



ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883 BOARD OF EDUCATION

A Tradition of Excellence, One Student at a Time

Agenda for August 17, 2026

5:30 PM

District Board Room

6051 Ash Street

Rockford, MN 55373

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A. Board Roll Call

2. Demographic Study

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3. **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Our Mission: *In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.*

Our Vision: *Rockford Area Schools provides a supportive, rigorous, and relevant learning culture producing courageous learners prepared to enter a global society.*

Rockford Board of Education

Eric Gordee

Jessica Johnson

Jamie Hillstrom

Chris Morgan

Dr. Beth Praska

Kevin Sjodin

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover

ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

ISD#883

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Hazel H. Reinhardt

August 17, 2026

QUICK LOOK BACK

Last 10 years, from 2015-16 to 2025-26

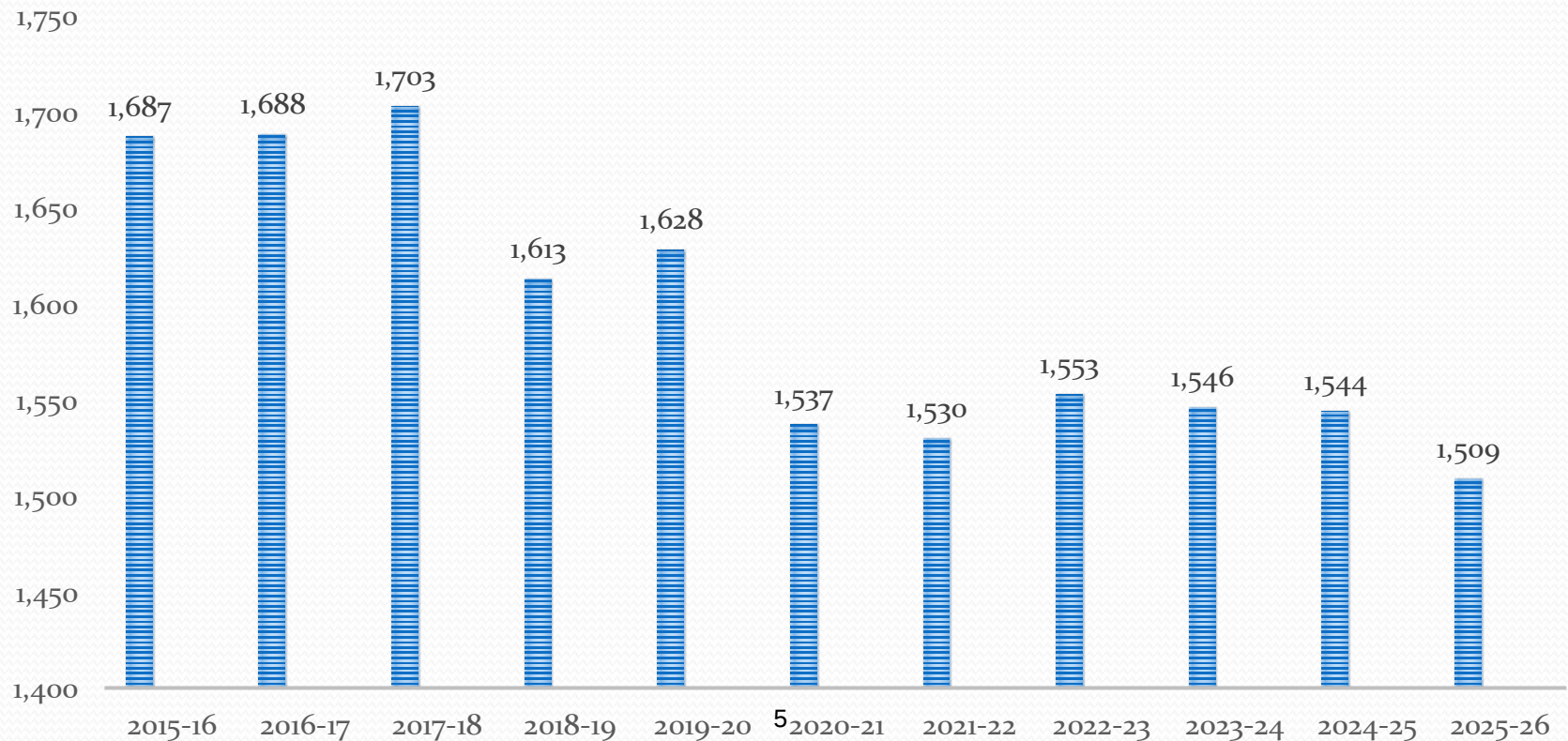
KEY FINDINGS

Last 10 years, from 2015-16 to 2025-26:

- **The district's resident school-age population was flat**
 - Resident enrollment decreased by 211 students or -15.3%
- Rockford Area School's **K-12 enrollment** (excluding Early Childhood) **decreased by 178 students or -10.6%**
- **Nonresidents account for 22.5% of enrollment in 2025-26**

ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

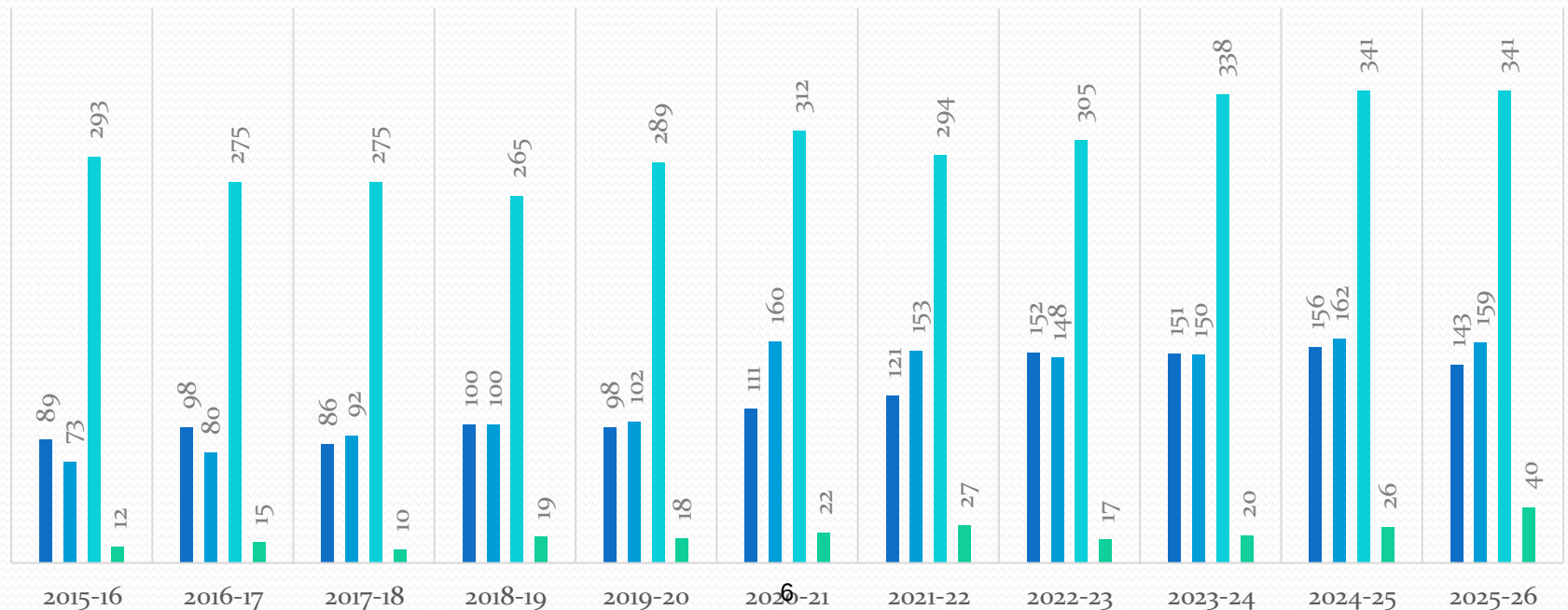
K-12 ENROLLMENT



COMPETITION

