

LONG RANGE PLANNING STUDY

REMSENBURG- SPEONK

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

*A Service of
Western Suffolk BOCES
Division of Instructional
Support Services
Office of School Planning
& Research*

Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District

Long Range Planning Study Update Demographic and Enrollment Analysis 2017-18

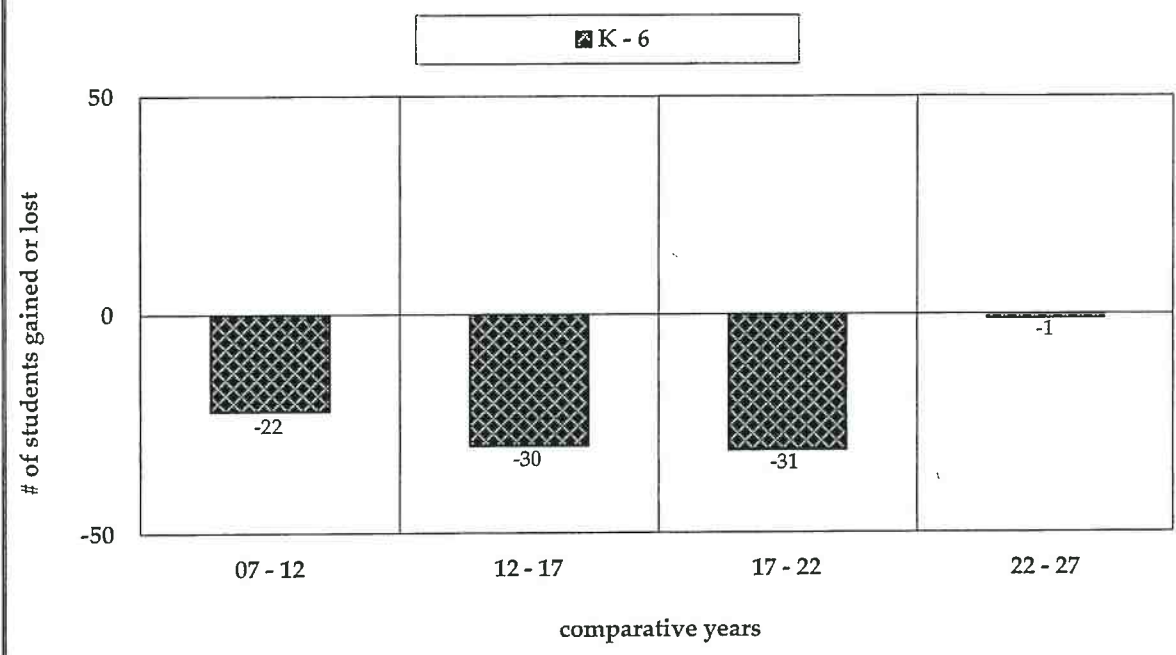
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Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District Enrollment Change 2007 - 2027



The Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District experienced an enrollment decrease of 52 students during the ten year historical period. Enrollment is projected to continue to decrease during the next five years, followed by stability in the latter half of the projection period. The projected 2027 enrollment of 110 students represents a loss of 32 students, when compared to the current enrollment.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District, the *Western Suffolk BOCES Office of School Planning and Research* conducted this study to assess recent demographic factors and enrollment trends in order to prepare projections through the year 2027.

The Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District is committed to meeting the educational needs of its students. The continued monitoring of enrollment trends will give the district the data on which 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, such as contained within this *Long Range Planning Study Update*. This study serves to provide objective data that the Board of Education and administration can use in planning for the future. Planning is, however, a dynamic process that needs to reflect change. Periodic updates would allow the incorporation of subtle changes in district trends. This study provides an update to the demographic and enrollment study update prepared for the district during the 2015-16 school year.

Barbara Graziano, School Planning Manager, oversaw all aspects of the study and served as principal researcher. Shu-ling Liu, Research Analyst, served as analyst and forecaster. Irene Bradley, Program Specialist, prepared the report. Denise Facilla, Educational Planning Assistant, provided research assistance and prepared the report for printing.

Dr. Ronald M. Masera, Superintendent of Schools, provided access to district records. Deborah Martel, District Clerk and Jaime Reed, Treasurer/Purchasing Agent, provided direction on the study scope, compiled the necessary data, and acted as district liaisons, thus enabling the study to accomplish its objectives.

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

Brookings Institution
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Center for Housing Policy
Center for Immigration Studies
Center for Public Education
Current Population Survey
Education Week
Forbes Magazine
Freddie Mac
Long Island Index
Multiple Listing Service of Long Island
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association of Realtors
National Catholic Education Association
National Center for Education Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics
Newsday
New York State Office of Religious and Independent Schools
New York State Education Department
New York State Office of the Aging
New York State Office of Real Property Services
New York Times
News Migration Policy Institute
Pew Research Center
The Empire Center
The State of the Nation's Housing 2017, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University
The Wall Street Journal
Town of Southampton Department of Planning
US News & World Report
United States Customs and Border Protection
United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Education
Village of West Hampton Dunes Village Clerk

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ENROLLMENT: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

School enrollment decreases occur as a result of fewer children being born, fewer families moving into a community, and/or more children attending non-public or charter schools. The Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District is expected to experience a decrease in district K - 6 enrollment during the projection period 2018 - 2027.

A. BIRTHS

Provisional data from the *National Center for Health Statistics* indicates that there were 3,941,109 recorded births in 2016, reflecting a decrease of one percent when compared to 2015. The provisional general fertility rate also decreased in 2016 to 62.0 births per one thousand women between the ages of 15 and 44. This is the lowest fertility rate on record and compares to 62.5 births in 2015 and 62.9 births in 2014. The peak fertility rate of 122.7 births occurred in 1957, during the Baby Boom years.

Declining births have been attributed to several factors, including lower starting salaries, significant student loan debt, the challenges young adults face with high rent costs and with saving money for the down payment required to purchase a home. These factors have resulted in many young people continuing to live with their parents and subsequently, have led to many millennials delaying marriage and childbearing. This is reflected in the average age of first birth, which has increased from 24.9 years in 2000 to 26.4 years in 2015 (latest available data), a record high for the country.

In 2016, record low birth rates were seen in all age groups under the age of 30. Women between the ages of 15 - 19 experienced the most significant birth rate decline (9 percent), when compared to the prior year. The birth rate for women in their early twenties (20 - 24) decreased 4 percent, while the birth rate for women in their late twenties (25 - 29) decreased 2 percent. However, the birth rates for women age 30 and over increased to the highest levels since the 1960's. The birth rate for women aged 30 - 34 increased by one percent between 2015 and 2016, while the birth rates for women aged 35 - 39 and 40 - 44 increased two and four percent, respectively. Women aged 45 - 49 also had their highest birth rates since 1963, with 0.9 births per 1,000 women. This has been attributed to women delaying childbearing for various reasons.

Another factor affecting birth rates are changes in fertility patterns among minority groups. Between 2000 and 2015, fertility rates have fallen for all racial/ethnic groups; however, the greatest declines have been noted in the Hispanic segment. According to *Forbes Magazine*, in 2007, Hispanic fertility rates were 46 percent higher than non-Hispanic fertility rates; by 2015, they were only 19 percent higher. In 2015 (latest available data), fertility rates for Hispanic women were 72 births per 1,000 women, followed by blacks (64 births), whites (63 births), Asian/Pacific Islander women (59 births) and American Indian/Alaska Native women (44 births). The latest available data (2014) has shown that among Hispanic women, Central/South American women had the highest fertility rates, with 95 births per thousand women, compared to Mexican, Puerto Rican and Cuban women, with 67, 58 and 52 births, respectively.

The non-marital birth rate for women between the ages of 15 - 44 declined for the eighth consecutive year in 2016, to 42.1 births per 1,000 women. Amongst racial and ethnic groups, black women have the greatest percentage of unwed births (69.7 percent), while the lowest percentage of unwed births (12.0 percent) are accounted for by Asian women.

Mirroring the national trend, the number of births in New York State decreased in 2016 when compared to the previous year. Provisional numbers indicate that there were 233,372 births recorded in 2016, reflecting a decrease of 1.1 percent when compared to 2015. However, this represents a decrease of 7.6 percent when compared to the number of births in 2007 (252,662 births) and a decrease of 11.5 percent when compared to births in 1996 (263,611 births).

