Enrollment Analysis

DRAFT, 2021 (j. eberwein) Last edited 12.2.21

This report is divided into a series of sections that will help to address the question of historical and projected enrollment. Additional analysis will be included in a separate section on details of student movement across districts and its impact on finances.

Summary: Enrollment **has** and **is** declining (as a trend) in both BHRSD and SBRSD, and **will likely** continue to decline into the future. Enrollment patterns are further complicated by a significant amount of student movement in/out/across SBRSD and BHRSD through school choice and tuition agreements. The net effect directly impacts school finance and the capacity to offer a broad range of educational programs, services, and supports. Enrollment, thus, is a foundational variable in this consolidation/regionalization/collaborative research effort.

By the numbers:

- 1,787. In 2020, students enrolled in BHRSD and SBRSD *without* PK & SP.

Total anticipated decline, 2000 through 2030 = -52.1%

Enrollment Summary by Decade (K-12, no PreK): BHRSD, SBRSD, Combined

Year	BHRSD		SBRSD		Combined	
	#	% of enrollment v. 2000	#	% of enrollment v. 2000	#	% of enrollment v. 2000
2000	1,612		1,072		2,684	
2010	1,356	-15.9%	865	-19.3%	2,221	-16.9%
2020	1,163	-27.9%	624	-41.8%	1,787	-33.2%
2030 (projected)	877	-45.6%	403	-62.4%	1,280	-52.1%

Summarized Findings (RSDPB):

- In the eight towns represented by the RSDPB, enrollment declined by 33%, from 2,684 (2000) to 1,787 (2020), and is anticipated to decline an additional 28% (to 1,280) by 2030. This total change constitutes slightly over a 50% decline, 2000 through 2030.
- By district, SBRSD has lost more total enrollment (-41.8%) since 2000 than BHRSD (-27.9%). Both districts have a projected student decline through 2030 that will net a total loss (2000 to 2030) of 45.6% of the total enrollment in BHRSD and 62.4% in SBRSD.
- While the RSDPB towns saw a population decline from 2000 to 2010, the most recent 2020 census reported an increase in the RSDPB populations since 2010, +4.9% in the five SBRSD towns and +1.7% in the BHRSD three towns. Despite this total town population increase over the last decade, RSDPB school population has continued to decline over this same time period, -38.6% in SBRSD and -14.2% in BHRSD. This is likely the result of migratory patterns (in/out of the region), an increasingly aging population, declining birth rates, and shifts in housing patterns - all resulting in fewer school aged children per household.
- The pandemic may have impacted additional in-migration into the RSDPB region as total population, however it does not appear to have significantly influenced the RSDPB K12 schools' enrollment.
- The region remains mostly White (87%) in RSDPB, and is much less diverse than the entire Commonwealth, yet has become more diverse since 2010 when White residents represented 92% of the total population. Hispanic and Multi-Race residents have seen the most significant increases over the last decade. Overall, BHRSD is more diverse (79% White) than SBRSD (85% White).
- Several enrollment trends by grade suggest that enrollment in PK is lower in BHRSD than in SBRSD; there is a dropoff between K and Grade 1 in BHRSD, with higher K to Grade 1 retention in SBRSD; BHRSD enrollment rises in Grades 7,8,9 due to choice and tuition; both districts appear to have relatively strong retention of cohorts with a few questionable spots, such as Grade 4 & 5 in SBRSD.
- Overall, between 70-73% of students who resident in the eight towns attend their resident home public school. This is in contrast to about 80% of all students in the Berkshires who attend their resident public school district.
- By towns, the highest percentage of resident students attending their resident schools occurs in the three BHRSD towns, and Sheffield and New Marlborough in SBRSD. In contrast, only 22% of [South] Egremont and just over half of Monterey and Egremont students attend their resident public schools.
- In BHRSD, students opting out tend to attend private/parochial (17%) or choice out (8%) versus in SBRSD where those leaving tend to do so via choice (15%) and private/parochial (11%).
- Both SBRSD and BHRSD have experienced increasing levels of students who are low income/economically disadvantaged, high needs, and English Language Learners.
- The total number of resident students in SBRSD has remained relatively flat over the last five years, while it has decreased by 14% in BHRSD. BHRSD has replaced these resident students with a growing number of school choice students. In contrast, SBRSD has experienced a rising number of students choicing out and fewer choicing in.

