

**WHITEFISH BAY SCHOOLS
1200 East Fairmount Avenue
Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217**

**2009-10 School District Enrollment Report
and Projections for 2010-2011**

**Dr. James Rickabaugh
District Administrator
October 14, 2009**

Introduction

Resident enrollment in the Whitefish Bay School District was projected to increase by six students from the Third Friday of 2008 to the Third Friday of the 2009-2010 school year. Yet when school opened this fall, resident enrollment was up by 37 students and overall enrollment grew by 32 students. These numbers are important as school district revenue is closely tied to student enrollment. Gradual increases in school enrollment serve to support budget stability without driving widely fluctuating expenditures.

Several factors accounted for the enrollment increase. Kindergarten enrollment from four year-old kindergarten to five year-old kindergarten grew from 187 students a year ago to 207 this year. Similarly, five year-old kindergarten enrollment rose from 194 students last year to 202 first grade students this year. Similar growth was seen between fifth grade and sixth grade, with enrollment growing from 181 students to 195. Eighth to ninth grade enrollment rose from 190 students to 214.

This information and a variety of other data included throughout the report are intended to increase understanding of the trends and factors contributing to our current student enrollment experience. The information will also assist in planning for future enrollment and school district budget and staffing projections for the 2011-12 school year. As noted earlier, a major portion of school district revenues are determined by student enrollment. Consequently, this information is crucial to accurate planning and decision-making for next year.

Information presented in this report focuses primarily on enrollment of resident students since resident student enrollment is the basis for determining state aids and calculating the state imposed school district revenue cap, two crucial factors for determining resources available to support next year's budget. Other programs contributing to student enrollment such as the Chapter 220 Integration Program and the state Open Enrollment program, involve non-resident students. Enrollment in these programs is largely driven by school district decisions. Therefore, enrollment of nonresident students is less relevant to the enrollment analysis and projection processes even though they play an active role in budgeting and staffing decisions.

Summary of Third Friday School District Enrollment for the 2009-10 School Year

The official Third Friday Student Enrollment Count for the 2009-10 school year was taken on Friday, September 18. The total count shows 2,994 resident and nonresident students enrolled in the school district (see Figure 1). This total reflects a resident student enrollment of 2,677, representing an increase of 37 residents over the Third Friday Pupil Count in September 2008 when 2,640 resident students were enrolled. As noted earlier, total student enrollment increased by 32 students. A total of 2,962 resident and non-resident students were enrolled a year ago at the time of the Third Friday Pupil Count.

The Whitefish Bay School District receives \$11,453 in revenue for each resident student served by the school district. Early childhood and half day kindergarten students generate only about half of this amount since they are less than full day programs. Consequently, enrollment increases at the early childhood and kindergarten levels have less of an impact on the budget in the current year than students enrolled in full day programs. However, as these students progress through the grades their impact on school district revenue will be positive and significant. Also noteworthy is that in the first year of enrollment new students generate only one-third of total pupil revenue.

In year two of enrollment the school district receives two-thirds of full funding and in the third year we receive full revenue for each student. A similar adjustment occurs when student enrollment declines. Revenue associated with a decrease in enrollment is decreased incrementally, thus cushioning the revenue impact of declining enrollment.

Students Transferring in for the 2009-10 School Year

A total of 156 students transferred into the Whitefish Bay Schools with the start of the 2009-10 school year (see Figure 2). This amount compares to 181 new students a year ago, representing a decrease of 25 students transferring in. Consistent with historical patterns, new students entered the schools from a variety of locations. This year the largest source of new students was from private and parochial schools. Fifty-six students fell in this category. Forty-four students transferred in from other Wisconsin schools and 38 transferred from school districts outside of Wisconsin. An additional 16 students enrolled from schools out of the country or through a student exchange program and 2 students transferred in after being home schooled.

The total number of new resident students transferring in from other Wisconsin public schools, schools located out of the state and out of the country was down significantly from the 2008-09 totals. Ninety-three students enrolled in the Whitefish Bay Schools this fall as new residents. This total is 26 students fewer than the number of new resident enrollees in the fall of 2008. A variety of factors likely contributed to this change, including a slow-down in home sales within the community.

