

# LONG RANGE PLANNING STUDY *Update*

*A service of Western Suffolk BOCES  
Office of School Planning and Research*



*North Salem  
Central School District*

*December 2009*

# NORTH SALEM CSD

## Long Range Planning Study Update: Demographic and Enrollment Analysis

DECEMBER 2009

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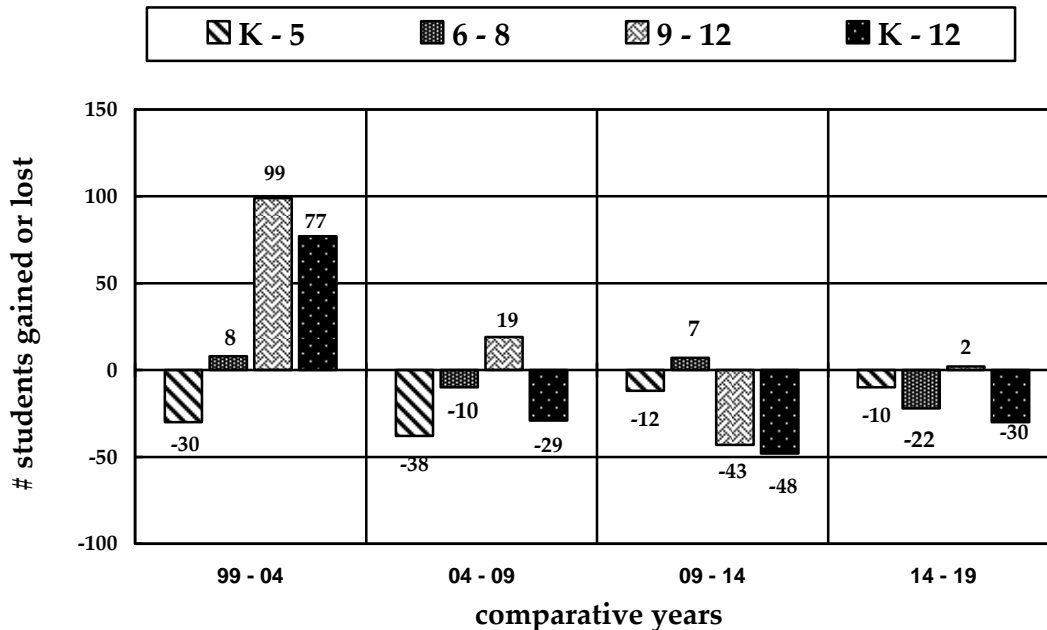
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## NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Enrollment Change: 1999 - 2019



The North Salem Central School District showed overall growth of 48 students, or almost 4 percent, between 1999 and 2009. The elementary grade configuration showed declines throughout the historical period, while the middle grade configuration showed increases during the first half of this period with declines following in the second half. The high school grade configuration, however, showed gains throughout the historical period, with smaller gains seen in the second half. Over the next five years, declines are projected to continue in the elementary grade configuration; declines will also be seen in the high school grade configuration during this time. Decreases are expected to continue at the elementary level during the second half of the projection period. The middle grade configuration will also see declines during this time. The district enrollment is expected to peak in 2010 with 1,320 students which is 11 students less than currently enrolled. Small declines are anticipated in most years thereafter through the remainder of the projection period.

# INTRODUCTION

At the request of the North Salem Central School District, Western Suffolk BOCES Office of Planning conducted this study that includes a review of past projections made by Western Suffolk BOCES and an assessment of demographic and historical enrollment trends to prepare new projections through the year 2019.

North Salem Central School District is committed to meeting the educational needs of its students in the future. The continued monitoring of enrollment trends will provide the district with the data to consider a variety of educational issues. The foundation for this study is in keeping with the promotion of the basic district mission and philosophy.

The Board of Education and the Superintendent's efforts to plan for the future through sound management practices is fostered by comprehensive, objective data, as contained in this Comprehensive Long Range Planning Study. This study serves to provide objective data that the District Board and administration can use in planning for the future. Planning is, however, a dynamic process. The data provided to the district through this study can be modified through periodic updates that allow for the incorporation of subtle changes in district trends. This study provides an update to the demographic and enrollment update study prepared for the district in April 2004.

Joan E. Townley, School Planning Coordinator, oversaw all aspects of the study. Shu-ling Liu, Research Technician, served as researcher and analyst. Janice Schwartz, Educational Planning Assistant, provided assistance with research and with general report compilation.

Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent of Schools, provided access to district records. Barbara Brigante, Director of Business Administration, provided direction on the study scope, compiled the necessary data for the study, and acted as district liaison to the study, thus enabling the study to accomplish its objectives.

Additionally, selected references and resources were used, as indicated below:

Economic Report of the Hudson Valley, Annual 2008; Marist College, June 2009

Educational Research Service, Arlington, Virginia

Local Real Estate Agents

National Center for Education Statistics; The Condition of Education 2009

New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal: Statewide Affordable Housing Needs Study - Mid-Hudson Regional Report; October 2008

New York State Education Department

New York State Health Department – Bureau of Vital Statistics

New York State Office of Real Property Services

Planning Boards for the Towns of: Carmel, North Salem, Somers & Southeast

USA Today

U.S. Dept of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-National Center for Health Statistics

[www.bankrate.com/finance](http://www.bankrate.com/finance)

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## **ENROLLMENT - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

*School enrollment increases occurs as a result of more children being born, younger families moving into a community, or children returning from non-public schools. The North Salem Central School District has experienced an overall rise in district K - 12 enrollment during the historical period 1999 through 2009. This enrollment growth is accounted for by increased birthrates, changing resident characteristics and housing factors.*

### **A. BIRTH DATA**

Finalized birth data from the *National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)* for 2006 indicates a three percent increase in recorded births between 2005 and 2006. This was the largest number of births (4,265,555) for all reporting groups since 1961 and the largest single year increase since 1989. In 1990, this statistic peaked, followed by a downward trend until 1997. Since that time, the total number of births has increased but has remained below the 1990 peak. Although the 2006 data suggests what is described as a “baby boomlet,” some demographers speculate that births in 2008 and 2009 may show a decline as a result of the slower economy. Some families choose to postpone having children during difficult economic times. Other demographic factors, such as race or age, can also affect birth rate.

The age of the mother also plays an important role in the analysis of population growth. The average age of first-time mothers, both in the U.S. and in developing nations, increased from 21.4 years to 25.0 years between 1970 and 2006. At the end of this reported period, Asian or Pacific Islander women had the oldest average age at first birth (28.5 years) and American Indian or Alaskan Native women had the youngest (21.9 years). This statistic is significant because it influences the number of births a woman might have in her life which, in turn, impacts the size, composition and future growth of the population. The *NCHS* has also reported that, in 2006, the U.S. fertility rate for women in all groups aged 15 to 44 years rose to 68.5 per thousand, an increase of three percent over 2005 and the highest since 1991. The only exceptions were the youngest mothers (under age 15) for whom the rate declined slightly and mothers aged 45 - 49, for whom the rate was unchanged. Further, the increase in birth rates for women aged 35 and older is due, in part, to the use of fertility drugs as well as women choosing to postpone childbirth until later in life.

Data reveals that the number of births increased one percent for non-Hispanic white and 5-6 percent for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women. In addition, births to Asian or Pacific Islander and American Indian or Alaska Native women increased four and six percent respectively. Among the specified Hispanic groups, births increased 4 - 6 percent for Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican women and nine percent for Central and South American women. It is important to note that, while this data reflects birth statistics for American-born women, fertility rates often rise among immigrant women who have left their homelands to live in the United States.

In addition, the *National Center for Health Statistics* reports that the birthrate for unmarried women increased seven per cent between 2005 and 2006. This rate has jumped 16 per cent since 2002, the most recent low. There were over 1.6 million births to unmarried women, accounting for 38.5 percent of all births. Also, the rapid rise in multiple birth rates over the last several decades may have ended. The 2006 twin birth rate remained essentially unchanged from 2005 and the “triplet plus” birth rate declined five percent from 2005-2006. This rate soared more than 400 percent between 1980 and 1998, but is down 21 percent since then.

Local data from the *New York State Department of Health* show a relatively stable trend in the number of births in Westchester County since 1990, with a peak of 13,333 births recorded in 1991. Following this peak, births fluctuated with a sharp rise of almost 6 percent noted in 2000. Subsequently, the number of births dropped and has been declining each year since then. The finalized data for 2007 indicate that births have fallen to an historical low. The number of births in Putnam County peaked in 1990, creating a larger cohort moving through the districts' grade configurations starting in 1995. The number of recorded births fluctuated over the next eight years, with year-to-year gains of up to 1 percent, and losses of up to 6 percent, affecting some kindergarten enrollments. Decreases have been seen in most years since 2004. The 2005 birth figure indicated an 11 percent decline when compared to the year before. The number of births has remained relatively stable since then.

