Expect More.

From Launch To Results:

Building the Stillwater Experience

School Board Study Session
Nov. 10, 2026

Growing Communities

Enrollment Realities

Districtwide Response











Washington County Demographics

+8.9%

population growth

2020-2025

+1.5%

annual births

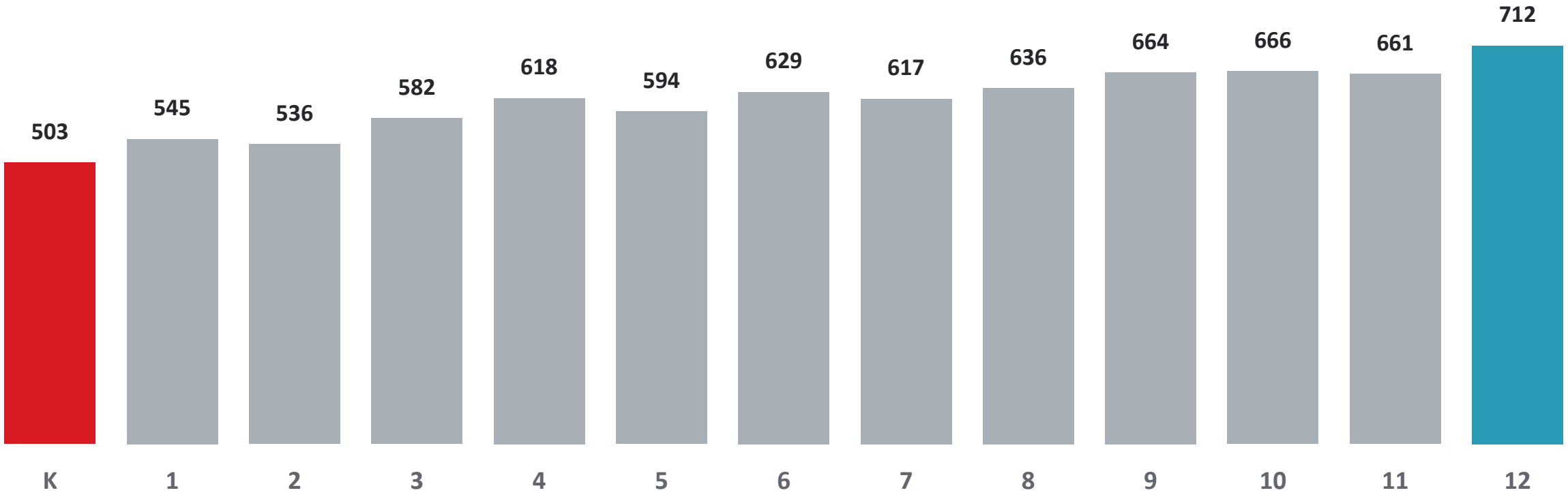
2020-21 - 2024-25

Population is growing, but births are relatively flat.
More residents don't necessarily mean more incoming students.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program. Birth figures compare July–June periods and represent estimated birth counts, not birth rates.

A long-term enrollment challenge

Our 12th-grade classes have been consistently larger than kindergarten classes.



K–5 grades average 563 students; grades 9–12 average 676.

Enrollment grows along the way

Graduating classes gain more students between grades K-12

Enrollment Progression By Grade Band (using Oct. 1 numbers)

Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
K	551	539	582	570	509	533	580	503	507	514
1	572	551	549	598	570	571	560	602	544	522
2	631	546	577	573	586	567	594	566	601	547
3	589	610	557	589	551	560	581	598	583	613
4	583	579	617	575	580	570	579	592	616	593
5	642	577	603	647	558	576	587	592	602	622
6	634	654	611	638	624	566	598	624	614	630
7	656	651	686	650	641	653	589	622	628	622
8	674	673	665	709	646	617	653	616	644	639
9	677	710	711	664	711	662	665	691	652	668
10	706	686	723	713	658	706	664	677	693	656
11	706	708	688	716	708	671	711	678	691	707
12	694	709	723	694	706	714	666	729	685	691
Total Enrollment	8315	8193	8292	8336	8048	7966	8027	8090	8060	8024

Enrollment has a direct budget impact

October 23 budget comparison, with the latest November 2 enrollment snapshot

8,006

K–12+ latest

November 2, 2026

–75

vs. budget target

8,081 budgeted

–$620,786

estimated impact*

Original K–12+ budget variance



*Based on general education basic formula @ $7,683/pupil unit.
Does not included other categorical aid (ie. Compensatory Education, Title I).