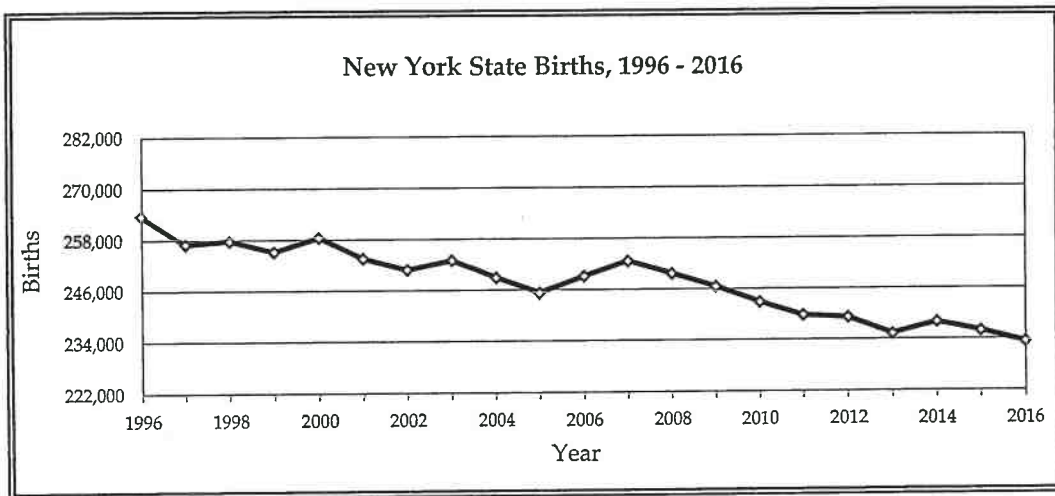


Figure 1 - New York State Births, 1996 - 2016
 Note: 2016 data are preliminary

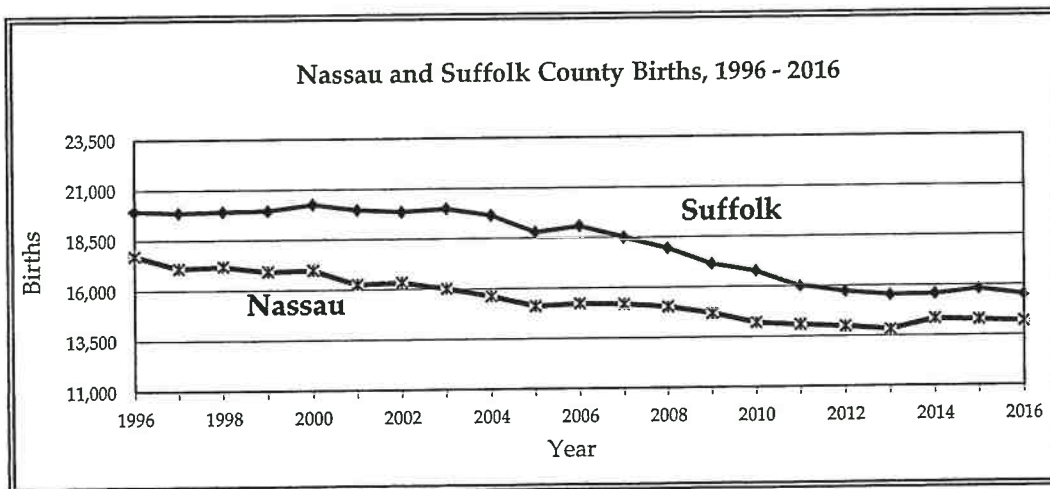


Figure 2 - Nassau & Suffolk County Births, 1996 - 2016
 Note: 2016 data are provisional

Figure 2 shows that births in Nassau County decreased by approximately 15 percent between 1996 and 2005, followed by stability between 2005 and 2007. However, since 2007, births have further decreased by 6.5 percent, with 14,197 births (estimated based on provisional number) recorded in 2016. Births in Suffolk County remained stable between 1996 and 2003, but then decreased significantly (22.4 percent) between 2003 and 2016, with 15,514 births (estimated based on provisional number) recorded in 2016.

Births within the Remsenburg-Speonk School District have dropped to a lower level than those seen earlier in the historical period. There were more than 20 births recorded in four of five years between 2002 and 2006. More recently, there were 10 - 15 births recorded each year between 2011 and 2014; a historically low number of births (6) was recorded in 2015.

Table 1 - Births in the Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD 2002 - 2015

Year	Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD	Town of Southampton
2002	20	711
2003	21	718
2004	22	751
2005	13	715
2006	26	738
2007	13	712
2008	12	702
2009	19	684
2010	17	652
2011	11	620
2012	10	599
2013	15	562
2014	10	626
2015	6	606

Source: NYS Dept. of Health

Note: 2016 birth data for the school district and town are not yet available

B. POPULATION

The *Census Bureau* reported that there were an estimated 323.1 million people living in the United States in July 2016, reflecting an increase of 14.4 million people, or 4.7 percent, since the 2010 Census. However, this represents a year-to-year population increase of 0.7 percent, marking the slowest growth since the *Great Depression*. This slowdown is attributed to increased deaths amongst baby boomers and fewer births amongst younger generations. *Census Bureau* projections indicate that the population will continue to grow more slowly between 2010 and 2060, when compared to 1950 - 2010; an increase of 98.1 million people is expected by 2060, when 416.8 million people are projected to reside in the United States.

New York State's population totaled approximately 19.7 million people on July 1, 2016, reflecting a gain of 367,187 people, or 1.9 percent, since the 2010 Census. However, last year (2016), New York experienced a net migration loss of 72,889 people (between July 2015 and July 2016), meaning more residents moved to other states than moved in. In 2016, New York's domestic migration loss was significantly greater than any other state (-191,367), losing more residents to domestic migration than Illinois (-114,144) and California (-109,023), the next two states with the greatest losses. Recent domestic migration losses in New York have been partially offset by international migration; nearly 700,000 international immigrants have moved into the state since 2010. The rise in population was due to natural increases (more births than deaths). However, it should be noted that gains through natural increase have declined since 2010. New York remains the fourth most populous state in the country, succeeding California (39.3 million people), Texas (27.9 million people) and Florida (20.6 million people). Prior to 2014, New York had been the third most populous state.

Between 2010 and 2016, Nassau County recorded a gain of 21,968 people, or 1.6 percent, with approximately 1.4 million residents in 2016; however, the population in Suffolk County has been decreasing each year since 2013, with a loss of 5,320 residents (-0.4 percent) between 2015 and 2016. Nassau and Suffolk Counties have been experiencing losses due to domestic migration; however, in Nassau County those losses have been offset by international migration and natural increases. Nassau and Suffolk Counties rank sixth and fourth, respectively, in population among New York's 62 counties.

Census Bureau data indicates that the demographics of the United States are shifting as the populace ages and becomes more diverse. The age structure of the nation's population has been impacted by the oldest of the baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) beginning to turn 65 in 2011. The youngest baby boomers will be turning 65 in 2029. The ethnic structure of the population has been impacted by the nearly 59 million immigrants who have entered the United States during the last 50 years.

As shown in Figure 3, the 65 and over age segment of the population in the United States comprised 13 percent of the total population in 2010. It is forecasted that growth in this age segment will nearly double by 2060, when it is projected that the 65 and over age segment will comprise nearly 24 percent of the population. However, the percentage of residents under 20 years of age is projected to decrease from nearly 27 percent of the population in 2010 to 22 percent in 2060. There were an estimated 82.8 million younger adults aged 20 - 39 in the United States in 2010. This is the largest number in that age group in the last thirty years; however, younger adults now comprise a smaller share of the population (approximately 27 percent) than they did in 1980 (approximately 32 percent); this segment is projected to further decrease to 24 percent by 2060. The 40 - 64 age segment is also expected to see a decreasing share of population through 2060, declining from 33 percent in 2010 to approximately 30 percent in 2060.