## **B. POPULATION**

The population of the North Salem Central School District is 7,818 based on 2008 estimates. This represents an increase of 12 people when compared to 2007 estimates. Revised U.S. Census estimates suggest that Westchester and Putnam Counties' combined population grew by 33,983 people, or 3.3 percent, between 2000 and 2008. In comparison, the population of New York State grew only by 2.3 percent, while the United States saw growth of 6.8 percent during this same time period. Over the last year, the number of people living in the United States, and more specifically, New York State, remained stable, with growth of less than 1 percent noted between 2007 and 2008. Westchester County's population grew by 30,484 people, or 3.3 percent, between 2000 and 2008 while Putnam County's population grew by 3,499 people, or nearly 4 percent, between 2000 and 2008.

Children 18 and under accounted for 23 and 24 percent of the population, respectively, in New York and the United States in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Children under the age of five represented 6 percent of New York residents and nearly 7 percent of United States citizens last year, while 20 percent of the nation's population was made up of school-aged children aged 5 - 19. Similarly, New York's school-aged population totaled 19.5 percent of all residents. Almost half of the nation's population was between the ages of 20 and 54, and approximately 24 percent of the population was aged 55 and over in 2008. New York's resident population is reflective of the national distribution, with a reported fifty percent of adults falling between the ages of 20 - 54 and 25 percent of all people aged 55 years or older.

Westchester and Putnam Counties' population continues to experience changes in the age distribution of its residents, as well. Westchester County saw a decline in the number of children under age 5 between 2000 and 2008, while the school-aged population remained relatively stable. The percentage of adults aged 20 - 54, declined over the last eight years, while the population aged 55 and over grew by 3 percent during this time. Putnam County saw a decline in the number of children under age 5 between 2000 and 2008, while the school-aged population remained relatively stable. The percentage of adults aged 20 - 54, declined over the last eight years, while the population aged 55 and over grew by 6 percent during this time. In 2008, the median age in Westchester County was 40, while the median age in Putnam County was 41 years. Both counties' median age is greater than in New York State (38 years) and the nation (36.8 years).

While age correlates with birth rate, other demographic factors, such as race, affect the population, as well. According to the Census Bureau, minorities, who now account for about one-third of the total U.S. population, will become the majority by 2042, and reach 54 percent by 2050. While the White population is projected to comprise about 46 percent of the total population in 2050, the Hispanic population is expected to double from 15 percent of the population to 30 percent between 2008 and 2050. The Asian ethnic group is expected to show growth of more than 4 percent during this time (from 5.1 to 9.2 percent) as the Black population is projected to grow slightly from 14 to 15 percent of the population over the next 40 years.

Over time, Westchester and Putnam Counties have become more racially and ethnically diverse, reflecting national trends. Nationally, since 2000, the White population has declined from 71.3 percent to approximately 68.3 percent of the total resident population, while the Hispanic population has grown by 3 percent since the last Census. The Asian ethnic group has also grown from 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent of the population between 2000 and 2007. The Black population declined slightly during this same time.

In 2000, the US population was 281 million people, of which 11 percent were foreign-born. As of the last Census, 20 percent of New York's residents were foreign-born. These residents account for a large portion of U.S. births. While native-born Americans average 13 births per thousand people, immigrants average roughly 28 births per thousand. Immigration is the second largest contributor to U.S. population growth, preceded only by the immigrants' U.S. born children. Together, immigrants and their U.S. born children account for the majority of U.S. population growth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of foreign-born residents accounted for 24.1 percent of the Westchester County population in 2007, the latest year available, an increase of nearly 2 percent since 2000. In Putnam County, 10.8 percent of the population in 2007 were foreign-born, also indicating a two percent increase since 2000.

### **C. HOUSING**

A tight credit market, a staggering number of foreclosures, increasing unemployment and declining consumer confidence created a "perfect storm" for the nation's housing market. Housing prices are down 30 percent from their 2006 peak, household incomes are shrinking, employers are still cutting jobs and consumer confidence remains weak. This year, 40 - 45 percent of sales have been foreclosures or short sales; historically, that figure has been around five percent.

Although the nationwide housing market shows signs of stabilizing, there are still indicators that it is fragile and related troubles are far from over. There are concerns that any positive signs might be temporary, with a large number of foreclosures looming in the future. While no further steep decreases in housing prices are anticipated, some further declines can be expected as prices remain high when compared to income and rent. This will be compounded by continued falling consumer confidence. In addition, there is concern that the boost the housing industry experienced from the "first-time buyer credit" market is temporary and the market will experience declines again when this tax-credit expires.