Fifty-six students transferred into the public schools from local private and parochial schools. This number is the highest in several years. In 2006-07, 26 students transferred in from private and parochial schools. In 2007-2008, the number was 42. A year ago, 49 students transferred in to public schools from local private and parochial schools. The largest number of students, 21, transferred in at ninth grade, consistent with historical patterns. This number is up from 11 students three years ago, 12 students two years ago and 14 students a year ago.

Five students enrolled through international exchange programs. This number represents a decrease of six students from a year ago.

Students Not Returning for the 2009-10 School Year

A total of 82 students who were in the official count on the Third Friday in September of 2008 did not return for the 2009-10 school year (see Figure 3). This number represents an eight student decrease in the number of students transferring out compared to a year ago when 88 students transferred to schools elsewhere. Of the 82 students transferring out, 52 students transferred to other Wisconsin or out of state schools. An additional eight students withdrew to attend schools out of the country. In total, two fewer students transferred out to other Wisconsin, out of state or out of country schools than experienced last year.

Nineteen students transferred from the Whitefish Bay Schools to local private and parochial schools. This number is down from 23 students transferring out a year ago. Consistent with historic patterns, 9 of the 19 students transferring out were in ninth grade. The transition from eighth to ninth grade is a point at which families often make choices regarding the schools in which their children will be enrolled. The total of 56 students transferring in from private and parochial students and 19 students not returning for the 2009-10 school year represents a net gain of 35 students in the 2009-10 student enrollment totals. This amount represents the largest net gain in recent years.

Resident Student Enrollment History

Within the enrollment totals are several significant shifts at some grade levels. Obviously, these shifts have implications for staffing and related planning over the next several years (see Figure 4). The most significant grade-to-grade increase between 2008-09 and 2009-10 occurred at first grade, an increase of 40 students, and at ninth grade, an increase of 32 students. The grade levels at which there were particularly significant year-to-year decreases, were third grade with a decrease of 28 students, and eleventh grade where a decrease of 26 students was experienced.

Overall, the year-to-year class size comparisons signal a positive trend. Eight grade levels this year experienced an increase in enrollment while six grade levels experienced a decline.

Enrollment Projections

The Whitefish Bay School District utilizes an outside projection service to develop enrollment projections for the coming year and subsequent years. The projections are generated using three alternate methods by applying varying weight to key enrollment factors.

The first enrollment method projection gives extra weight to enrollment patterns over the past five years to forecast future enrollment. This method is most accurate when communities are stable and large enrollment swings are not anticipated.

The second projection method applies mostly to enrollment experienced in the immediately preceding year. This approach is most accurate in communities undergoing significant change or where enrollment is fluctuating significantly from year-to-year.

The third approach uses a combination of the first two methods with a balance of weight given to historical and more recent experiences. This approach is most accurate when some enrollment shifts are occurring within the context of relatively stable patterns and typically generates projections that fall between the first and second methods.

The student enrollment count recorded on the Third Friday in September this year was provided to the outside projection service along with resident and students enrollment data from the preceding four years. Enrollment projections for the 2010-2011 school year using the three methods described above generated the following projections:

- ❑ Method 1 predicts an increase of 11 students from the current year.
- ❑ Method 2 predicts an increase of 55 students from the current year.
- ❑ Method 3 predicts an increase of 33 students from the current year.

In light of the crucial role enrollment projections play in budget development and staffing decisions, the school district has taken a conservative approach historically when projecting student enrollment. Obviously, a number of unpredictable and uncontrollable factors may impact enrollment in the coming year. The school district seeks to avoid a planning approach that would add expenses not supported by revenue or offset by reductions in programs and services.

Consequently, the administration recommends the enrollment projection used for constructing the 2010-2011 school district budget be Method 1 predicting an increase of 11 students. This projection might be adjusted upward or downward depending on additional enrollment information gained as a result of student registration and updated data later in the school year.