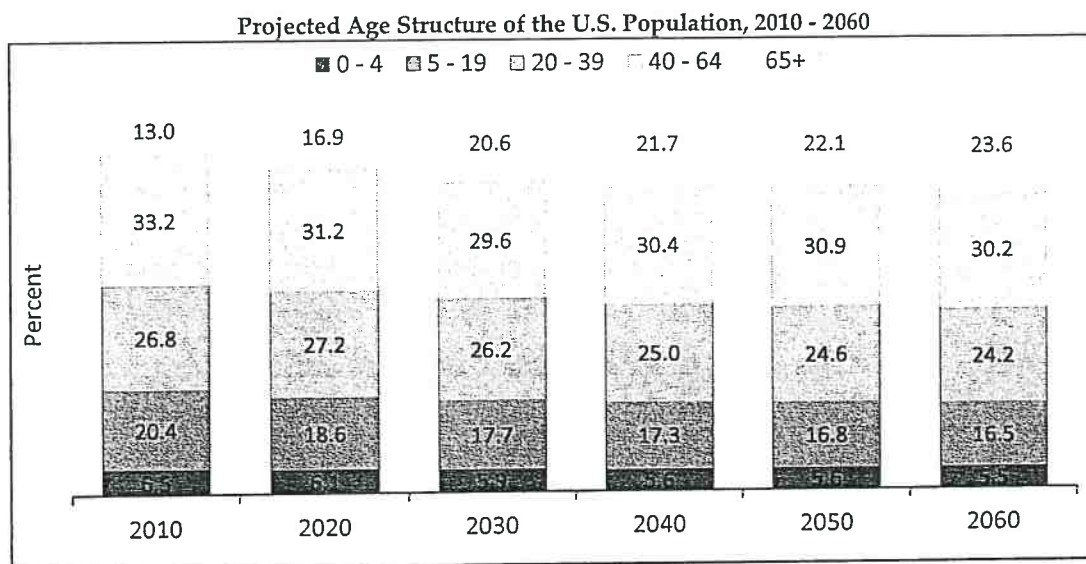


Figure 3 - Projected Age Structure of the U.S. Population
Source U.S. Census Bureau

An aging population is also evident in New York State. This has been attributed to a low birth rate and the inability to attract and retain young people with families. According to the *New York State Office of the Aging*, the portion of the population age 65 and over is forecasted to grow from 13.5 percent of the population in 2010 to 21.0 percent of the population in 2040. On Long Island, population trends mirror those of New York State and the nation. Between 2010 and 2015, the 19 and under segment in Nassau County decreased from 25.7 to 24.9 percent of the population, while the 65-and older segment grew from 15.3 to 16.0 percent. In Suffolk County, the 19 and under segment decreased from 26.6 to 25.4 percent of the population, while the 65-and older segment grew from 13.5 to 14.8 percent, during the same period. Similarly, the Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District has observed an increase in the 65 and over age segment, growing from 16.7 percent to 27.0 percent between 2010 and 2015, while decreases were seen in the pre-school (0 - 4), school age (5 - 19) and young adult (20 - 39) segments. The median age in Nassau County has increased from 41.1 years in 2000 to 41.3 years in 2015, while the median age in Suffolk County increased from 39.8 years to 40.6 years during this period; both are greater than the New

York State median age of 38.1 years and the United States median age of 37.6. The median age in the Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District was 52.3 years in 2015.

Immigration is the driving force behind the changing face of America. In 1990, foreign-born residents accounted for nearly 8 percent (20 million people) of the population in the United States. As of 2015, 13.2 percent of the nation's population was foreign-born. By 2025, the *Census Bureau* projects that one in seven people will be foreign-born (52 million people) and by 2060, one in five people are expected to be foreign-born (78 million people). A majority of the foreign-born population have immigrated from Latin America and Asia, with the greatest numbers settling in California, Nevada, Texas, Florida and New York. Immigrants from Latin America comprised approximately 52 percent (21.6 million people) of the foreign-born population in 2015, while Asians accounted for nearly 30 percent (12.4 million people) of the foreign-born population. Europeans accounted for almost 12 percent of the foreign-born population, with 4.8 million people in 2015. This is a significant shift since 1960, when 75 percent of immigrants in the United States had been born in Europe and settled primarily in the Northeast and Midwest. In 1960, nine percent of the foreign-born population was from Latin America and five percent was from Asia.

In 2012, 4.5 million children born in the United States lived with at least one foreign-born parent, resulting in 1 in 4 children under the age of 18 having at least one foreign-born parent. The *Census Bureau* projects that by 2050, international migration will exceed natural increase as the leading cause for population growth; this will be the first time since 1850 that natural increase is not the main source of population growth.

In New York State, the foreign-born population increased by 5.8 percent between 2010 and 2015, representing almost 23 percent of the population in 2015. In Nassau County, the foreign-born population increased 6.6 percent between 2010 and 2015, representing approximately 22 percent of the population. During the same period, the foreign-born population increased approximately 10 percent in Suffolk County, representing 15 percent of the population in 2015. Census Bureau estimates indicate that approximately 7.3 percent of residents in the Remsenburg-Speonk School District are foreign-born.

Immigration has resulted in a transformation of the ethnic composition of the population in the United States. In 2010, approximately 64 percent of the population was white, down from 85 percent in 1960. The country’s white population is forecasted to become “majority minority” in 2044; by 2060, the combined minority population is forecasted to comprise approximately 56 percent of the total population, compared to 36 percent in 2010. As shown in Figure 4, Hispanics were the largest minority group in 2010, accounting for approximately 16 percent of the population, followed by blacks (12.2 percent), Asians (5.8 percent) and those identifying themselves as two or more races (1.9 percent). However, Asians are the fastest growing minority group, growing by 8.3 percent between 2010 and 2015.

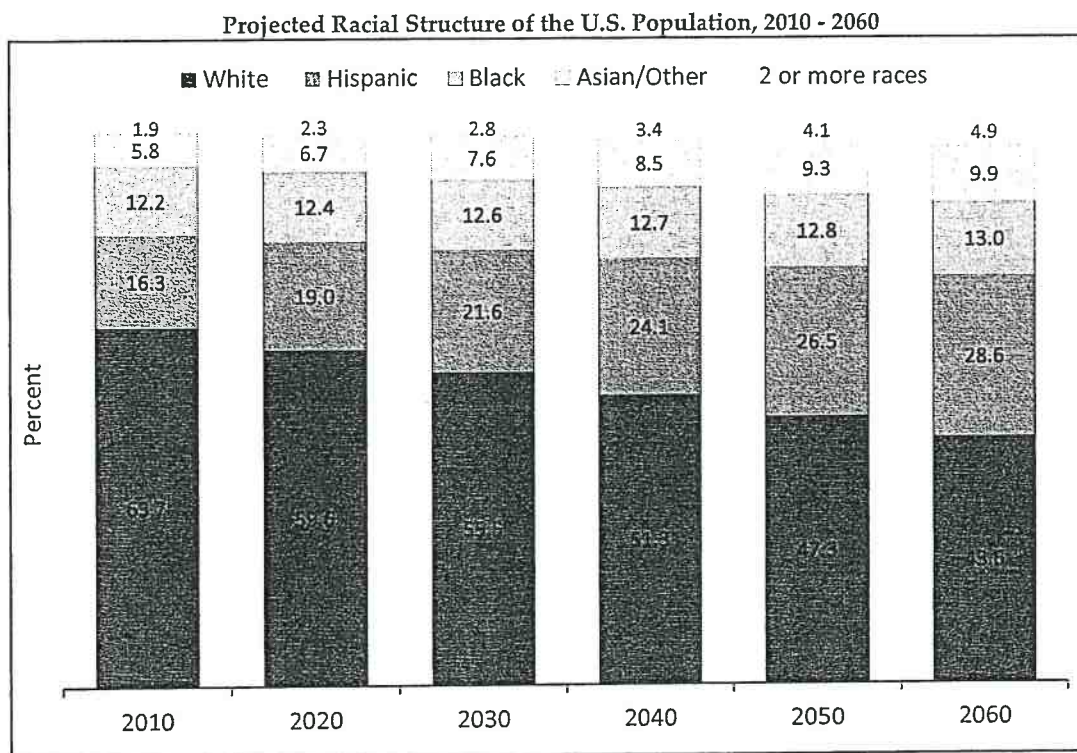


Figure 4 - Projected Racial Structure of the U.S. Population
Source U.S. Census Bureau

The *Census Bureau* reported that a vast portion of the baby boomers are non-Hispanic white. It is anticipated that as the number of baby boomers declines as a result of mortality, the United States will see a significant decrease in the percentage of non-Hispanic whites. This factor, as well as, immigration and births to minority populations, are expected to lead to an increasingly diverse population.

In New York State, whites made up approximately 57 percent of the population in 2015, down from more than 58 percent in 2010, while minorities comprised 43 percent of state residents. Hispanics are the largest minority group at approximately 18 percent, followed by blacks (14.4 percent), Asians (8.7 percent) and those identifying themselves as two or more races (1.7 percent). Currently four states are “majority-minority” states: California, Hawaii, New Mexico and Texas.