- In 2021, the BHRSD enrollment was composed of 72% resident students and 28% who arrived through choice-in and tuition-in pathways. In contrast, SBRSD enrollment is composed of 86% resident students and about 13% arrive through school choice-in or tuition-in pathways.
- More students choiced out from SBRSD (114 in 2020) to BHRSD than from BHRSD (47 in 2020) to SBRSD.
- The number of tuition-in students to BHRSD has declined, possibly a function of decreasing enrollments in the sending districts[1] , although there are likely other factors.
- BHRSD students come from 22 towns, while SBRSD includes students from 16.
- Applying two different projection methodologies, New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), enrollment in both SBRSD and BHRSD is expected to continue to decline into 2030. To illustrate the change, the combined enrollment of both SBRSD and BHRSD will be equivalent to the 2006 BHRSD-only enrollment in somewhere between 2025 and 2030.
- In the 2021-2022 school year, initial enrollments suggest an increase in the BHRSD enrollment (+41 students, +3.6% increase) and a decline in the SBRSD enrollment (-17 students, -2.8% decrease). Most of the BHRSD gains appear in grades 5-9, grades that tend to reflect natural jumping on/off points for tuition and school choice. A school sending report later this year will likely shed additional light on this phenomenon to better understand if this data reflects any increase in resident students and in-migration due to the pandemic.

Table of Contents:

List of Tables and Figures:

I. Why Enrollment Matters.

The significance of enrollment.
The significance of enrollment patterns and trends to any consolidation/collaboration/regionalization effort cannot be overstated. Enrollment directly influences finances, staffing, operations, and facilities/space. Indirectly, it impacts a district/school's capacity to offer educational programming, services, and enrichment to students, and professional instructional, curriculum, and assessment resources to faculty. An understanding of enrollment, and general agreement regarding enrollment trends, is foundational to all other analyses and modeling.

The challenges of enrollment.
Enrollment is a challenge to (precisely) measure and represent consistently given that:

1. In most schools, enrollment is regularly shifting (measured by levels of transience or churn)
2. Enrollment counts use slightly different methods when calculating fiscal impact, and may or may not include Pre-Kindergarten and/or special populations, such as post-graduate special education - often adding some confusion when various representations do not perfectly line up
3. Both choice and tuition create unique conditions in schools where significant numbers of non-resident students arrive through these pathways, and these will vary year-to-year
4. Enrollment projections (looking into the future) are limited by factors such as birth rates, housing, and development - all variables that can be accounted for, but not perfectly predicted
5. Regional agreements may vary in how they treat enrollment as a mechanism for funding

Combined, these complexities present challenges when sharing enrollment representations with the general public. We assert that it's important to view enrollment from the lens of verifiable ***patterns and trends*** over time, rather than using a single point-in-time/student count which will likely fluctuate slightly based on the complexities noted. For context, we will contextualize and illustrate how counting is nuanced within the state fiscal system.

Linking enrollment to two finance data sets.
As we dig into DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) data throughout this project, we will use two sets of finance data. They each serve an important purpose, but ***count students and dollars*** in different ways. They are hard to reconcile completely, though it is theoretically possible to do so. Because our analyses switch between them, we will identify the data we're using in tables and charts and explain it as necessary. The following describes the two data sets in some detail:

> ***End-of-Year Financial Reports*** (EOYR) are submitted annually to DESE by districts. They have a complete record of expenditures and revenues. DESE uses this data for a variety of compliance purposes and also publishes an aggregated version of it in per-pupil spending reports available on its website.

The State Aid to Education (Chapter 70) program establishes minimum spending requirements, called foundation budgets, for districts and the shares of that spending from state aid versus local contributions, using a complicated set of formulas. DOR (Department of Revenue) data on town property and income levels, DESE data on where students reside, and EOYR data on spending all are used in the formulas.