Conditions in the housing market are indicative of the state of the economy as a whole. Homes are durable goods, meaning that new home construction and sales are often highly correlated with economic cycles; people tend to buy new homes only when they are confident that they will have enough income to pay for them, so economic downturns can depress the housing market

considerably. Housing developers faced excessively low interest rates during the late 1990's and early 2000's. They used this to promote homeownership as a possibility for all. Housing was offered at temporary, artificially low interest rates to unsuspecting buyers. When rates began to rise back to normal levels, many homeowners could no longer afford the higher mortgage payments. The result was the bursting of the "housing bubble." Builders were left with large inventories and a decreasing demand for housing, while mortgage lenders had customers who could not afford the new, higher rates. While overall housing prices may be recovering, the high end of the housing market may take longer to recover. Homes costing more than \$430,000 are not increasing in value as quickly as lower priced homes, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller Index of Home Prices.

Since 9/11, there have been increasing numbers of people moving from the densely populated New York metropolitan area and its adjacent suburbs to the Hudson Valley. Wanting to escape the crowding and high cost of living associated with living in New York City, many people have relocated to the Hudson Valley area to live while they commute to the city for work. An influx of higher-income residents from New York City has been cited as a contributing factor to skyrocketing home prices and rents in the mid-Hudson region in recent years. In the 2006-2007 period, net migration from New York City into the Hudson Valley Region was a positive 4,411 households. On average, households that migrate from New York City to the Hudson Valley have adjusted gross income in the year of the move that is above the average adjusted gross income of non-migrants.

Because wages earned outside resident counties are often higher, many residents commute to jobs in New York City. In Ulster and Orange Counties, over 30 percent of residents commute to jobs outside their resident county and over 70 percent of Putnam County residents are commuters. Migration within the Hudson Valley displayed a near perfect correlation with median housing values: migration flowed from high median housing areas to areas with lower median housing values. The counties that received the largest regional inflows were Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange.

In 2008, the number of existing homes sold fell almost 23 percent when compared to 2007 and more than 29 percent when compared to 2006. A loss of 40 percent was noted since the peak in 2004. The average housing price in 2008 decreased in the region by more than eight percent when compared to 2007; the median price fell almost 6 ½ percent. Construction spending on single family homes declined almost 53 percent. Each county in the region reported declines in home sales. Between 2007 and 2008: home sales declined by almost 33 percent in Westchester County, while in Putnam County, home sales declined by almost 27 percent.

In 2008, the median selling price of an existing home in the Hudson Valley was \$318,540. This was a decline of 6.44 percent when compared to 2007. During the same time period, the median selling price of an existing home in New York State declined 9.65 percent; nationally it declined 9.54 percent. Home prices in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester exceeded both the state and national averages of \$318,009 and \$197,600 respectively. The only counties in the region with median selling prices below the state and national medians were Greene and Sullivan. Since 2000, however, the average selling price of a single-family home in the Hudson Valley increased 75 percent; the median selling price increased 115 percent. Westchester County's median home sale price fell to \$650,000 in 2008, which is approximately 4.4 percent below the 2007 median price. However, the median home price in Westchester County remained the highest in New York State. In Putnam County, the median sales price in 2008 was \$390,000, a 2.5 percent decrease when compared to 2007.

The number of construction permits issued in the Hudson Valley fell by 29 percent from 2007 to 2008. Six counties in New York State (Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Ulster, Westchester) saw the lowest number of housing permits for single-family homes issued in 2008, when reviewing the past ten years.

There is a pressing need for affordable, workforce housing in the Hudson Valley. However, a “Not in My Backyard” (NIMBY) attitude persists and is considered a major obstacle to the development of this type of housing. With existing affordable rental units deteriorating, there is an insufficient number of this type of housing. The lack of affordable sites and large lot zoning are also seen as impediments. The Hudson Valley area consists mainly of rural and suburban communities, with some urban settings, with mostly owner occupied units.

As shown in Table 1, approximately 61 - 127 homes were sold in the district each year between 2000 and 2008; the highest turnover occurring in 2005 and the fewest number of homes sold in 2008. This lowered level of sales activity is being seen throughout the region, New York State, and the country. The median home price for the North Salem School District in 2008 was \$615,000; this represents a 19 percent decrease when compared to the median price in 2007. However, despite the decline, between 2000 and 2008, the median home price has increased by approximately 61 percent.