According to data from the *Census Bureau*, the ethnic composition of the populations within Nassau and Suffolk Counties has also shifted. Growth continues in the Hispanic segment in both counties, increasing

in Nassau County from 14.6 percent in 2010 to 15.8 percent in 2015, and from 16.5 to 17.8 percent in Suffolk County, during the same period. The Asian segment also increased in Nassau County between 2010 and 2015, growing from 8.1 to 9.1 percent, while the black segment remained relatively stable (approximately 11 percent). Within Suffolk County, the Asian and black segments remained relatively stable at approximately 4.0 and 7.0 percent, respectively, in 2015; however, the white population decreased from 71.6 to 69.6 percent between 2010 and 2015. The ethnic composition within the Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District has remained stable since the 2010 Census. In 2015, approximately 89 percent of residents were white, nine percent were Hispanic and one percent were black.

The *National Center for Education Statistics* reported that beginning in the 2014-15 school year, there were fewer white students than minority students enrolled in the United States public school system. As shown in Figure 5, in 2004, white students comprised approximately 58 percent of the country’s public school enrollment. By the fall of 2014 the number of white students in public schools decreased to 49.5 percent, with a further decrease anticipated by 2026. In 2026, minority students are expected to comprise approximately 55 percent of public school enrollment and white students are projected to comprise 45 percent.

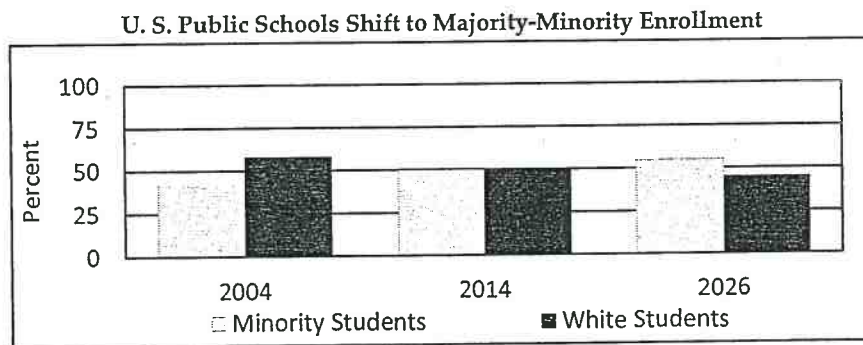


Figure 5 - United States Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity: 2004, 2014 and 2026
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

The *United States Customs and Border Protection* reported that a growing number of unaccompanied minor children (UAC) aged 0 - 17 years old have entered the United States on humanitarian grounds in recent years (2011 - 2016); this influx reached record highs in FY2014 (fiscal year Oct. 1 - Sept. 30), when over 68,500 children were apprehended, reflecting a significant increase since FY2011 when approximately 16,000 children were reportedly apprehended. In FY2015, the flow of UACs decreased when it was reported that nearly 40,000 children were apprehended; however, during FY2016 close to 60,000 children were reportedly apprehended, reflecting a year-to-year increase of nearly 50 percent. During the first eight months of FY 2017, there has been a 19 percent decrease of UAC arrivals; however, the number of parents or guardians traveling with children (family units) who were apprehended at the border was up 37 percent over same period during the previous year. Minors from the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have accounted for the majority of the growth as they flee from high crime, gang violence and poverty in their home countries. The greatest numbers of UACs have settled in Texas, California, New York and Florida.

HOUSING

Economists and housing market experts anticipate that the housing market will remain strong through 2018, spurred by a growing U.S. economy, low unemployment rates and rising consumer confidence. According to the *Census Bureau*, residential housing starts increased 1.4 percent in August 2017, when compared to the same month a year ago and residential housing completions increased 3.4 percent during the same period. The median sale price for new homes rose to a record \$324,300 in May (2017).

The return of first time home buyers is another factor that is positively impacting the housing market. The postponement in homeownership by younger buyers had been attributed to several factors, including tighter lending standards, high levels of student loan debt, difficulties coming up with down payments, limited new construction of starter homes and lifestyle changes, which included delaying marriage and children. According to the *National Association of Realtors*, the share of first time home buyers fell to 32 percent in 2015, down from the historical average of approximately 40 percent. However, last year (2016) the average increased to 35 percent, as more millennials made the decision to become homeowners. Many builders are catering to this demographic population by building smaller homes at lower, more affordable price points.

In October, consistent with the increases being seen nationally, the residential real estate market in Nassau County posted a monthly year-to-year sales gain of 1.5 percent with 1,138 completed home sales reported for the month, compared to 1,121 the prior October. During this time, Suffolk County reported a greater sales increase of 5.7 percent, with 1,421 completed home sales compared to 1,345 the previous October. The median sale prices (for single family homes) increased in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties in October, with gains of 6.4 and 6.2 percent, respectively. Home prices in Nassau County have nearly recovered to pre-recession levels, as has been seen in many communities nationally; in October the median sale price in Nassau County was 3.9 percent lower than the August 2007 high of \$520,500. However, the home prices in Suffolk County have not yet recovered to pre-recession levels; the Suffolk County median sale price in October was 14.3 percent lower than the June 2007 high of \$420,000.

Table 2 - Number of Home Sales and Median Prices in Nassau and Suffolk Counties[†]

County	October 2017		October 2016		Change	
	# Sales	Median Price	# Sales	Median Price	# Sales	Median Price
Nassau County	1,138	\$500,000	1,121	\$470,000	1.5%	6.4%
Suffolk County	1,421	\$360,000	1,345	\$339,000	5.7%	6.2%

Source: Multiple Listing Service of Long Island

Although the outlook for the housing market generally remains positive, some economists have expressed concerns regarding factors which could negatively impact the housing forecast. Growing demand and a lack of inventory will continue to push prices higher. As prices increase, starter homes may become unaffordable for many first time home buyers. The *National Association of Realtors* reported that housing affordability has declined 7.3 percent between June 2016 and June 2017. These factors will impact first-time homebuyers attempting to enter the real estate market.

According to *Census Bureau* data, more United States households are currently renting than at any other time in the past fifty years. The share of households renting their home has grown during the last ten years from 31.2 percent in 2006 to 36.6 percent in 2016. This is reflective of several factors, including the long term effects of the housing crash during the *Great Recession*, and the challenges millennials face as they enter the housing market. In 2016, 65 percent of households headed by people under the age of 35 were renting as compared to 57 percent in 2006. This compares to the percentage of renters in the 35 - 44 age segment (41 percent), the 45 - 64 age segment (28 percent) and the 65 and over age segment (21 percent) in 2016.

The *Pew Research Center* reported that all major racial and ethnic groups were more likely to rent when compared to a decade ago; however, black and Hispanic households are nearly twice as likely to rent as white households. As of 2016, 58 percent of black household heads and 54 percent of Hispanic household heads were renting, compared to 28 percent of white households. This growing demand for rentals has strengthened the construction of multifamily housing. During the first quarter of 2017, completions of apartment units were up 8.9 percent when compared to the first quarter of 2016.

The *Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University* reported that the overall number of cost-burdened owner households (those paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing) in 2015 was 18 million, accounting for 24 percent of owner occupied households. This remains below the number of cost-burdened renter households, which was 21 million in 2015, accounting for 48 percent of all renters. This is a significant increase since 2008, when there were reportedly 17.7 million cost-burdened renter households. This increase is attributed to a lack of affordable housing options in many communities.

The *Census Bureau* reported that the homeownership rate for the second quarter of 2017 was 63.7 percent; this is a 0.8 percent increase from the second quarter of 2016, when the homeownership rate was at a 50-year low. Among ethnic groups, homeownership rates for black and Hispanic households continue to remain well below the homeownership rate for whites, resulting in a gap between white and minority ownership. In the second quarter of 2017, the homeownership rates for the black and Hispanic segments of the population were 42.3 percent and 45.5 percent, respectively, compared to 72.2 percent for the white segment of the population.

As shown in Table 3, 65 homes were sold in the Remsenburg-Speonk School District in 2016, reflecting an increase of 6.6 percent when compared to the prior year. However, this remains 15.6 percent below the peak of 77 homes sold in 2005. During the last five years, the median sales price has fluctuated between \$915,000 and \$1,250,000.

Table 3 - Home Sales in the Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD 2005 - 2016

Year	Number Sold	Median Price
2005	77	\$1,220,000
2006	52	\$1,006,500
2007	54	\$1,368,750
2008	34	\$1,050,000
2009	33	\$1,500,000
2010	40	\$930,000
2011	38	\$1,148,750
2012	42	\$975,000
2013	43	\$1,250,000
2014	69	\$931,000
2015	61	\$1,200,000
2016	65	\$915,000

Source: NYS Office of Real Property Services

Housing data for the area encompassed by the Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District indicated that in 2015, 33.6 percent of the total housing was occupied and 66.4 percent was vacant (vacant includes seasonal residences); the percentage of vacant housing has grown since 2010, when 59.0 percent of units were vacant. Occupied housing can be inhabited by the owner of the house or a renter. In 2015, 88.3 percent of housing in the district was owner occupied and 11.7 percent was renter occupied.

