment by grade for the period 2015-16 through 2019-20. The projected kindergarten enrollment figures are based upon a five year Survival Ratio moving average. The Survival Ratio is calculated by dividing the number of students in a kindergarten class by the number of births within the school district five years earlier; for example in 2010 there were 185 kindergarteners, five years earlier there had been 147 births within the school district. Those figures provide us with a Survival Ratio of 1.2585. As part of the calculation to project the number of kindergarteners entering school in 2015, CDRPC utilized the average Survival Ratio of the previous five years and multiplied it by the number of births five years prior. Additionally, CDRPC used a moving five year average for the Survival Ratio, so that the number of kindergarteners from 2016-2019 did not remain static. This methodology provides for dynamic and realistic projections as opposed to a static average Survival Ratio.

Data limitations and the nature of the projection methodologies produce uncertainties in the projections. To reduce these uncertainties additional data sets were evaluated prior to the preparation of the final set of projections. These include private enrollment, home sales, and regional residential construction patterns. Based upon these evaluations, along with a review of current trends, a final set of projections were prepared.

Historical Enrollment Trends

The data shown in Table 1 represents the number of students enrolled by grade between 1994-95 and 2014-15. In those twenty years the district has seen great fluctuation in its enrollment numbers. Enrollment peaked in the 1997-98 at 3,646 students, a 24% rise from the 1994-95 school year. After the 1997-98 school year enrollment stabilized in the 3,400-3,500 student range until the 2008-09 when it dropped to 3,364 students. Since then the total enrollment of the district has continued to decline, reaching a 20-year low in 2014-15 of

School Enrollment Projections for the Averill Park Central School District

2,937 students. The 2014-15 enrollment represents a 13% decline from the beginning of the downturn in 2008-09 and a 19% decline from the 1997-98 peak enrollment.

From the 1994-95 school year through the 2009-10 school year, kindergarten enrollment fell below 200 students only once (2004-05). Enrollment peaked the following year in the 2005-06 school year with 252 students. However, since the 2009-10 school year, enrollment has generally fallen and only once has topped more than 200 students. In the 2014-15 school year there were 161 students enrolled, a decline of 36% from the district's peak. 2014-15 also marked a 12% decline from the previous school year. Furthermore, 2014-15 shows a continuation of a trend of declining Survival Ratios. Since 2002 when 221 students entered Kindergarten, survival rates have followed a downward trend. The children entering Kindergarten in 2014 were predominately born in 2009. As indicated on Table 3 160 births in 2009 resulted in 161 Kindergarteners in 2014, a virtually flat survival ratio.

As noted on Table 2, enrollment for grades K-5 consistently fluctuated from the mid 1,400s to mid 1,500s from 1995-96 school year until the 2007-08 school year. Enrollment peaked in the 1997-98 school year at 1,591 and has generally declined since then, a decline that has grown more perceptibly since 2012-13. 2014-15 enrollment is 1,189, down 25% from the peak and 4% from the previous year and marks the lowest enrollment in the past 20 years. Enrollment in K-5 has fallen 16% in five years and the previous four school years compose four of the five lowest enrollment years in the previous 20 years.

For grades 6-8, enrollment in 2014-15 stands at 702 students, the lowest enrollment since the 1995-96 school year. From 1997-98 through 2010-11 enrollment averaged 851 students and reached its peak in 2000-01 at 906 students. Since that time, enrollment has fluctuated, falling below 800 students in 2005-06 for the first time since 1996-97. Enrollment rebounded the following years before again slipping below 800 in 2011-12. Since that time enrollment has slipped perceptibly just as it has for grades K-5. 2014-15's enrollment marks a 23% drop from the peak in 2000-01, and a 6% decline from the previous year.

Enrollment for grades 9-12 has been relatively stable when compared to enrollment for the other grade cohorts. Enrollment peaked for grades 9-12 in the 2003-04 school year with 1,177 students from a low in 1994-95 of 874 students. From 1998 through 2013 the average change in enrollment from the previous year was .46%, indicating high stability over a sixteen year period. However, enrollment did decline in the 2014-15 school year as it has for the other grade cohorts. While an enrollment of 1,041 marks only a 12% decline (the lowest of the three cohorts) from the 2003-04 peak, a closer examination reveals reasons for concerns. The decline in enrolled students from the previous year was 9%, the largest of the three grade cohorts. Furthermore, the declining enrollments of the younger grade cohorts will begin to manifest itself in grades 9-12 as those younger students advance into grades 9-12.