RESIDENTS NOT ATTENDING ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

■ Nonpublic ■ Home School ■ Open Enroll ■ Charters



EDUCATION CHOICES

2024-25

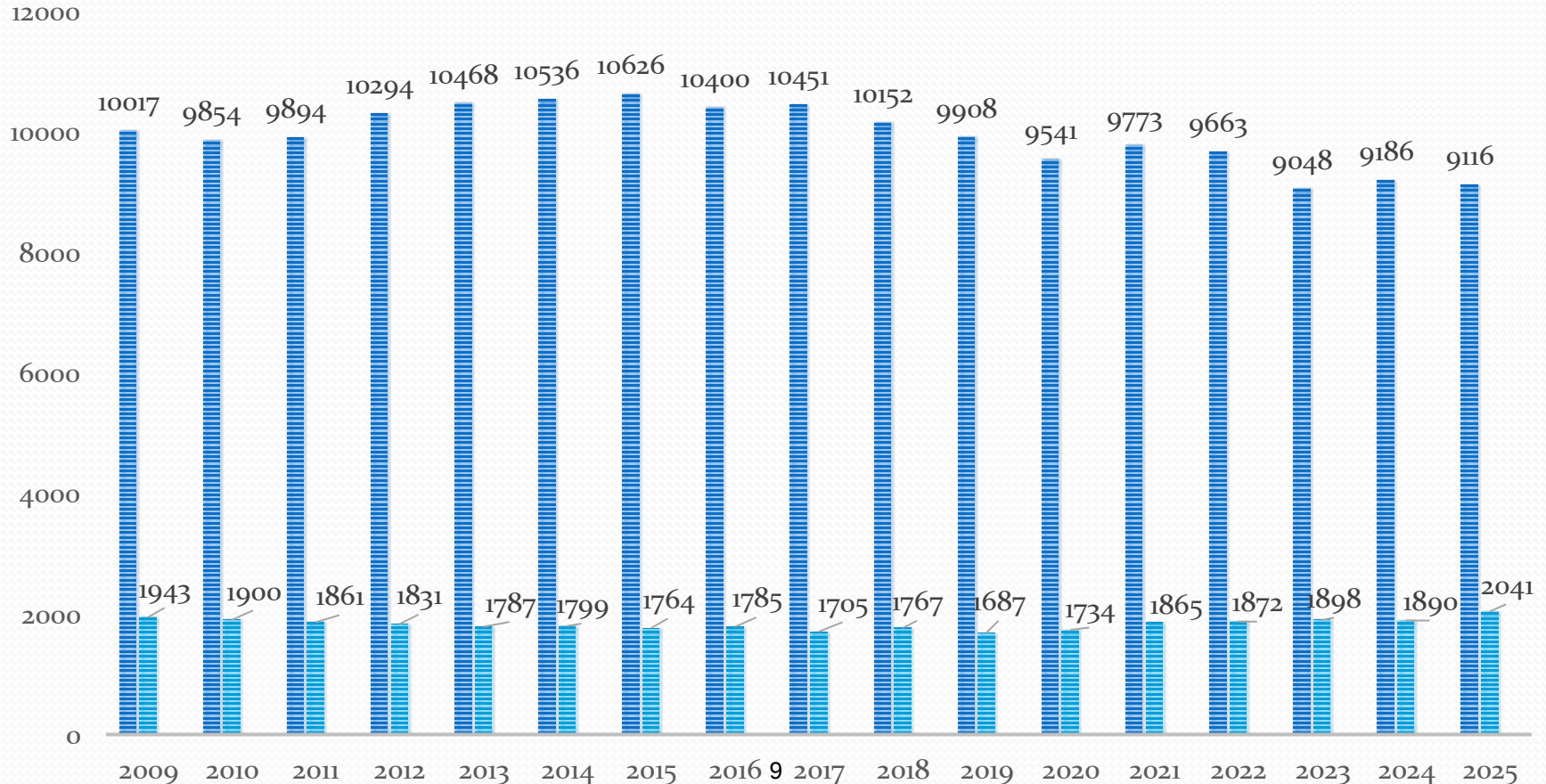
	Minnesota	Rockford Area Schools
Nonpublic Settings	10.6%	17.1%
Traditional schools	7.4%	8.4%
Home schools	3.2%	8.7%
Public Options		
Open enrollment	9.5%	
In		23.8%
Our		18.3%
Charter schools	7.4%	1.4%
	7	
Capture Rate	71.2%	63.1%