The Planning Department of the Town of Southampton and the Village Clerk from the Village of West Hampton Dunes were contacted regarding the status of current building projects, as well as any new developments before the planning boards. The Planning Department of the Town of Southampton has not responded to several requests for information. No projects were reported in the Village of West Hampton Dunes.

Following are projects/proposals within the Remsenburg-Speonk School District:

- *Woodfield Gables*: property proposed for purchase by the Town of Southampton
- *Estates at Remsenburg*: 19 SF homes; under construction
- *Speonk Commons*: 38 rental units (12 studios, 14 one-BR, 12 two-BR); seeking final approval

D. NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The *Census Bureau* reported that private school enrollment in the United States decreased by more than 160,000 students in grades K - 12 between 2010 and 2015. There were 5.5 million students enrolled in non-public school in 2015 (latest available data); projections suggest a further decrease to 5.1 million students in 2025. However, if *School Choice* is expanded by the *U.S. Department of Education* in 2018 as proposed, this projection may be skewed.

The *Census Bureau* reported that in 2015, private schools in New York enrolled approximately 413,375 students (13.2 percent of all New York State school-age children) in grades K - 12. This is a 16.5 percent decrease since 2000, when approximately 495,000 students, or nearly 15 percent of all New York State school-age children, attended private schools. Between 2010 and 2015, the percentage of all school age children attending private schools decreased from 6.7 to 5.9 percent in Suffolk County and from 13.5 to 12.9 percent in Nassau County.

The Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District reported that 12 (K - 6) resident students are currently attending private schools. This number has grown since 2007, when two resident students attended non-public schools.

In April 2016, New York State passed legislation establishing a new *Office of Religious and Independent Schools*. The proposed state budget for non-public schools was \$283 million, including additional funding for increased security and for the *Comprehensive Attendance Policy* program.

Currently, *School Choice* has been established in 31 states and offers a variety of programs that fall into several categories, including Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), School Vouchers, Tax-Credit Scholarships and Individual Tax Credits and Deductions. *School Choice* options also include charter schools, magnet schools, inter/intra-district public school choice, homeschooling, online learning, customized learning, and town tuitioning. *School Choice* provides an opportunity for parents to choose a school that potentially offers services that best meets their child's needs. The United States proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2018 recommends an increase of 1.4 billion dollars to be allocated for *School Choice* programs. Currently, a universal program does not exist; therefore there are variations in regards to what is offered in each state. During the 2016-17 school year more than 446,000 ESAs, vouchers and tax-credit scholarships were awarded through state funds generally disbursed by school districts.

The *National Catholic Education Association* reported that Catholic school enrollment in the United States peaked in the early 1960's, when approximately 5.2 million students were enrolled in nearly 13,000 Catholic schools. By 1990, Catholic school enrollment had decreased by approximately 52.0 percent to 2.5 million students, enrolled in 8,719 Catholic schools. Catholic school enrollment has further decreased, with less than 1.9 million students enrolled in 6,429 Catholic schools during the 2016-17 school year; this represents a decrease of 63 percent between the early 1960's and 2016-17. This also represents a year-to-year loss of 96 Catholic schools, when compared to the 2015-16 school year. However, it should be noted that this total includes some schools that were consolidated, some schools that were reopened as new entities and 20 newly constructed Catholic school buildings.

Enrollment declines in Catholic schools have been attributed to several factors, including rising tuition costs, an increased number of charter schools, an increased number of students being homeschooled or opting for *School Choice* and the lasting impacts from the *Great Recession* (2007 - 2009), as families were affected by job losses, lower wages and salary reductions.

The expansion of charter schools has led to a decrease in the number of students enrolled in private schools, essentially because charter schools offer a tuition-free alternative to traditional public school settings, while providing the individualized attention that private schools offer. Presently, 43 states and Washington D.C. have passed laws regulating charter schools. According to the *National Alliance for Public Charter Schools*, it is estimated that there are 6,900 charter schools in the United States, housing approximately 3.1 million students. This is an increase from 1.2 million students in 2006 and 400,000 students in 2000. However, despite the opening of new charter schools, many charter schools have also closed. These closures have been attributed to low enrollment, financial issues and low academic performance as reported by *Education Week*.

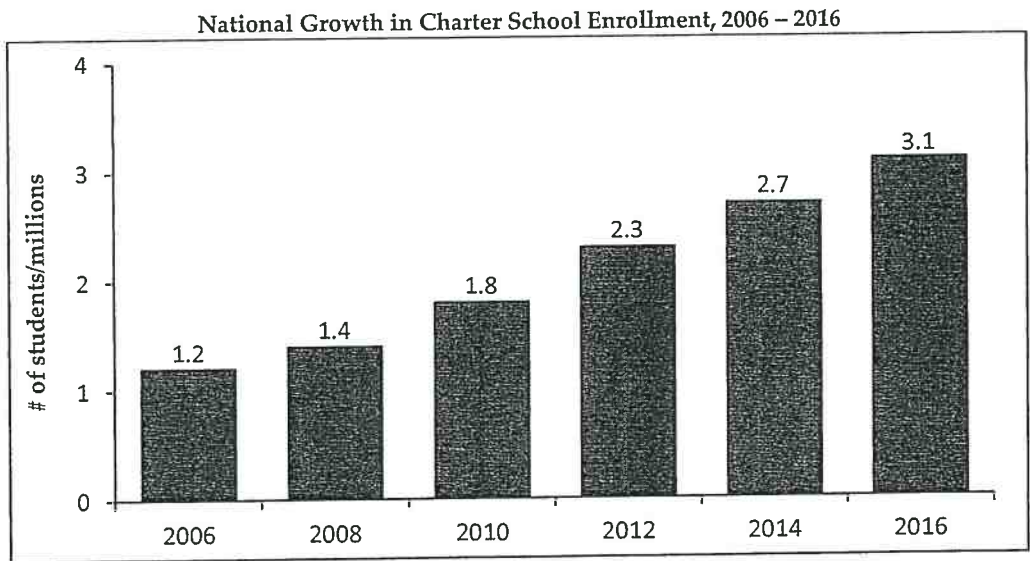


Figure 6 - Growth in Charter School Enrollment
Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

The *National Alliance for Public Charter Schools* reported that there were over 132,000 students enrolled in 267 charter schools throughout New York State during the 2016-17 school year. There are a total of 308 approved charter schools in New York for the 2017-18 school year; however, many are not yet in operation. At the present time, there are four charter schools in operation on Long Island, located in Roosevelt, Hempstead (2) and Riverhead.

An increase in homeschooling has also contributed to the decline in private school enrollment. During the economic recession in the late 2000's, more families with non-working adults who would have previously sent their children to a private school opted to homeschool their children. Estimates indicate that over 2.3 million children were homeschooled during the 2016-17 school year; this is an increase from 1.1 million students in 2003.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

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 district enrollment by grade for 2007 - 2017 [Appendix A-2].
2. Grade-to-grade retention (migration) trends for each two-grade transition to grades 1 - 6 for the past ten years [Appendix A-2].
3. Projected kindergarten entering cohorts based on the number of live births in Suffolk County, with consideration given to school district births, 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 decrease due to limited new residential development, resulting in fewer younger families moving into the community, and a growing percentage of vacant units in the district, reflecting more homes being used as seasonal residences. The turnover of approximately 40 - 70 homes each year is anticipated to continue.
2. Future kindergarten classes are expected to be at a lower level than seen during the historical period due to declining births and a decreasing percentage of residents of childbearing age.
3. Non-public school enrollment will continue at approximately 6 - 12 students, as has been experienced in the last few years.

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, closing 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 or changed values/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 (2018 - 2022) projections are those best used in district planning and decision making. That is because this 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, while the projection of a building's particular grade level in a specific year is 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.

ACCURACY OF PREVIOUS PROJECTIONS

A comparison was made between the enrollment projections presented in the 2015-16 Western Suffolk BOCES study and the actual enrollment observed in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. As shown in *Appendix A-1* and Table 4, the 2015-16 study projected the 2016-17 K - 6 enrollment at 143 students, while there were actually 139 students enrolled. This projection was within 4 students of the actual enrollment.

As shown in *Appendix A-1* and Table 5, the 2015-16 study projected the 2017-18 K - 6 enrollment at 138 students, while there were actually 142 students enrolled. This projection was also within 4 students of the actual enrollment.