The overall decline in enrollment can also be understood by examining the average enrollment decline by age cohort when compared to peak enrollment by grade. On average, K-5 enrollment in 2014-15 was down 30% from each grade's peak enrollment. For grades 6-8, enrollment in 2014-15 was down on average 26% from each grade's peak. Finally, grades 9-12 saw an average decline in enrollment of 16% from each grade's peak. This indicates that the highest average rate of decline by grade is at the elementary level, while the high school has seen the lowest average rate of decline per grade. However, from grades K-8 six of the nine grades saw their highest percentage decline from their peak in 2014-15, and of the remaining three all have seen their highest rates of decline within the last three years. This rapid and recent decline in enrollment across all grades is on the cusp of reaching the high school.

The table below illustrates this trend of declining enrollment by highlighting the year of each grade's peak enrollment versus the year of the greatest decline in enrollment when compared to the peak. For instance, Kindergarten had its peak enrollment in 2005-06, and its steepest decline from that peak was 36% in 2014-15. It is noteworthy that peak enrollment for each grade stretched over an eleven year period from the 1995-96 school year to the 2006-07 school year. By contrast the greatest decline in enrollment when compared to the

School Enrollment Projections for the Averill Park Central School District

peak has occurred within a four year time span. This concentration of steeply declining enrollment is indicative of generally falling class sizes and is not reflected in the grade to grade survival ratios.

Grade	Peak Enrollment Year	Greatest Change from Peak Enrollment (Year)
K	2005-06	-36% (2014-15)
1	1995-96	-32% (2014-15)
2	1996-97	-27% (2012-13)
3	1997-98	-33% (2013-14)
4	1998-99	-33% (2014-15)
5	1999-00	-32% (2014-15)
6	2000-01	-30% (2014-15)
7	2001-02	-27% (2014-15)
8	2000-01	-24% (2012-13)
9	2001-02	-22% (2014-15)
10	2002-03	-22% (2014-15)
11	2002-03	-13% (2014-15)
12	2006-07	-13% (2011-12)

Grade to Grade Survival Ratios

The following table identifies the grade to grade survival ratio last year versus the five, and ten-year averages for each grade in the school district. Due to the limited historical birth data, a ten-year average is not available for the Birth to Kindergarten ratio.

2014-15 Grade to Grade Survival Ratios

Grade to Grade	2014-15	5- Year Average	10- Year Average
Birth to K	1.0063	1.0991	N/A
K to 1st	1.0219	1.0216	1.0238
1st to 2nd	1.0538	1.0215	1.0040
2nd to 3rd	1.0101	.9975	1.0119
3rd to 4th	1.0101	.9927	1.0102
4th to 5th	.9952	1.0102	1.0125
5th to 6th	.9868	.9972	1.0142
6th to 7th	1.0262	1.0093	1.0100
7th to 8th	.9567	.9916	.9983
8th to 9th	1.0534	1.0913	1.0820
9th to 10th	.8786	.9159	.9289
10th to 11th	.8857	.9478	.9349
11th to 12th	.9218	1.0255	1.0267

School Enrollment Projections for the Averill Park Central School District

Live Births

Due to the institution of a new, more accurate geo-coding system, comparable live birth data prior to 2002 are not available from the New York State Department of Health. The number of resident live births in the Averill Park Central School District from 2002 through 2012 are listed in Table 3. Births were projected for 2013 and 2014 based upon a continuing trend and not an average. Since peaking in 2007 with 189 births the school district has seen a downward trend that has seen four years of declining births and one year of increasing births. It is a reasonable assumption that there may be a slight rebound in the number of births as 2012 had the second fewest births since records begin in 2002, but any rebound should be slight.