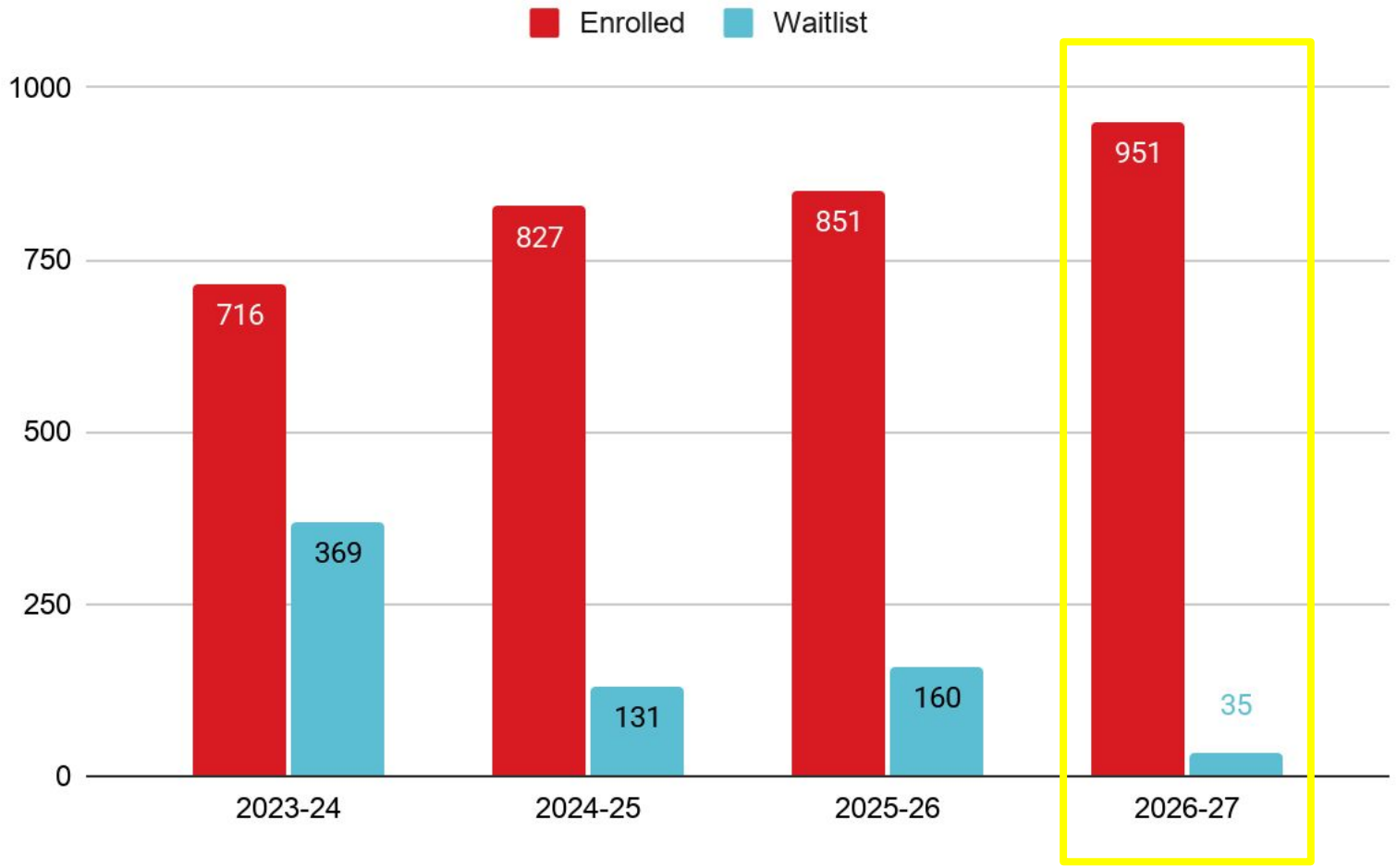
What we're doing to attract and retain families

Focus Area #1: Making Early Connections

Early Childhood → **Preschool** → **Kindergarten**

Focus #2: Meeting Needs of Families

Adventure Club Enrollment



We anticipate current waitlist being closed by Winter Break!

What we're planning for 2027-28:

- Now hiring for summer and fall position
- Priority enrollment for preschool and kindergarten students
- Confirmed placement for current Adventure Club families during renewal period
- Shorter waitlists for new families next year

What we're doing to attract and retain families

Focus Area #3: Connecting at Key Transition Points

Intentional outreach

- Preschool and kindergarten
- Sixth grade transition
- Ninth grade transition
- High school

Strategies

- School tours and events
- Parent and student engagement
- Targeted marketing to students not attending Stillwater area schools
- Online and print advertising in and outside of our boundaries






Focus Area #4: Ensuring academic excellence

Academic Rigor

EXAMPLES:
Literacy, Math, Multi Tier Systems of Support

Quality Programs

EXAMPLES:
Dual-Language Spanish Immersion, GATE

Opportunities

EXAMPLES:
Pathways, college credit, elective options

Focus Area #5: Improving Transportation Access, Efficiency

$663,000

Original 2026–27 savings target

- Budget projected to be on target with model changes
- Diesel fuel cost impact: Anticipated to be $250,000 more than budgeted

Comparison: Number of vehicles utilized to transport students

	2026-27		2025-26	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Buses - General Ed	72	75	74	75
Buses - Special Ed	28	29	32	31
Vans - Special Ed	22	24	31	29
Vans (District owned)	2	1	NA	NA

NOTE: Biggest cost savings comes from reduction in “excess charges” with the reduction of the third tier.

