Board Q&A Response

Agenda Item #: 11 E.
Trustee Question: Given the continued decline in enrollment, I have three questions: 1) are other districts in the state experiencing similar declines? 2) if so, does there seem to be any sense of urgency among leadership of the districts to determine the reasons for the continued decline 3) given that LCSD has now seen a two year decline of 485 students, are there any plans for further budgetary adjustments? Thank you!!

District Staff Answer:

1) Are other districts in the state experiencing similar enrollment declines?

Yes. Declining enrollment is a statewide trend, affecting nearly every school district in the state, although the extent varies by district. Over the past seven years, LCSD has experienced greater enrollment stability than some other Nevada districts. LCSD's September enrollment was 8,975 in 2019 and remained nearly unchanged at 8,973 in 2024. Current enrollment is 8,488, an overall decline of approximately 5.4 percent since September 2019, with nearly all of that decrease occurring during the last two years. LCSD's two-year decline of 485 students reflects this broader pattern and continues to be incorporated into the District's operational and financial planning.

For comparison, Washoe County School District reported in January 2026 that enrollment had declined approximately 10 percent since 2019–2020. Clark County School District reported approximately 10,400 fewer students this school year alone. All but one school district in Nevada have substantially decreased in enrollment.

2) Is there a sense of urgency among district leaders to determine the reasons for continued declines?

Yes. District and state leaders are actively examining enrollment trends and responding through financial planning and policy discussion. Factors identified include lower birth rates, changes in family relocation patterns, and families selecting other educational options. While Nevada's population as a whole continues to grow, it includes retirees and adults without school aged children.

The accompanying demographic information illustrates why overall population growth does not necessarily translate into school enrollment growth. Between 2010 and 2024, Nevada's population increased approximately 21 percent, while annual births decreased approximately 10 percent—from 35,905 to 32,381. Smaller birth cohorts can result in smaller incoming classes in subsequent years. Within LCSD, the current report shows 545 kindergarten students compared with 630 students in grade 12. These demographic patterns provide useful context alongside local enrollment trends and family choices.

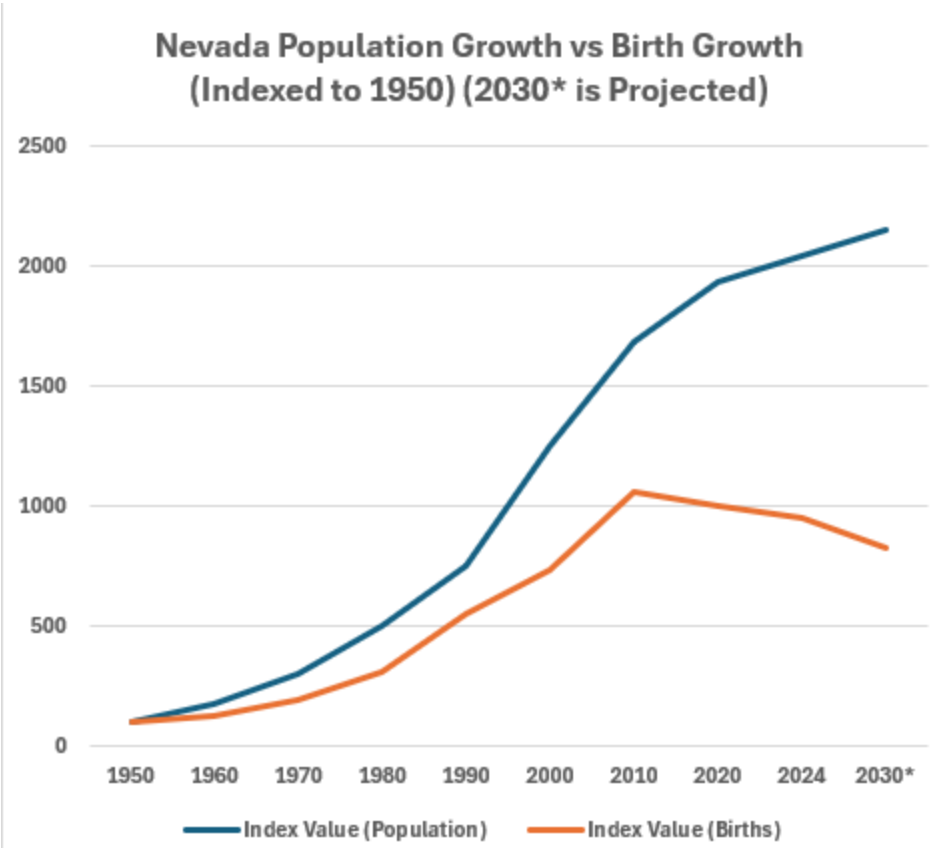
3) Given LCSD's two-year decline of 485 students, are there plans for further budgetary adjustments?

LCSD remains in a secure financial position. Administration has consistently monitored enrollment alongside the healthy ending fund balance and used conservative enrollment and revenue projections, including anticipating decline. This planning informed the adjustments already made to teacher-leader and administrative-leader stipends and the district-level ESL position, along with planning for this to be the final year of CCRI positions. These proactive steps have positioned the District well to manage enrollment changes.

Approximately 85 percent of District expenditures support staffing. At the beginning of each hiring season, administration reviews projected enrollment, class sizes, and program needs. Adjusting staffing upward or downward to reflect those needs is an established part of the District's annual planning process.

The Governor's 120-day Emergency Funding for School Districts Facing Declining Enrollments measure provides additional short-term stability and received bipartisan support. LCSD will continue monitoring the upcoming legislative session and efforts to establish longer-term state funding stability for Nevada's public schools. The District will continue managing enrollment changes through its established staffing and budget processes.

See Tables below.



Year	Nevada Population	Nevada Births	Birth Rate (per 1,000)	Total Fertility Rate	Year	Index Value (Population)	Index Value (Births)
1950	160,083	3,400	21.2	3.3	1950	100	100
1960	285,278	4,400	15.4	3.6	1960	178.2	129.4
1970	488,738	6,514	13.3	2.4	1970	305.3	191.6
1980	800,493	10,401	13.0	2.05	1980	500.0	305.9
1990	1,201,833	18,659	15.5	2.55	1990	750.8	548.8
2000	1,998,257	24,868	12.4	2.28	2000	1248.3	731.4
2010	2,700,551	35,905	13.3	2.25	2010	1687.0	1056.0
2020	3,104,614	34,195	11.0	1.86	2020	1939.4	1005.7
2024	3,267,467	32,381	9.9	1.49	2024	2041.1	952.4
2030*	3,450,000	28,000	8.1		2030*	2155.1	823.5