**TABLE 1 - HOME SALES IN NORTH SALEM CSD 2000 - 2008**

YEAR	# OF SALES	MEDIAN PRICE
2000	110	\$382,500
2001	92	\$452,450
2002	102	\$483,250
2003	102	\$546,750
2004	110	\$585,000
2005	127	\$699,000
2006	77	\$724,000
2007	75	\$686,000
2008	61	\$615,000

Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services

The Towns of Carmel, Southeast, Somers and North Salem Planning Departments were contacted regarding the status of previously reported projects, as well as any new developments before the Planning Boards. Based on the information provided by the Planning and Building Departments, it appears that new construction has been curtailed in the area, as in most areas of the country.

Table 2 indicates the current status of new housing within the North Salem Central School District’s boundaries. Any subdivisions that had been withdrawn or completed as of the previous report have been deleted from the table. The Town of Carmel stated that 94 units are under consideration, most having received some level of approval. The Town of Somers reported that no projects were under consideration. The Town of Southeast has 130 units under consideration; nine additional units in two developments have either been withdrawn or abandoned. One large subdivision, *The Meadows at Deans Corner*, has approved status. The Town of North Salem conveyed that the *Highgate Woodlands* project with 49 single-family homes and 72 adult (over 55) condos is inactive, with an incomplete DEIS. However the *Salem Hunt* project on Peach Lake Road, with 65 two-bedroom condos, is awaiting a completeness check following SEQRA findings being issued. This project could yield between 7 - 21 students, according to Town sources.

**TABLE 2 – APPROVED AND PROPOSED HOUSING IN THE NORTH SALEM CSD**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number and Type of Dwellings</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b><i>Town of Carmel</i></b>			
<b>TLTK Management</b>	Split Rock Road	3 lots	Final Approval
<b>Aquilino</b>	Varna Lane	2 lots	Final Approval
<b>Wixon Pond Estates</b>	Wixon Pond Road	5 lots	Proposal
<b>McDonald &amp; Leiner</b>	Lockwood Lane	9 lots	Final Approval
<b>Charry</b>	Washington Road	2 lots	Final Approval
<b>Lexington Development</b>	Wixon Pond Road	4 lots	Proposal
Yankee Estates	McLaughlin	25 lots	Proposal
Somers Hills	Shindagen	7 lots	Final Approval
<b>Dudyshyn</b>	Stocum Road	2 lots	Preliminary Approval and Final
<b>Dominger &amp; Lockwood</b>	Glenna Drive	3 lots	Proposal
<b>Dewn Holding</b>	Mexico Lane	5 lots	Pending Approval
<b>Blue Chips Homes</b>	Hilltop Drive	5 lots	Final Approval
<b>Tanager Farms</b>	North Ridge/Overhill	2 lots	Final Approval
<b>Hosch &amp; Torres</b>	490 Long Pond Road	3 lots	Proposal
<b>Lupi Development</b>	Seminary Hill Road	3 lots	Final Approval
<b>Yankee Development</b>	Pigott Road	14 lots	Proposal
<b><i>Town of Southeast</i></b>			
West Branch*	Route 22 (South)	7 lots	Withdrawn
High Ridge*	Dingle Ridge Road	4 lots	4 Built
Islandia Farm*	Hickory Ridge Road	2 lots	Built
Torre/Martabano Sub*	Starr Ridge Road	2 lots	Abandoned
Lakeview Estates	Daisy Lane	12 lots	No Status Available
Triple T Sub	Starr Ridge Road	4 lots	Under Review
Meadows at Deans Corner*	Route 124	104 lots	Approved
Hewitt Sub	Joe's Hill Road	2 lots	1 Existing, Under Review
Hauser Sub	Starr Lea Road	2 lots	1 Existing, Approved
<b><i>Town of Somers</i></b>			
No Projects Reported			
<b><i>Town of North Salem</i></b>			
<b>Ajamian</b>	Dingle Ridge Road	3 lots	Approved – One House to be Built
Hawley Woods*	Hawley & Post Roads	7 lots	Incomplete Application
Highgate Woodlands*	Reed Road	49 - single family homes & 72 - 55+ condos	Incomplete DEIS - Inactive
Piedmont II	Bloomer Road & Peach Lake Road	3 lots	Approved
Salem Hills*	Oak Ridge Road	7 lots	Awaiting new submission with private roads. No recent activity.
<b>Salem Hunt Balter</b>	Peach Lake Road	65 2-BR condos (13 of 65 MIH units)	SEQRA findings issued; awaiting completeness check on subdivision

\* - indicates change since last report

**BOLD** – indicates new proposal since last report

#### **D. NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

An additional factor that has the potential to impact public school enrollment is the attendance of resident students in non-public schools. According to a report published by the *National Center for Education Statistics*, between 1995 and 2001, national nonpublic school enrollment in kindergarten through grade 12 grew from 5.9 million to 6.3 million students. However, by 2007, enrollment had declined again to 5.9 million students, constituting about 11 percent of all elementary and secondary school students.