Table 4 - Accuracy of the Western Suffolk BOCES 2015-16 Projections for 2016-17

Grades	2016-17 Actual	2016-17 Projected	Difference
K	13	16	3
1	22	26	4
2	17	16	-1
3	19	18	-1
4	20	21	1
5	26	25	-1
6	22	21	-1
Total	139	143	4

Table 5 - Accuracy of the Western Suffolk BOCES 2015-16 Projections for 2017-18

Grades	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Projected	Difference
K	13	15	2
1	16	16	0
2	25	26	1
3	18	16	-2
4	20	18	-2
5	21	22	1
6	29	25	-4
Total	142	138	-4

G. DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

The Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District educates students in grades K - 6 in one district school.

Table 6 presents the current and projected district enrollment through 2027. The projection period peak enrollment of 138 students is expected next year in 2018. A loss of 32 students is forecasted by 2027, when 110 students are expected to be enrolled.

Table 6 - Projected Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD Enrollment

Year		K - 6
Actual	2017	142
Projected	2018	138*
	2019	133
	2020	126
	2021	122
	2022	111
	2023	111
	2024	112
	2025	105
	2026	105
	2027	110

* = denotes peak enrollment during 2018 - 2027

An inspection of the variations in the enrollment, particularly in the grade-to-grade migrations, revealed fluctuations. The following table shows the range of gains or losses to each grade level during the last four years. These grade-to-grade migration trends were used to project grade level enrollments.

Table 7 - Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD Student Gains/Losses

Grade	# of students gained/lost
K - 1	2 - 4
1 - 2	1 - 3
2 - 3	0 - 2
3 - 4	1
4 - 5	1 - 2
5 - 6	0 - 3

Note: Gains or losses for the last four years

District enrollment [Appendix A-2, A-4] consisted of 194 students in grades K - 6 in 2007; this was the historical peak enrollment. Subsequently, losses in five of the last ten years led to the current enrollment of 142 students in 2017. This represents a loss of 52 students, or 26.8 percent, during the historical period.

Losses of between 4 - 11 students are projected in six of the next ten years. The forecasted 2027 enrollment of 110 students represents a loss of 32 students when compared to the current enrollment.

The projected enrollment can be attributed to several factors:

- ☞ **First**, the kindergarten enrolled 20 or more students in six of the last ten years. There are 13 kindergarten students currently enrolled in 2017. The kindergarten is expected to enroll 19 students next year, and then range within 10 - 16 students per year through 2027 [Appendix A-3].
- ☞ **Second**, the incoming kindergarten class was smaller than the graduating sixth grade class of the previous year in seven of the last ten years. This trend is expected to continue during the projection period, with losses of between 1 - 14 students per year, in nine of the next ten years [Appendix A-5].
- ☞ **Third**, the average grade level size decreased in grades K - 6 during 2012 - 2017 as compared to 2007 - 2012. Grade level size decreases are anticipated in all grades during 2017 - 2022. Grade level size decreases are anticipated in grades 2 - 6 during 2022 - 2027 [Appendix A-5].

ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL SECTIONS

The current and projected need for elementary instructional sections is presented in Table 8. These needs are based on a maximum class size of 30 students or class sizes similar to the current allocation. It is shown that the district currently houses eight sections for the instruction of grades K - 6 [Appendix A-6]. Projections suggest that the district will require the same allocation of sections during each year of the projection period.

Table 8 - Projected Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD Elementary Instructional Sections

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	SPED	Total
Actual 2017	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Projected 2018	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2019	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2020	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2021	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2022	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2025	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2026	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2027	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8

The current and projected average class sizes per grade level are presented in Table 9. Currently, the average class size for the school is 20.3 students, ranging from 13.0 students in kindergarten to 29.0 students in sixth grade [Appendix A-6].

Table 9 - Projected Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD Average Class Size

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average
Actual- 2017	13.0	16.0	25.0	18.0	20.0	21.0	29.0	20.3
Projected High	19.0	20.0	21.0	25.0	26.0	28.0	29.0	19.7
Projected Low	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	15.0

Appendix A

REMSENBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 ACCURACY OF WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES 2015-16 PROJECTIONS FOR 2016-17 & 2017-18

GRADE	Actual 2016-17	Projected	Difference
KINDERGARTEN	13	16	3
FIRST	22	26	4
SECOND	17	16	-1
THIRD	19	18	-1
FOURTH	20	21	1
FIFTH	26	25	-1
SIXTH	22	21	-1
TOTAL	139	143	4

GRADE	Actual 2017-18	Projected	Difference
KINDERGARTEN	13	15	2
FIRST	16	16	0
SECOND	25	26	1
THIRD	18	16	-2
FOURTH	20	18	-2
FIFTH	21	22	1
SIXTH	29	25	-4
TOTAL	142	138	-4

REMSENBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT

GRADE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
KINDERGARTEN	21	24	30	17	31	20	18	19	26	13	13
FIRST	24	21	24	33	19	28	22	20	16	22	16
SECOND	33	23	20	23	36	19	23	23	19	17	25
THIRD	23	34	22	19	21	35	19	23	21	19	18
FOURTH	35	23	32	23	21	20	31	20	24	20	20
FIFTH	25	36	25	35	26	22	22	31	21	26	21
SIXTH	33	25	38	27	36	28	20	21	31	22	29
TOTAL K - 6	194	186	191	177	190	172	155	157	158	139	142
K - 6 Gain/Loss		-8	5	-14	13	-18	-17	2	1	-19	3
MIGRATION	07 - 08	08 - 09	09 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 13	13 - 14	14 - 15	15 - 16	16 - 17	4-yr Avg.
K - 1	100.0%	100.0%	110.0%	111.8%	90.3%	110.0%	111.1%	84.2%	84.6%	123.1%	100.8%
1 - 2	95.8%	95.2%	95.8%	109.1%	100.0%	82.1%	104.5%	95.0%	106.3%	113.6%	104.9%
2 - 3	103.0%	95.7%	95.0%	91.3%	97.2%	100.0%	100.0%	91.3%	100.0%	105.9%	99.3%
3 - 4	100.0%	94.1%	104.5%	110.5%	95.2%	88.6%	105.3%	104.3%	95.2%	105.3%	102.5%
4 - 5	102.9%	108.7%	109.4%	113.0%	104.8%	110.0%	100.0%	105.0%	108.3%	105.0%	104.6%
5 - 6	100.0%	105.6%	108.0%	102.9%	107.7%	90.9%	95.5%	100.0%	104.8%	111.5%	102.9%

REMSBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
KINDERGARTEN PROJECTIONS

Birth Year	Births		Enrollment Year	District K	Ratio	
	Suffolk County	Southampton Town			K/County Birth	K/Town Birth
2002	19,853	711	2007	21	0.0011	0.030
2003	19,986	718	2008	24	0.0012	0.033
2004	19,643	751	2009	30	0.0015	0.040
2005	18,785	715	2010	17	0.0009	0.024
2006	19,080	738	2011	31	0.0016	0.042
2007	18,510	712	2012	20	0.0011	0.028
2008	17,984	702	2013	18	0.0010	0.026
2009	17,183	684	2014	19	0.0011	0.028
2010	16,805	652	2015	26	0.0015	0.040
2011	16,027	620	2016	13	0.0008	0.021
2012	15,727	599	2017	13	0.0008	0.022
2013	15,530	562	2018	19		
2014	15,568	626	2019	14		
2015	15,808	606	2020	10		
est. 2016	15,514		2021	16		
est. 2017	15,443		2022	15		
est. 2018	15,397		2023	15		
est. 2019	15,355		2024	15		
est. 2020	15,243		2025	15	0.0012	0.030
est. 2021	15,176		2026	15	historical average	historical average
est. 2022	15,110		2027	15	historical average	historical average

REMSENBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT											
PROJECTED ENROLLMENT											
GRADE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	Actual										
KINDERGARTEN	13	19	14	10	16	15	15	15	15	15	15
FIRST	16	15	20	15	10	17	16	16	16	16	16
SECOND	25	17	15	21	15	10	17	16	16	16	16
THIRD	18	25	16	15	20	15	10	16	15	15	15
FOURTH	20	19	26	16	15	21	15	10	16	15	15
FIFTH	21	21	20	28	17	16	22	16	11	17	16
SIXTH	29	22	22	21	29	17	16	23	16	11	17
TOTAL K - 6	142	138	133	126	122	111	111	112	105	105	110
K - 6 Gain/Loss		-4	-5	-7	-4	-11	0	1	-7	0	5

Note: The shaded area denotes students already enrolled in the school.

REMSENBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 AVERAGE DISTRICT GRADE LEVEL SIZE

GRADE	1 07 - 12	2 12 - 17	3 17 - 22	4 22 - 27	change 2/1	3/2	4/3
KINDERGARTEN	24	18	15	15	-25.0%	-16.7%	0.0%
FIRST	25	21	16	16	-16.0%	-23.8%	0.0%
SECOND	26	21	17	15	-19.2%	-19.0%	-11.8%
THIRD	26	23	18	14	-11.5%	-21.7%	-22.2%
FOURTH	26	23	20	15	-11.5%	-13.0%	-25.0%
FIFTH	28	24	21	16	-14.3%	-12.5%	-23.8%
SIXTH	31	25	23	17	-19.4%	-8.0%	-26.1%

DISPLACEMENT BETWEEN ENTERING AND EXITING COHORTS

YEAR	GRADE 6	YEAR	K	DIFFERENCE
2007	33	2008	24	-9
2008	25	2009	30	5
2009	38	2010	17	-21
2010	27	2011	31	4
2011	36	2012	20	-16
2012	28	2013	18	-10
2013	20	2014	19	-1
2014	21	2015	26	5
2015	31	2016	13	-18
2016	22	2017	13	-9
2017	29	2018	19	-10
2018	22	2019	14	-8
2019	22	2020	10	-12
2020	21	2021	16	-5
2021	29	2022	15	-14
2022	17	2023	15	-2
2023	16	2024	15	-1
2024	23	2025	15	-8
2025	16	2026	15	-1
2026	11	2027	15	4
Average Difference 2007 - 2012				
Average Difference 2012 - 2017				
Average Difference 2017 - 2022				
Average Difference 2022 - 2027				

REMSENBURG-SPEONK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 PROJECTED ENROLLMENT - SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

based on the maximum class size of 30 for K - 6, or similar to current allocation

GRADE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Actual											
KINDERGARTEN	13	19	14	10	16	15	15	15	15	15	15
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	13.0	19.0	14.0	10.0	16.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
FIRST	16	15	20	15	10	17	16	16	16	16	16
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	16.0	15.0	20.0	15.0	10.0	17.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
SECOND	25	17	15	21	15	10	17	16	16	16	16
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	25.0	17.0	15.0	21.0	15.0	10.0	17.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
THIRD	18	25	16	15	20	15	10	16	15	15	15
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	18.0	25.0	16.0	15.0	20.0	15.0	10.0	16.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
FOURTH	20	19	26	16	15	21	15	10	16	15	15
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	20.0	19.0	26.0	16.0	15.0	21.0	15.0	10.0	16.0	15.0	15.0
FIFTH	21	21	20	28	17	16	22	16	11	17	16
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	21.0	21.0	20.0	28.0	17.0	16.0	22.0	16.0	11.0	17.0	16.0
SIXTH	29	22	22	21	29	17	16	23	16	11	17
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Avg Section Size	29.0	22.0	22.0	21.0	29.0	17.0	16.0	23.0	16.0	11.0	17.0

SC SPED in the grade level count

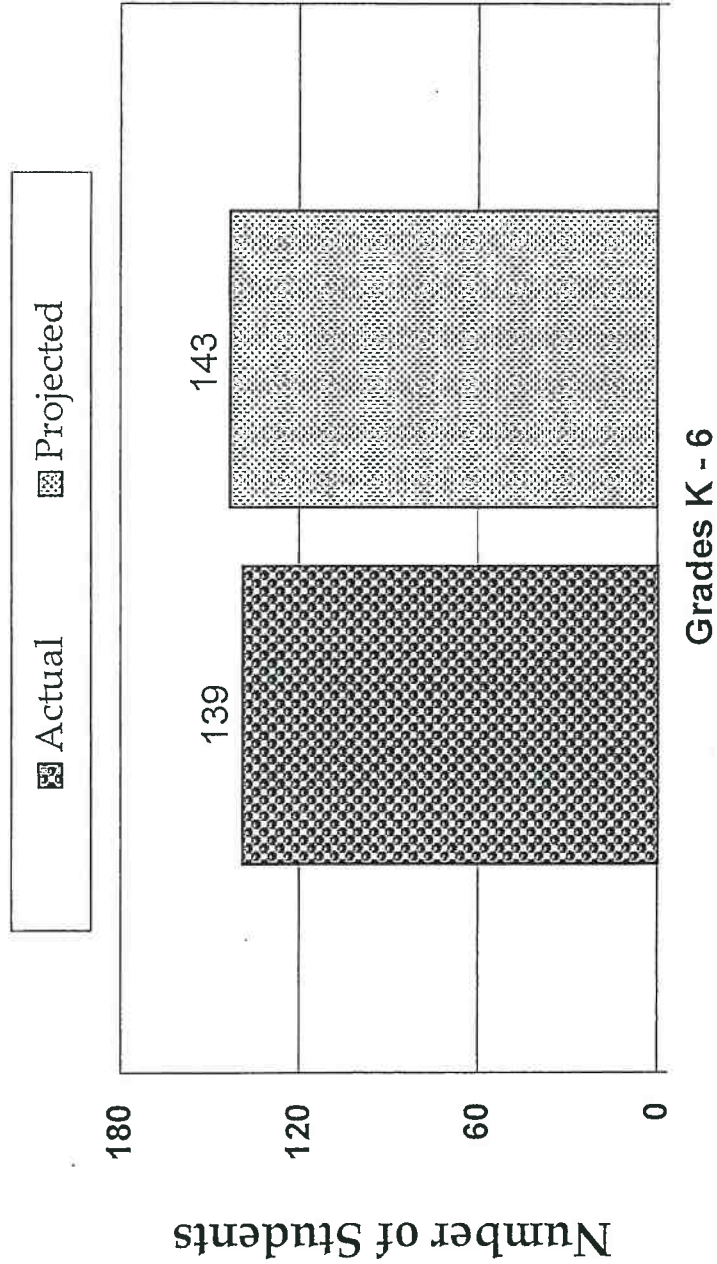
# of Sections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Enrollment	142	138	133	126	122	111	111	112	105	105	110
Total Sections	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Avg Section Size	20.3	19.7	19.0	18.0	17.4	15.9	15.9	16.0	15.0	15.0	15.7

Note: SC SPED students are included in the grade level count. As a result, the actual average class sizes might be lower than shown.

Appendix B

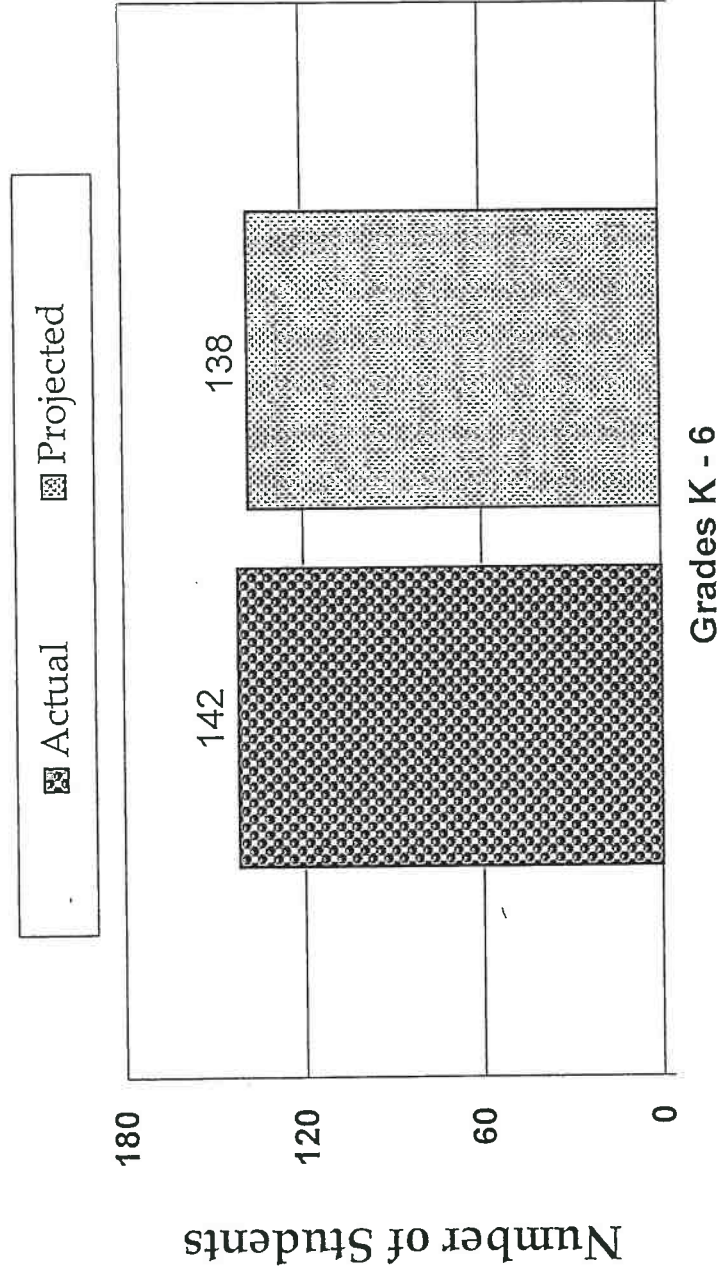
Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District Accuracy of 2015-16 Western Suffolk BOCES Projections for 2016-17