In the Chapter 70 program students are counted by **where they live,** unlike any other student counts from DESE. The EOYR system counts students by **where they are enrolled**, including those that choice in or enroll by tuition agreement. It is similar to DESE enrollment figures but is an end-of-year measure based on days in membership. Table 1 summarizes the differences.

Table 1. How Students Are Counted in Two Financial Data Sets

End of Year Financial Reports (EOYR)	Chapter 70 State Aid to Education
Full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils	Foundation enrollment (resident students)
Calculated from end-of-year enrollment data	Calculated from Oct. 1st enrollment data previous year
Counts students based on enrollment (in-district) or tuitioned out (out-of-district)	Counts students by town/district of residence, regardless of where they enrolled
Students on whom the district makes expenditures	Students for whom the district is financially responsible

Chapter 70 dollars, although referred to in part as net school spending, are really about district revenues based on resident students, which are spent on enrolled students and out-of-district tuitions for resident students. These revenues only include local contributions and Chapter 70 aid. EOYRs have detailed data about spending and include all functions and all sources of funds.

Counting and finance, a brief overview.

When counting students in any district, the following (generally) represents how various student counts are captured:

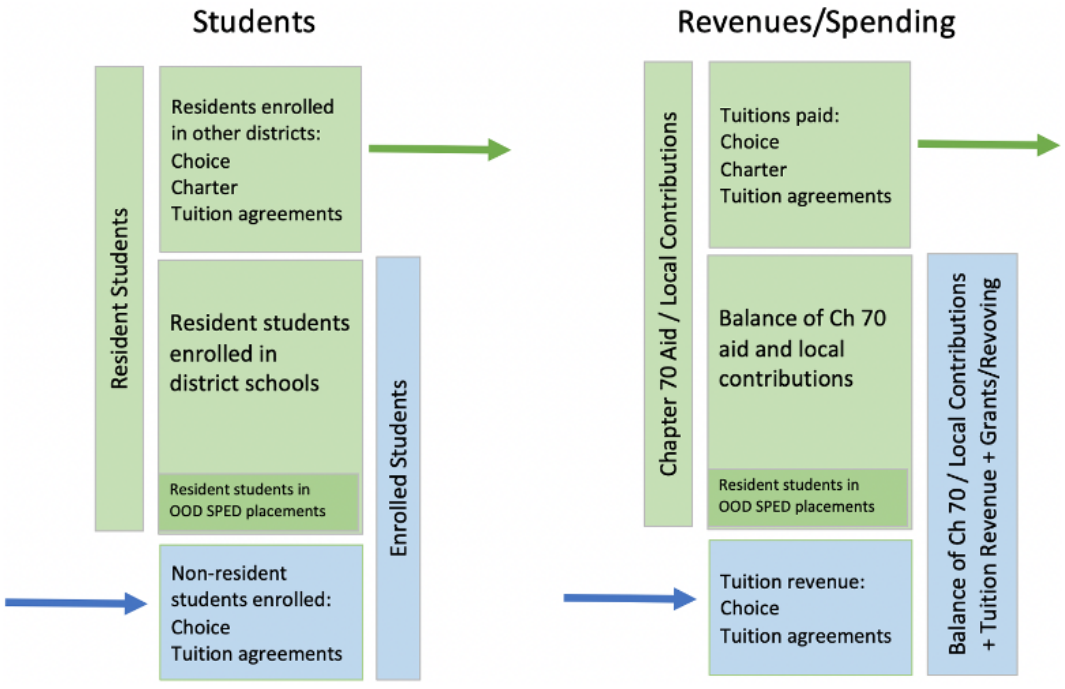
- Resident students, Attending: Students who live in a town that is part of the school district catchment and attend the local schools.
- Resident students, Out-Of-District, Tuition: Resident students from member towns who attend a specialized school or program outside the district at a cost to the districts/member town (ie. special education, alternative education, career vocational technical).
- Resident students, Non-Attending, Public. Resident students who choose to attend another public school through school choice or attend a public charter school at a cost to the home district/town.

- Resident students, Non-Attending, Non-Public. Resident students from member towns who attend a private, parochial, or home school at no cost to the district/member towns (with the exception of required special education services).
- Non-resident students, Attending. Students who live in a town that is not part of the school district catchment area. These include students who arrive through school choice, tuition agreements, or (in very small numbers) international exchange students.