Figure 1
3rd Friday Figures
(Excel Document: 3rdFriSept08.xls)

Figure 2
Incoming New Students for the 2009-10 School Year

GRADE	Private/ Parochial	WI Schools	Out of State	Out of Country	AFS/ YFU	Home Schooled	Tuition	None or Unknown	TOTAL
K5	10	9	6	1		1			27
1	3	5	5	1					14
2	1	4	2						8
3	1	5	1						7
4	4	3	1						8
5	1	3	5	1					10
6	8	2	5			1			16
7	2			2					4
8	1	2	2						5
9	21	7	5	2					35
10	1	4	3	1					9
11	3		1	1					5
12			2	2	5				9
09-10 TOTAL	56	44	38	11	5	2	0	0	156
08-09 TOTAL	49	86	27	6	12	1	0	0	181
CHANGE	+7	-42	+11	+5	-7	+1	0	0	-25

Figure 3
Students Not Returning for the 2009-10 School Year

2008-09 GRADE	Private/ Parochial	WI Schools	Out of State	Out of Country	AFS/ YFU	Home Schooled	Tuition	None or Unknown	TOTAL
K5	3	2	1						6
1	1	3	3	1					8
2		1		1					2
3	1	3	1						5
4	1	3	1	3					8
5		1	1	1					3
6		1	4					1	6
7	2	5							7
8	2	1	3					1	7
9	9	1	3	2					15
10		2	4						6
11		1	3		1				5
12		3	1						4
09-10 TOTAL	19	27	25	8	1	0	0	2	82
08-09 TOTAL	23	35	22	5	2	1	0	0	88
CHANGE	-4	-8	+3	+3	-1	-1	0	+2	-6

Figure 4
Resident Student Enrollment History

Grade	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10 Change
K4	138	180	135	144	176	187	169	-18
K5	175	154	199	150	159	194	207	+3
1	176	182	147	187	161	162	202	+40
2	178	167	178	157	193	165	167	+2
3	171	176	175	182	159	194	166	-28
4	166	168	178	178	174	171	197	+20
5	187	165	174	185	173	181	172	-9
6	209	200	170	188	195	183	195	+12
7	195	211	201	171	187	199	183	-16
8	192	193	206	202	174	190	197	+7
9	204	215	206	224	191	182	214	+32
10	201	205	217	205	212	191	180	-11
11	205	202	209	221	199	213	187	-26
12	204	204	201	207	216	196	207	+11
TOTAL	2601	2622	2596	2601	2569	2608	2643*	+35

*Note: This total includes only resident students attending school in Whitefish Bay. Resident students participating in Chapter 220, Open Enrollment or on tuition waiver attending other schools are not included.

Figure 1

Students Attending WFB Schools

Gr. Level	Cumberland					Richards					Middle School					High School					Totals	Resident	Non R				
	TWIN					TWIN					TWIN					TWIN											
	Res.	220	NROE	1st	2nd	Non R	Res.	220	NROE	1st	2nd	Non R	Res.	220	NROE	1st	2nd	Non R	Res.	220				NROE	1st	2nd	Non R
JK(.6)	89	10	0			80	10																		189	169	20
SK (.5)	10					22																			32	32	0
SK (1.0)	95	10	2			80	9																		196	175	21
1	98	8	0			104	9																		219	202	17
2	84	10	1			83	9	3																	190	167	23
3	69	11	2			97	11	1																	191	166	25
4	101	5	4			96	6	3																	215	197	18
5	80	9				92	11	2																	194	172	22
6												195	10	4											209	195	14
7												183	17	12			2								214	183	31
8												197	9	7			1								214	197	17
9																		214	19	11					244	214	30
10																		180	17	9	1				207	180	27
11																		187	11	10	2				210	187	23
12																		207	17	12					236	207	29
	626	63	9	0	0	0	654	65	9	0	0	0	575	36	23	0	0	3	788	64	42	0	3	0	2960	2643	317
	698					728					637					897											
Teaching Staff	45.47 15.351					49.389 14.74					53.27 11.958					63.7 14.082											

Resident Student Attending Elsewhere

Gr. Level	Special Education - Out					Open Enrollment - Out					220 - Out					Tuition Waivers-Out					Totals	Grand Total	Resident Total				
	Res.	EC	IEPS			Res.					Res.220				Res.												
Pre-Sch. Sped			12																						12	12	12
JK (.6)																									0	189	169
SK (.5)																									0	32	32
SK (1.0)						3					1														4	200	179
1																									0	219	202
2						1									1										2	192	169
3																									0	191	166
4						1																			1	216	198
5																									0	194	172
6																									0	209	195
7	1					2																			3	217	186
8															1										1	215	198
9						1					1														2	246	216
10						2																			2	209	182
11						1																			1	211	188
12	1					5																			6	242	213
	2	0	12	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	34	2994	2677