The percentage of children enrolled in private schools also differs by region. In 2007, the percentage of students in nonpublic schools was higher in the Northeast (15 percent) than in the Midwest (11 percent), the South (10 percent), and the West (9 percent). Westchester County ranked 10th out of the 62 counties in the state with 15.0 percent of all students attending non-public schools in 2007, the last year for which county ranking is available. Putnam County ranked 36<sup>th</sup> out of the 62 counties in the state with 4.8 percent of all students attending non-public schools in 2007, the last year for which county ranking is available. This compares to the New York State estimated figure of approximately 14.4 percent in 2007. The North Salem School District reported that currently 91 students, or 6.4 percent, of the total student population attend non-public schools.

Private schools are struggling with declining enrollments that are not necessarily related to the quality of the school program, but to demographic and economic factors prompting consolidation and/or school closings. Many private school officials credit financial concerns as the main reason for the declines. Also, the variety of religions represented by new immigrants to the area have prompted more diverse school settings and is having an impact on some districts' enrollment. Some private schools, however, have initiated new and innovative programs to help counter this trend.

The district's non-public school enrollment has decreased over the last five years. A survey of local non-public schools revealed that most schools are experiencing decreasing enrollment. Those noting enrollment changes stated concern over the economy, special need services, increasing costs, and rising tuition charges.

## **E. ENROLLMENT PROJECTION METHODOLOGY**

This study, like the previous *Western Suffolk BOCES* study update completed in *April 2004* utilizes Fall enrollment data provided by the North Salem Central School District. The methodology employed in preparation of projections requires the use of statistics, and number rounding of fractions to the next highest whole number (e.g., 31 could equal 31.33 or 30.82). Therefore, individual numbers may not always add up to the presented total.

The Cohort Survival Technique was used to project the district's enrollment patterns for the next ten years. *Three basic inputs were necessary:*

1. Actual enrollment by grade for 1999 - 2009 for the district [*Appendix A-1*] and each school [*Appendix A-7, A-9*]
2. Grade-to-grade retention (migration) ratios for each two-grade transition to grades 1 – 12 for the past five – eight years for the district [*Appendix A-1*] and each school [*Appendix A-7, A-9*]
3. Projected Kindergarten entering cohorts based on the number of live births in the combined counties of Westchester and Putnam five years before each year projected [*Appendix A-3*].

The Cohort Survival Model takes into consideration the normal community processes that affect school enrollment, which include:

1. The number of births and fertility rates
2. Normal in and out migration
3. Transfers to and from non-public schools
4. Population variations
5. Resident family characteristics

The enrollment projections contained within this report are based on assumptions generated through the demographic analysis. *This analysis led to the following assumptions:*

1. Population will continue to be stable as the turnover of existing homes and new residential development bring fewer younger families into the community. The turnover of about 60 - 125 homes each year is anticipated.
2. The level of births and future kindergarten is anticipated to be maintained at its current level relative to housing turnover and new housing development.
3. Non-public school enrollment will remain within a range of approximately 6 - 8 percent of North Salem Central School District's resident children attending non-public schools each year.

The Cohort Survival Model is very accurate in forecasting future enrollment patterns, but the occurrence of certain conditions would warrant modifications in these projections. *These conditions include:*

- A level of new housing activity which is significantly higher or lower than that experienced by the district during the past three years.
- A significant change in the level of housing turnover from activity during the past three years.
- Expansion, consolidation, or the establishment of new non-public schools.
- Economic conditions that affect employment, finance, and housing in a manner dissimilar to the past three - five years.
- Major sociological changes that evidence in changed values or attitudes affecting anticipated family size and birthrate.
- Household characteristics that significantly differ from the past three - five years, including number of persons per household and age of household occupants.