Building Activity and Housing Turnover

While building activity and housing turnover were not directly utilized in forming the enrollment projections, they are an important factor for understanding the context of the region. Averill Park Central School District encompasses a large geographic area in the center of Rensselaer County, overlapping with the towns of Brunswick, Poestenkill, North Greenbush, East Greenbush, Schodack, Nassau, Stephentown, Berlin, and Sand Lake. This area of Rensselaer County is mostly rural in nature, most notably the towns of Sand Lake, Nassau, Stephentown, Berlin, and Poestenkill. However, the borders of the Averill Park Central School District do not correspond with those of the eight towns. Therefore, development within one of the aforementioned towns does not guarantee that development is also within the School District. The same logic stands for housing turnover, a home sold within an aforementioned town does not guarantee it is located in the School District.

These towns are fairly removed from the urban centers of Albany and Troy and have struggled recently to attract large scale development of new residential units. The downturn in the housing market did not help the area and though the market has shown signs of improvement elsewhere, much of Averill Park has not attracted any significant development. Based on conversations with town officials in each community, there aren't any new development of large subdivisions, townhouses, or apartments, proposed in the foreseeable future. The only development that has taken place are individual homes scattered across the school district. This dispersed development and the uneven overlap between the school district's boundaries and those of the towns makes determining an exact count of households within the District difficult. As a result, the most reliable information is from the 2010 Census which reports the number of housing units within the district at 8,011. The most recent estimate comes from the 5-year 2008-2012 American Community Survey which estimates 8,158 housing units.

Housing Turnover

Determining housing turnover is complicated as well for the same reasons as determining building activity. Data for housing turnover is collected by the Greater Capital Region Association of Realtors; but due to the sparse populations in Central and Eastern Rensselaer County multiple towns are grouped together. For example, the towns of Poestenkill and Sand Lake's housing turnover data is collected as a whole which makes it impossible to tease out the individual town's data. However, housing turnover data is still helpful for illustrating the housing market in the region.

2013 MLS Home Sales

Towns	Unit sales	Average day to sale
Sand Lake & Poestenkill	101	92
Schodack, Nassau, & V. of Castleton*	141	90
Petersburg, Berlin, & Stephentown	47	173

*Includes data for both the Town, and Village, of Nassau

School Enrollment Projections

Table 4 provides the district wide projections through the 2019-20 school year. Below are highlights of the trends expected for the next five years.

- Enrollment is projected to fall steadily over the forecast period. By the 2019-20 school year enrollment is projected to be 2,566 students, down 366 students (13%) from 2014-15.
- Kindergarten enrollment is expected to stabilize in the latter half of the forecast period. 2010 saw a sharp increase in births in the School District. If the data are accurate and the historical trends hold, 192 kindergarten students are projected in the 2015-16 school year.. This will taper off and return to more consistent class sizes in the mid 160s.
- Enrollment in grades K-5 is expected to fluctuate over the next five years. Enrollment is expected to stabilize through the 2016-17 school year before continuing the long term trend of decreasing. By 2019-20 enrollment is projected to be 1,062 students, a decrease of 127 students (11%) from 2014-15.
- Enrollment in grades 6-8 will also continue to slide. While a small rebound in enrollment is expected in the latter years of the projections the enrollment will still be below that of 2014-15. Projections are expected to reach their low point in 2017-18 at 609 students, a decline of 93 (13%) from 2014-15. By the 2019-20 school year CDRPC estimates an enrollment of 639 students, a decline of 63 (9%) from 2014-15.
- Grades 9-12 are projected to see the steepest rate of decline in enrollment. This corresponds with the declines in enrollment that the other grade cohorts have witnessed, large classes in grades 9-12 are being replaced by smaller classes. Unlike the other grade cohorts which see some stabilization, or momentary rebounds, enrollment in grades 9-12 declines each year through 2019-20, at which time enrollment will be 865 students, a decline of 176 (17%) from 2014-15.