KEY FINDINGS

- **Minnesota and Suburban Hennepin County resident births decreased from 2009 to 2025; Wright County births increase in 2025**
 - **-11.5% Minnesota**
 - **-9.0% Suburban Hennepin County**
 - **5.0% Wright County (2009-2024 births decreased)**

RESIDENT LIVE BIRTHS

SUBURBAN HENNEPIN COUNTY AND WRIGHT COUNTY



COMPONENTS OF K-12 ENROLLMENT CHANGE

Fall to Fall	Total		Natural Increase/Decrease	Net Migration
	#	%		
2015 to 2016	1	0.1%	25	-24
2016 to 2017	15	0.9%	18	-3
2017 to 2018	-90	-5.3%	0	-90
2018 to 2019	15	0.9%	28	-13
2019 to 2020	-91	-5.6%	-20	-71
2020 to 2021	-7	-0.5%	-3	-4
2021 to 2022	23	1.5%	11	12
2022 to 2023	-7	-0.5%	-5	-2
2023 to 2024	-2	-0.1%	-9	7
2024 to 2025	-35	-2.3%	-17	-18
Total	-178	---	28	-206

Natural decrease - incoming Kindergarten is smaller¹⁰ than the previous years' Grade 12

Net migration measures the number of students who move in or out of the district, make transfers between education options or drop out of school

PROJECTIONS

Next 10 years: 2026-27 to 2035-36

IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT ENROLLMENT

- 2025-26 enrollment by grade predicts enrollment will decrease unless kindergarten is substantially larger
 - Average grade size
 - K-4 = 111 students
 - 5-8 = 118 students
 - Expected to be larger due to consistent net inflow at Grade 6
 - 9-12 = 120 students
 - Kindergarten decreased by 18.3% 2015-16 to 2025-26
 - 120 to 98 students

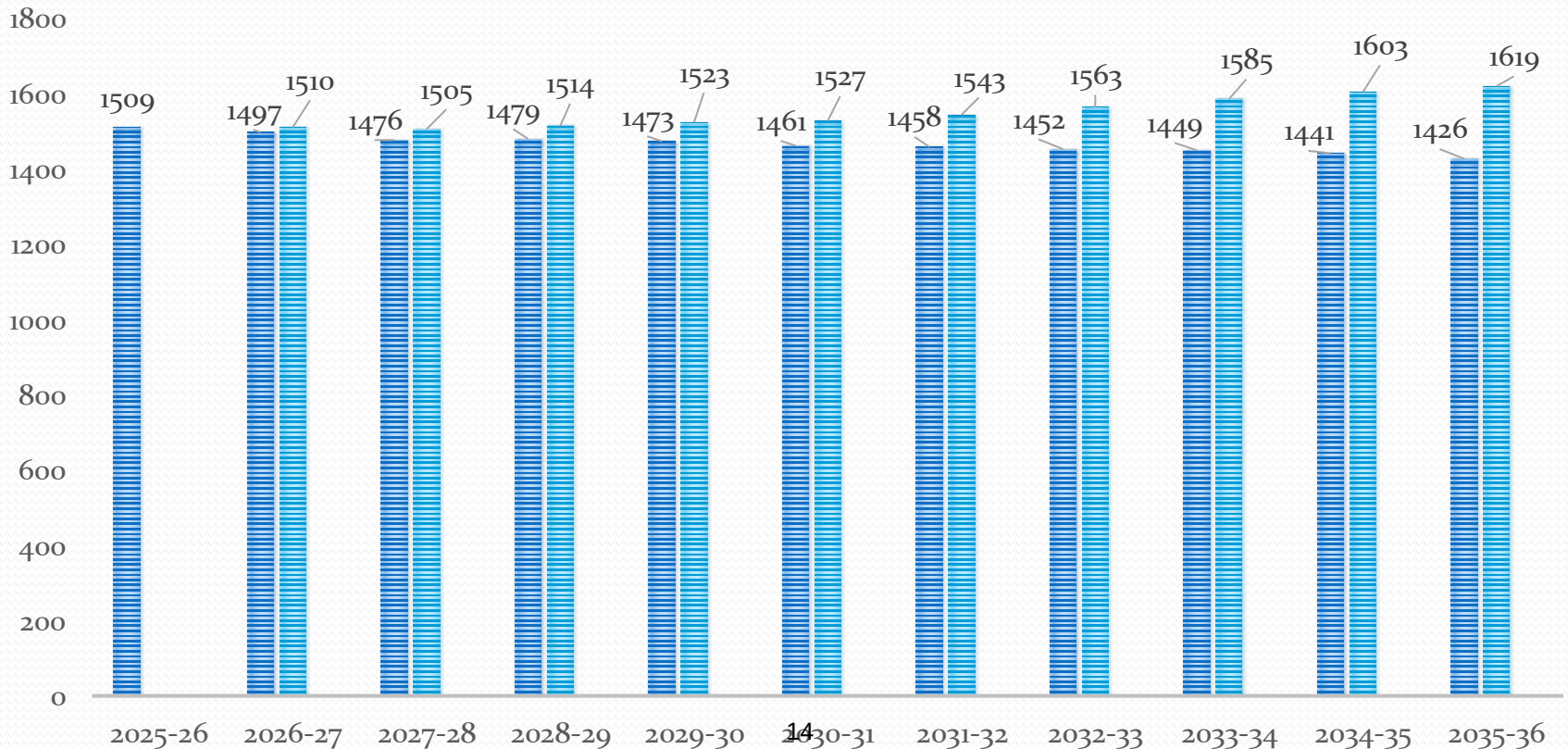
K-12 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Next ten years (2025-26 to 2035-36)