It is important for the reader to understand the nature of enrollment projections. Regardless of the methodology employed to produce projections, *all outcomes fall into three categories of reliability:*

**Category 1** - those projections based on students already enrolled in the system are the most reliable projections.

**Category 2** - those projections based on documented births are slightly less reliable than those of Category 1.

**Category 3** - those projections based on estimates of future births are the least reliable.

Therefore, the most reliable projections are those calculated for the periods closest in time. Projections for periods further out in time are less reliable, particularly those beyond five years from the year of the study. The five-year period (2010- 2014) projections are those best used in district planning and decision-making. That is because this first period consists mainly of Category 1 projections.

It is noted that the overall enrollment projections produced by Western Suffolk BOCES generally fall within a 4 percent margin of error. The greatest discrepancies in projections occur in the smallest subsets of those projections. For example, the projections for the district as a whole are likely to be the most accurate, and the projections of a building's particular grade level in a specific year are likely to be the least accurate.

It is advised that updates to projections be continued on a periodic basis to maintain modifications warranted by subtle shifts in migration trends and demographic factors.

## F. DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

*The North Salem Central School District educates students within grades K - 12 in two district schools, including one elementary school that houses grades K - 5, and a combined middle/high school that houses grades 6 - 12.*

**K - 12 enrollment** [Appendix A-1 A-4, B-1] consisted of 1,283 students in 1999. Enrollment rose over the next two years to the historical peak of 1,414 students in 2001. Subsequent declines in seven of the next eight years resulted in the current enrollment of 1,331 students. Despite the losses, a gain of 48 students, or almost four percent growth, was seen when compared to the 1999 figure. The peak enrollment is expected in 2010, with 1,320 students attending North Salem Schools. It should be noted that this is eleven students fewer than are currently enrolled. The number of students is expected to decrease over the next ten years to 1,253 students. This represents an overall decline of 78 students, or almost six percent, when compared to the current enrollment.

*The projected enrollment can be attributed to several factors:*

- **First**, the kindergarten has ranged between 87 - 117 students over the past ten years. The kindergarten is projected to range between 90 - 93 students during the next ten years. In general, the kindergarten enrollment is projected to remain stable throughout the projection period, reflective of fewer births in both Westchester and Putnam Counties and in the Towns of Carmel, North Salem, Somers and Southeast [Appendix A-3].
- **Second**, the kindergarten class was larger than the twelfth grade of the previous year in the first four years of the historical period. The displacement added 6 - 47 students to the overall enrollment during that time. However, since 2004, there has been a negative displacement with smaller kindergarten classes replacing larger exiting twelfth grade classes. This trend is expected to continue in all but one year of the projection period. This negative displacement is projected to account for losses of 3 - 31 students during the next ten years [Appendix A-6].
- **Third**, the district displays the average tendency to gain or maintain students in transition to all grades, except ninth grade. The gains in transition offset some of the displacement between entering and exiting grades [Appendix A-1].

- *Fourth*, increases occurred in the average grade level size of grades 9 - 12 during 2004 - 2009 as compared to 1999 - 2004. These gains are anticipated only in grade 12 during 2009 - 2014. Class sizes are expected to show growth only at the eighth grade level between 2014 - 2019. The smaller average grade levels reflect the smaller cohorts moving through the system [Appendix A-6].

Table 3 presents the current and projected enrollment through 2019 for the district and each grade configuration. It is shown that the elementary grades (K - 5) are projected to peak in 2011, the middle grades (6 - 8) are projected to peak in 2014, and the secondary grades (9 - 12) are expected to peak in 2012. The combined middle and secondary grades (6 - 12) are expected to peak in 2010. The overall K - 12 district enrollment is projected to peak in 2010 at 1,320 students. It should be noted that the secondary (6 - 12), high school (9 - 12) and the district projected peak enrollments are all lower than the current enrollments.

**TABLE 3 - NORTH SALEM CSD PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**

	K - 5 Pequenakonck ES	6 - 8	9 - 12	6 - 12 North Salem MS/HS	K - 12
<b>Current</b> 2009	583	309	439	748	1,331
2010	592	306	422	728*	1,320*
2011	593*	294	418	712	1,305
2012	582	295	428*	723	1,305
2013	573	313	393	706	1,279
2014	571	316*	396	712	1,283
2015	570	305	396	701	1,271
2016	568	296	397	693	1,261
2017	566	294	406	700	1,266
2018	564	294	407	701	1,265
2019	561	294	398	692	1,253

Note: It is noted that the sum of the numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding  
 \* = denotes peak enrollment during 2010 - 2019