2016-17 Enrollment

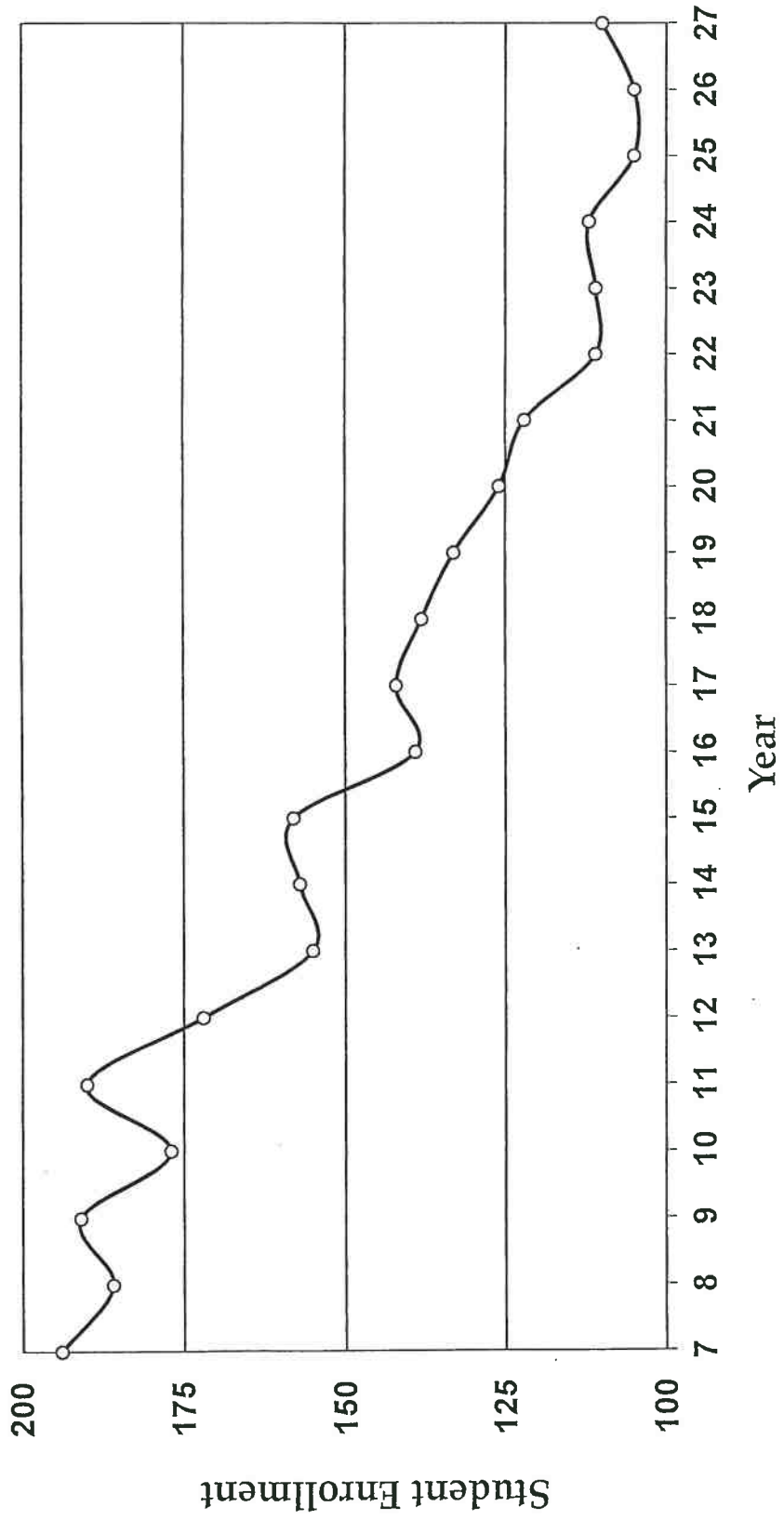


Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District Accuracy of 2015-16 Western Suffolk BOCES Projections for 2017-18

2017-18 Enrollment

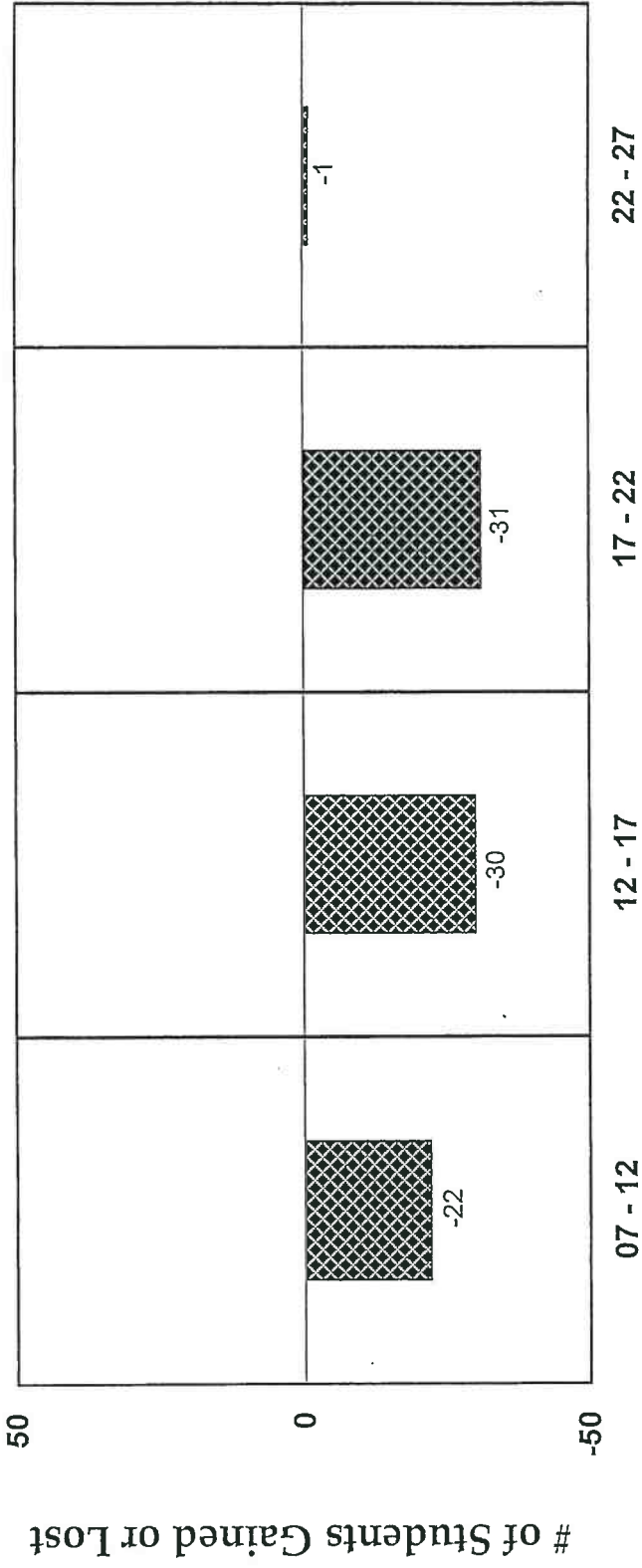


Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District Enrollment: Grades K - 6



Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District Enrollment Change 2007 - 2027

K - 6



Comparative Years

Mr. Salvatore Marinello, President
Ms. Jeanette Santos, Vice President
Ms. Mildred Browne
Mr. Sydney Finkelstein
Ms. Ilene Herz, Esq
Mr. Peter Wunsch
Ms. Maryann Zumpano
Ms. Joanne Klein, District Clerk

Mr. Michael Flynn
Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Angelique Johnson-Dingle
District Superintendent