- Enrollment decline continues or not
 - 2025-26 = 1,509
 - **2035-36: 1,426 to 1,619 (high based on Wright County births)**
 - -83 to +110 students or **-5.5% to 7.3%** from 2025-26
 - Four projections with different assumptions
 - 193 student difference between lowest and highest projection
 - Components of enrollment change
 - **Net migration averages -2 to +2 per year**
(less than the past three years of -4 students per year)
 - **Natural increase/decrease averages -6 to +11 per year**
(less than the past three years of -10 students per year)

Rockford Area Schools

Lowest Highest



K-12 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

	K-4	5-8	9-12	Total
2025-26	557	471	481	1,509
2030-31				
Low K/Low Mig	552	464	444	1,461
High K/High Mig	593	475	459	1,527
2035-36				
Low K/Low Mig	532	461	433	1,426
High K/High Mig	649	508	462	1,619

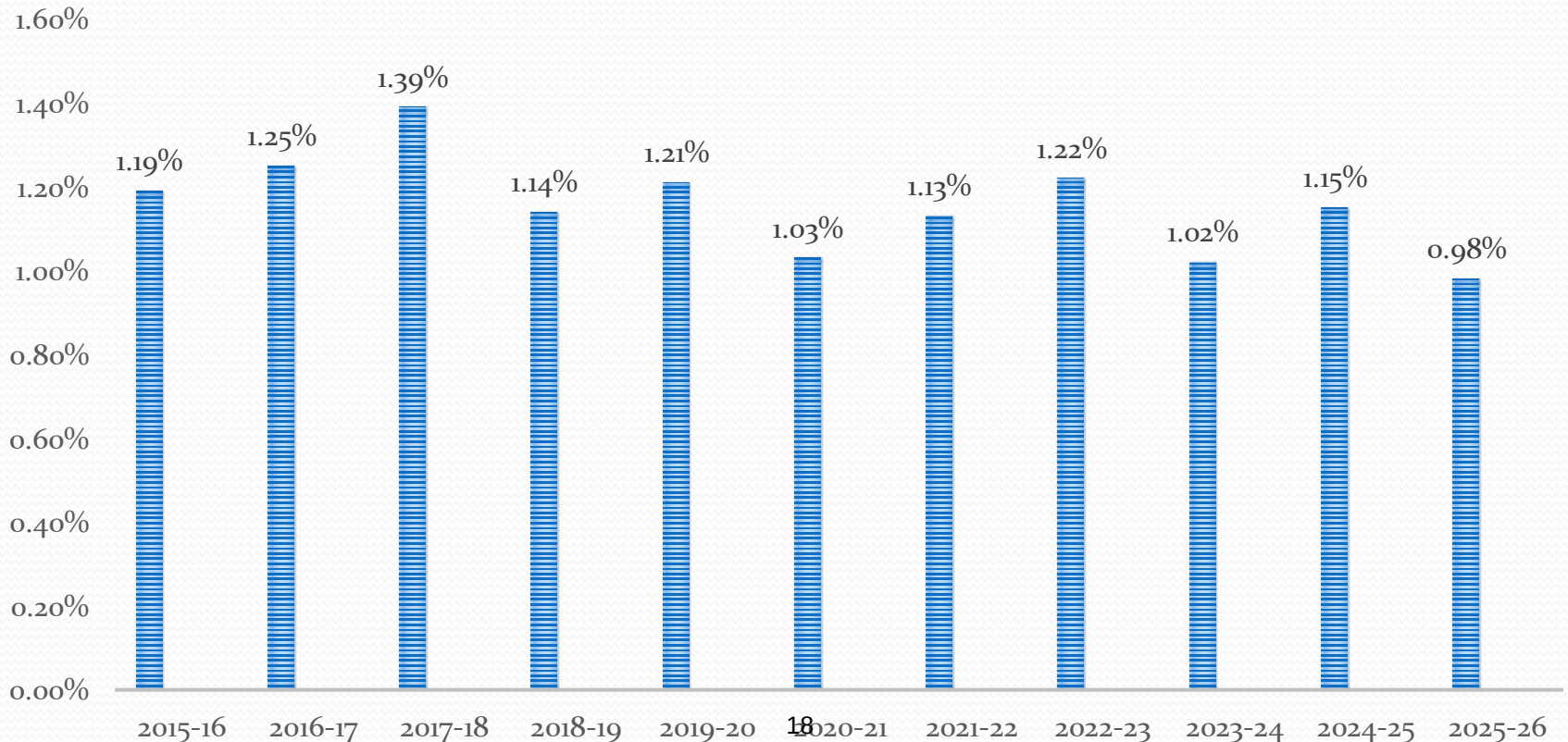
ANALYSIS of COMPONENTS

PROJECTION METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS

- **Cohort Survival Method**
 - Both simple and complex
 - Ages each grade by moving it to the next higher grade in the following year
 - Requires making:
 - Kindergarten projections
 - Resident births are a proxy
 - Net migration or the survival rates grade to grade projections