## G. ENROLLMENT OF GRADE CONFIGURATIONS

### ELEMENTARY GRADES (K - 5) ENROLLMENT

[Appendix A-2, A-5, B-2]

The elementary enrollment of grades K - 5, housed at the **Pequenakonck Elementary School** [Appendix A-7, A-8], consisted of 651 students in 1999. The number of students rose the next year to the historical peak of 691 students. Fluctuation through the remainder of the historical period resulted in the current 2009 enrollment of 583 students. This represents a 68 student decrease, or 10 percent loss, over the 1999 enrollment. The elementary enrollment is projected to continue to increase over the next two years, reaching a peak of 593 students in 2011. Subsequently, enrollment is expected to remain relatively stable, with a range of 561 - 582 students during the remaining years of the projection period.

The historical elementary decreases and projected continued enrollment declines are contributed to by smaller kindergarten classes tempered by some growth through the in-migration to most grades.

The entering kindergarten was smaller than the exiting fifth grade classes in seven years of the historical period. This trend is expected to continue in nine years of the projection period. These factors create the initial enrollment growth and subsequent stabilization over the next decade.

Table 4 below presents the current and projected elementary enrollment through 2019, as well as room needs for the Pequenakonck Elementary School. There are currently 4 - 5 sections each for K - 5 grade level. The average class size ranges from 18.4 students (kindergarten) to 22.3 students (grade 5), with an overall school average of 20.2 students per section. Projections suggest that there will be 27 – 29 instructional sections throughout the projection period in order to maintain the maximum class size guideline of 20 students in kindergarten, first and second grades, and a maximum of 25 students per class in grades three, four and five.

**TABLE 4 - PROJECTED ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL ROOM NEEDS**

		Enrollment	Room Need Optimal Maximum K - 2 = 20, gr. 3 - 5 = 25
<b>Current</b>	2009	583	29
<b>Projected</b>	2010	592	29
	2011	593*	29
	2012	582	28
	2013	573	27
	2014	571	27
	2015	570	27
	2016	568	27
	2017	566	27
	2018	564	27
	2019	561	27

Note: It is noted that the sum of the numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding

\*= denotes peak enrollment during 2010 - 2014

## MIDDLE/SECONDARY GRADES (6 - 12) ENROLLMENT

[Appendix A-2, A-5,A-11, B-3]

The middle and secondary grades are housed in the **North Salem Middle/ High School** [Appendix A-9 – A-10]. There were 632 students enrolled in grades 6 - 12 in 1999. Enrollment grew in five of the next seven years to rise to the historical peak of 780 students in 2006. Declines were seen in the two subsequent years, followed by a gain this year to bring the current enrollment to 748 students in 2009. This represents an overall gain of 116 students, or 18 percent, over the last ten years.

The middle and secondary grades enrollment shows the average trend to gain or maintain students as they progress to all grades, except ninth grade. The incoming sixth grade had been larger than the outgoing twelfth grade of the previous year in seven of the ten years of the historical period. This trend is anticipated to continue in only four of the ten years of the projection period. In addition, the entering sixth grade is anticipated to range between 89 - 108 students during the next ten years. Only two years will have incoming sixth grades larger than 100 students. The historical period had seen sixth grade classes of 100 or more students in most years. These factors will

contribute to the projected enrollment decreases throughout the projection period. The number of students is expected to peak at 728 students next year, in 2010. It should be noted that this is twenty fewer students than are currently enrolled.

Table 5 below presents the projected middle/secondary enrollment through 2019, as well as room needs for the North Salem Middle/High School. Projections suggest that a total of 26 - 27 rooms will be necessary for core instruction in science, English, math, social studies, language, health, computer, and special education, while maintaining an average maximum class size of 28 students per 6 - 12th grade class.

**TABLE 5 - PROJECTED NORTH SALEM MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL ROOM NEEDS**

		Enrollment	Room Need Optimal Maximum Grades 6 - 12 = 28
<b>Current</b>	<b>2009</b>	748	28
	<b>2010</b>	<b>728*</b>	27
	<b>2011</b>	712	26
	<b>2012</b>	723	27
	<b>2013</b>	706	27
	<b>2014</b>	712	27
	<b>2015</b>	701	26
	<b>2016</b>	693	26
	<b>2017</b>	700	26
	<b>2018</b>	701	26
	<b>2019</b>	692	26

Note: It is noted that the sum of the numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding  
 \* = denotes peak enrollment during 2010 - 2019