NOTE: In 2026-27, district vans are also covering 10 mid-day routes

Assigned vs Actual Ridership

Average number of students per bus run | Morning and afternoon routes

Secondary Routes

Assigned	Actual
54 students per run	**30** students per run

55% of assigned riders actually ride

Elementary Routes

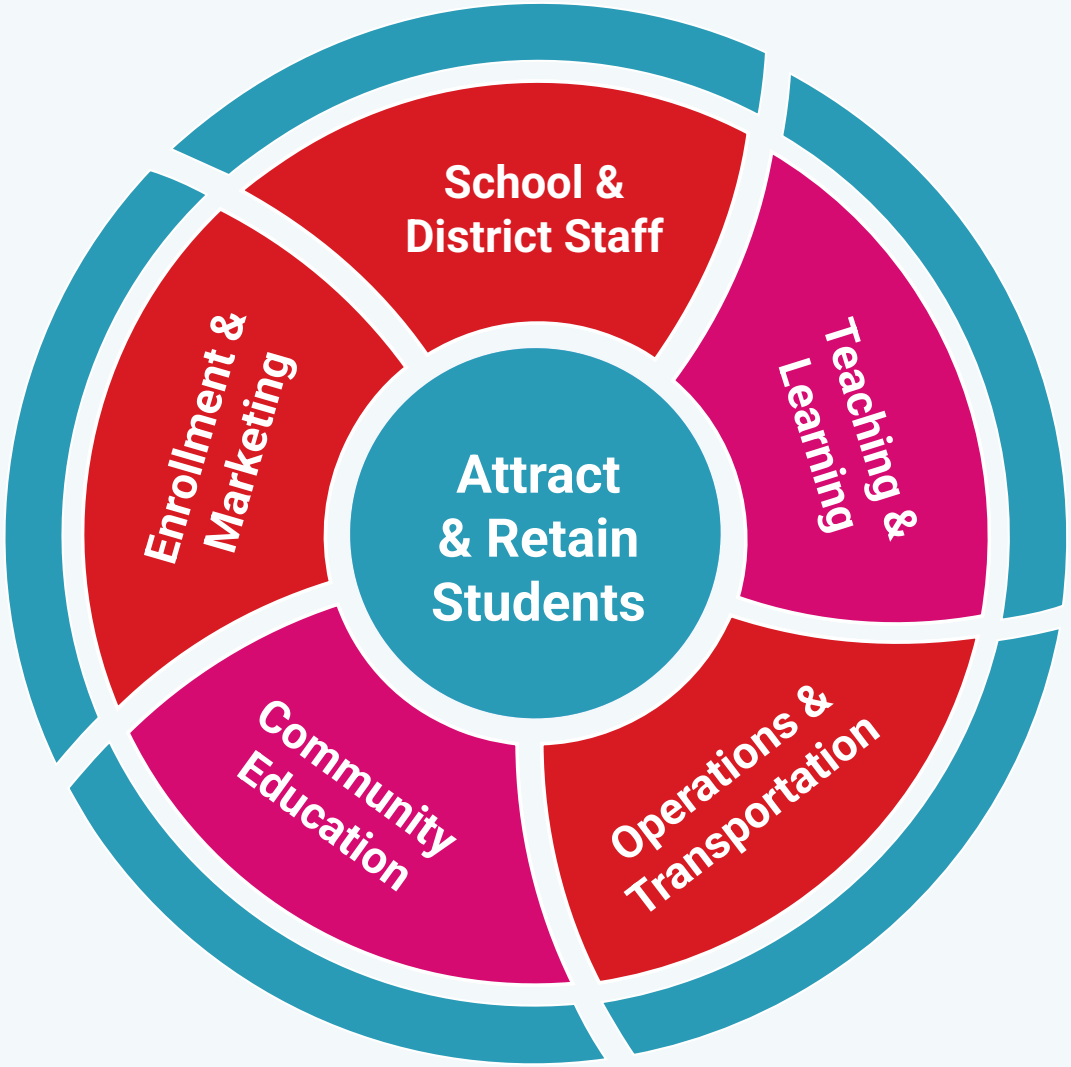
Assigned	Actual
51 students per run	**37** students per run

72% of assigned riders actually ride

Opportunity for mid-year adjustments to increase efficiency; address lingering route concerns

We’re In This Together

Enrollment Is Everyone's Responsibility



Board Discussion