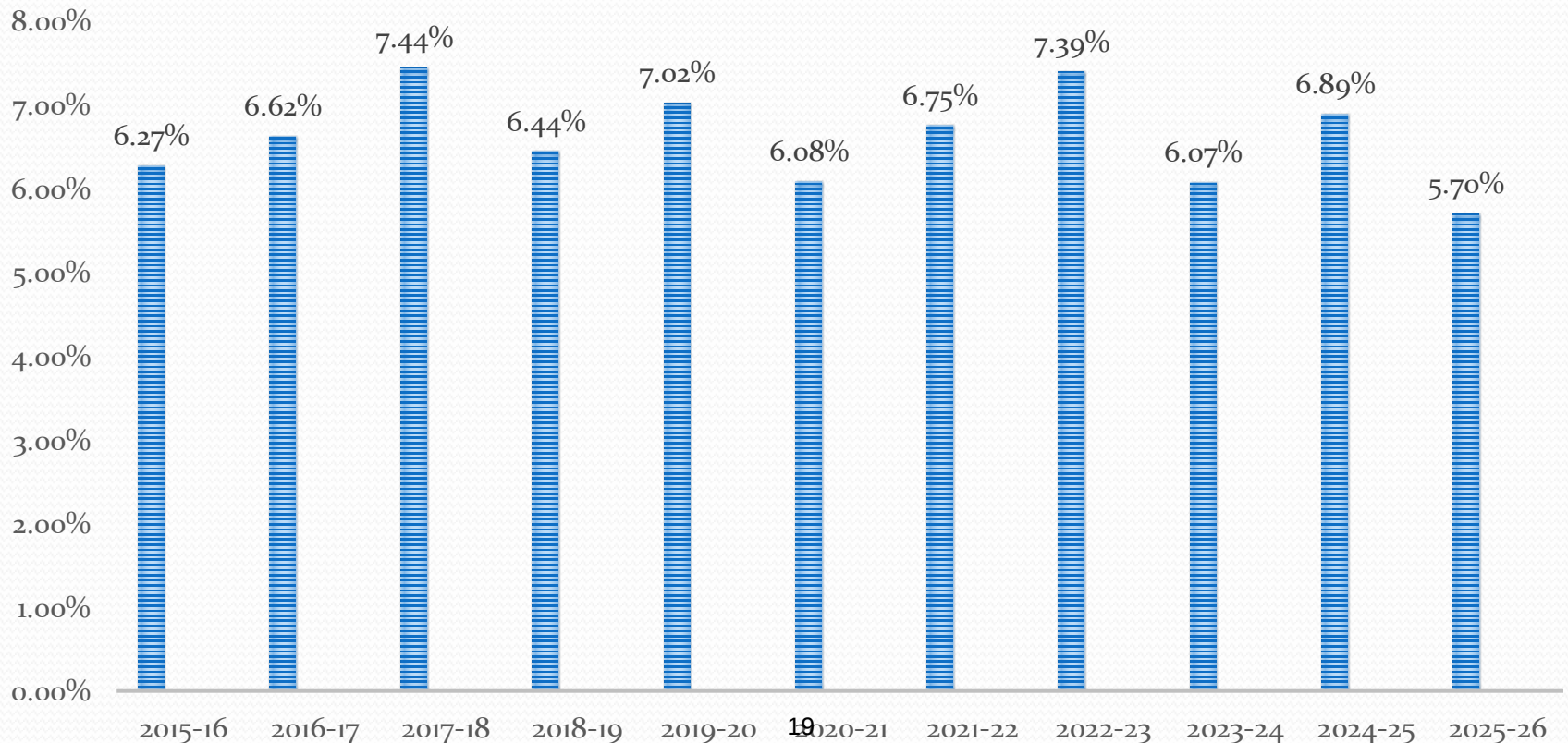
ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS' SHARE OF SUBURBAN HENNEPIN COUNTY KINDERGARTEN POOL – 2015-2025

PERCENT OF KINDERGARTEN POOL



ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS' SHARE OF WRIGHT COUNTY KINDERGARTEN POOL – 2015-2025

PERCENT OF KINDERGARTEN POOL



KINDERGARTEN PROJECTIONS

- Kindergarten assumptions
 - Kindergarten/birth ratios—**Capture Rate**
 - Low is 1.16% of Suburban Hennepin County
 - High is 6.56% of Wright County
 - **Difference between these two is 170 students over ten years**
 - Longer-term—2030-31 through 2035-36
 - Based on **projections of Wright County 0-year-olds** by the Minnesota State Demography Center

KINDERGARTEN POOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROJECTIONS

Year	Kindergarten Pool	Low Suburban Hennepin County 1.16%	High Wright County 6.56%
2025-26	9,988 or 1,719	98	98
2026-27	9,662 or 1,822	112	120
2027-28	9,697 or 1,869	112	123
2028-29	9,699 or 1,790	113	117
2029-30	9,521 or 1,790	107	117
2030-31	9,141 or 1,809	106	119
2031-32	9,139 or 1,843	106	121
2032-33	9,156 or 1,976	106	130
2033-34	9,161 or 2,009	106	132
2034-35	9,132 or 2,043	106	134
2035-36	9,100 or 2,075	105	136

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Bold numbers based on actual births

WHY?