Tables

TABLE 1
Averill Park Central School District
Historical School Enrollment : 1994-1995 to 2013-2014

	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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
K	217	221	215	234	224	216	228	220	208	234	198	252	220	221	229	202	185	192	220	183	161
1	221	275	254	258	234	239	232	251	235	238	249	208	251	231	216	242	209	191	193	223	187
2	227	234	266	253	263	232	240	236	262	244	257	255	209	252	239	227	238	215	194	198	235
3	240	261	245	296	260	267	243	249	240	275	262	262	260	214	254	248	230	240	206	198	200
4	206	274	272	254	300	262	265	252	247	240	267	264	273	266	218	266	252	225	229	207	200
5	196	241	281	296	265	304	270	271	249	254	247	272	263	277	268	226	277	259	224	227	206
6	220	238	256	312	310	279	320	279	275	277	270	249	285	271	284	280	235	267	252	229	224
7	221	234	237	264	309	318	276	323	293	291	286	273	248	289	273	291	283	238	264	254	235
8	230	229	231	249	266	305	310	267	305	304	295	274	274	261	288	277	294	285	236	262	243
9	241	236	253	274	294	289	346	354	292	337	311	316	299	291	281	306	315	304	298	280	276
10	227	245	215	289	294	275	280	317	321	279	310	289	304	276	270	272	293	278	280	294	246
11	195	232	244	240	265	244	235	249	285	279	249	283	259	279	258	256	249	276	263	282	248
12	211	194	216	264	219	240	234	228	239	282	280	259	293	263	286	264	273	254	289	287	271
ungraded	92	58	178	163	35	19	17	22	15	12	9	13	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Total	2,944	3,172	3,363	3,646	3,538	3,489	3,496	3,518	3,466	3,546	3,490	3,469	3,447	3,408	3,364	3,357	3,333	3,224	3,148	3,128	2,937

TABLE 2
Averill Park Central School District
Aggregate School Enrollment : 1994-1995 to 2013-2014

	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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
K-5	1,307	1506	1,533	1591	1546	1520	1478	1,479	1,441	1,485	1,480	1,513	1,476	1,461	1,424	1,411	1,391	1,322	1,266	1,236	1189
6 - 8	671	701	724	825	885	902	906	869	873	872	851	796	807	821	845	848	812	790	752	745	702
9 - 12	874	907	928	1067	1072	1048	1095	1,148	1,137	1,177	1,150	1,147	1,155	1,109	1,095	1,098	1,130	1,112	1,130	1,143	1041
Sub-total	2,852	3114	3,185	3483	3503	3470	3479	3,496	3,451	3,534	3,481	3,456	3,438	3,391	3,364	3,357	3,333	3,224	3,148	3,124	2932
Ungraded	92	58	178	163	35	19	17	22	15	12	9	13	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Total	2,944	3172	3,363	3646	3538	3489	3496	3,518	3,466	3,546	3,490	3,469	3,447	3,408	3,364	3,357	3,333	3,224	3,148	3,128	2937

TABLE 3
Averill Park Central School District

<u>Year of Birth</u>	School District Number of Births	Year to Enter Kindergarten	Number of Kindergarten Students	School District Survival Ratio
2002	153	2007	221	1.4444
2003	169	2008	229	1.3550
2004	171	2009	202	1.1813
2005	147	2010	185	1.2585
2006	187	2011	192	1.0267
2007	189	2012	220	1.1640
2008	176	2013	183	1.0398
2009	160	2014	161	1.0063
2010	181	2015	<i>192</i>	<i>1.0592</i>
2011	161	2016	<i>172</i>	<i>1.0673</i>
2012	151	2017	<i>158</i>	<i>1.0431</i>
2013	160	2018	<i>167</i>	<i>1.0440</i>
2014	160	2019	<i>169</i>	<i>1.0534</i>

Projections in italics

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

TABLE 4
Averill Park Central School District
Enrollment Projections : 2015-2016 to 2019-2020

Grade	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
K	161	192	172	158	167	169
1	187	164	196	176	161	171
2	235	191	168	200	180	164
3	200	238	193	170	202	182
4	200	202	240	195	172	204
5	206	200	202	241	195	172
6	224	205	199	201	240	194
7	235	226	207	201	203	242
8	243	235	226	207	201	203
9	276	263	254	245	224	217
10	246	256	244	236	228	208
11	248	230	239	228	221	213
12	271	255	236	245	234	227
Total	2,932	2,857	2,776	2,703	2,628	2,566

Aggregate Enrollment Projections : 2015-2016 to 2019-2020

Grade	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
K-5	1,189	1,187	1,171	1,140	1,077	1,062
6-8	702	666	632	609	644	639
9-12	1,041	1,004	973	954	907	865
Total	2,932	2,857	2,776	2,703	2,628	2,566

2014-15 Represents Actual Fall Enrollment