- Lower fertility (# of births/woman)
 - Fertility below replacement (replacement is 2.11 children per woman at the end of childbearing). Minnesota at 1.73 in 2023 (U.S. 1.62)
 - Number of births decreasing in U.S. and Minnesota
 - Fertility varies by race/ethnicity; urban/rural
- Population aging
 - Women of prime childbearing age (25-34 yrs.) will decrease
 - Slower growth
 - Immigration from abroad has kept Minnesota growing for more than 25 years
 - Hennepin County's population projected to decrease slightly Wright County projected to increase ²²

NET MIGRATION

(SURVIVAL or RETENTION RATES)

- Net migration has been negative (net **out** migration) for eight of the past ten years (competition)
- **Three net migration patterns are noteworthy**
 - Since the Pandemic Kindergarten to Grade 1
 - Essentially zero—very small negative to very small positive
 - Consistent inflow between Grade 5 and Grade 6. Larger in past four years
 - No net inflow between Grade 8 and Grade 9
 - Most Minnesota schools see an inflow in this grade transition

NET MIGRATION ASSUMPTIONS

- **Low net migration**—results in less net out migration
- **High net migration**—results in net in migration
- **Migration assumptions do not result in much variation in the projections**

EFFECT OF SURVIVAL RATES IN TEN YEARS WITH LOW K ASSUMPTION

Survival Rates	Total	K-4	5-8	9-12
Low —Past 2 Years	1,426	532	461	433
High —Past 4 Years	1,448	527	468	454
22 student difference in 10 years; most of the difference is in the high school grades				

K-12 ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVE

What could make these district wide projections

- **Too high?**
 - Projected kindergarten is too high (Projected Kindergarten pool too large; Rockford's capture rate decreases)
 - More district residents chose other education options
- **Too low?**
 - Projected kindergarten is too low (Projected Kindergarten pool too small; Rockford's capture rate increases)
 - More district residents chose Rockford Area Schools

WHAT ABOUT HOUSING

WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

HOUSING UNITS BUILT 2021-2025

	Single-Family Detached	Townhomes /Single-Family Attached	Manufactured Homes	Apartments	Senior Units	Total
Buffalo						
Corcoran	265	152	0	0	204	621
Greenfield	84	0	0	0	0	84
Rockford	124	23	5	48*	0	152
Total	473	175	5	0	204	857

*Not completed or occupied so moved to 2026-2030

Source: Individual communities

HOUSING 2021-2025

- Added 857 units; 55.2% or 473 units were single-family detached, which yield the most students per unit
- Not much effect on enrollment
 - District's enrolled population **increased by 67 students**
 - Empty nesting district wide; types of households
 - Rockford Area Schools enrollment **decreased by 21 students**
 - Empty nesting district wide and competition

HOUSING UNITS PROJECTED

2026-2030

	Single-Family Detached	Townhomes /Single-Family Attached	Manufactured Homes	Apartments	Senior Units	Total
Buffalo						
Corcoran	230	49		0	143	422
Greenfield	284	350		100		734
Rockford				48		48
Total	514	399		148	143	1,204

Rockford reports only 13 single-family lots remain

Greenfield has the potential for a large development across from Rockford High School/RCC. Estimated 200 single-family homes and 450 apartments/townhomes. Split 100/350, which is an estimate

Source: Individual communities

HOUSING 2026-2030

- More likely to effect Rockford Area Schools enrollment
 - Greenfield growth is near Rockford Area Schools' buildings
 - Projected 200 single-family detached units
 - Total yield of all new units estimated to be up to 260 students
 - Effect on Rockford Area Schools' enrollment depends on
 - Yield per single-family detached unit
 - Timing, e.g., the number of new single-family detached units built and occupied each year until built out
 - Split between apartments and townhomes
 - Competition from nonpublic and homeschools

TYPICAL STUDENT YIELDS BY UNIT TYPE

- Single-family detached—varies by school district and even by location within a school district
 - Used 0.60 per unit in this analysis
- Townhomes/Attached units—no variation by district or by state
 - 0.22 per unit
- Apartments—no variation by district or by state
 - 0.11 to 0.15 per unit



THANK YOU