While our fiscal analysis will illustrate in greater detail how student enrollment impacts district finances, the brief description below shows how enrollment and funding are linked.

The following diagram, Figure 1, outlines how the two finance data sets are connected. Chapter 70 aid and required local contributions are calculated based on *resident* students. Resident students become two groups, locally enrolled and tuitioned out. *Enrolled* students include the enrolled residents plus students enrolled by tuition (choice and tuition agreements). Districts receive tuition revenues for students they enroll from other districts. Districts spend funds from Chapter 70 and local contributions, tuition revenues, federal and state grants, and local revolving funds on in-district education for all *enrolled* students, plus tuition for *resident* students enrolling elsewhere. (Resident students in out-of-district placements for special education are paid for by the district though not counted directly in enrollment.)

Figure 1. Two Finance Data Sets Mapped in Terms of Students and Dollars



II. General Population Trends

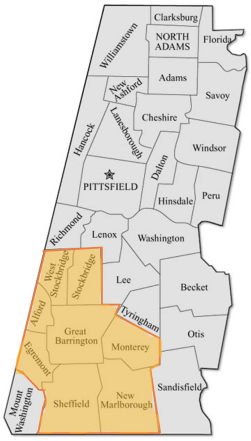
This section will explore population trends in Berkshire County and the eight RSDPB towns.[1] Foundational research was conducted by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) in concert with the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), link here to access the reports. It is important to note that the 2020 decennial Census data is in the process of release. Where possible, 2020 Census data has been used. Otherwise, the most recent estimated American Community Survey (ACS) data is used. As the RSDPB study progresses, it will be useful to confirm data patterns/trends with census data as it becomes available.

It should be noted that some of this data was collected throughout the 2019-2020 BCETF research project and has been updated regularly. Two reports, completed by BCETF, offer additional county-wide detail and can be found by linking below.

- K12 Enrollment Analysis
- About the Berkshires (includes various demographic/town data)

Backdrop, the Berkshires as context for RSDPB.

Berkshire County sits on the western edge of the state of Massachusetts. The county, one of fourteen in the state, was founded in 1761. It exists today only as an historical geographic region, and has no county government, with the exception of the retirement board for former county workers, and certain offices such as the sheriff and registry of deeds. With about 2% of the state's population, it covers 12% of its landmass.



[1] **Related *Berkshire Eagle* articles can be referenced below and are cited throughout this analysis.**

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/local/what-we-know-berkshire-county-census/article_fb1f3aac-0443-11ec-b58f-b7cbc753089c.html

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/statehouse/berkshire-census-decline/article_cfd3bde8-fbc2-11eb-8ae0-dfa20d6f6e52.html?utm_campaign=%2Fnews%2Fstatehouse%2Fberkshire-census-decline%2Farticle-cfd3bde8-fbc2-11eb-8ae0-dfa20d6f6e52.html%3Fmode%3Demail%26-dc%3D1628811421&utm_content=headline&utm_medium=auto%20alert%20email&utm_source=berkshireeagle.com

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/local/berkshire-county-population-dropped-by-1-7-percent-since-2010-smallest-decrease-in-decades/article_5458d156-fc78-11eb-bcb9-6379ca396768.html

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/local/encouraging-census-results-as-berkshire-county-grows-more-diverse-population-loss-slows/article_d64badbe-ff8e-11eb-b3a0-d74619885da0.html

The county has a total area of 946 square miles (2,450 km^2), of which 927 square miles (2,400 km^2) is land and 20 square miles (52 km^2) (2.1%) is water. It is the second-largest county in Massachusetts by land area. The highest natural point in Massachusetts, Mount Greylock at 3,492 feet (1,064 m) is in Berkshire County. The Berkshires have about 142 people per square mile. The eight RSDPB towns constitute about 26% of the total square miles in Berkshire County (244.3 square miles), with six of the eight towns with a population density of less than 70 people per square mile. The range is from Great Barrington with 153 people per square mile to New Marlborough with 31 people per square mile.

Berkshire County is one of two Massachusetts counties that border three neighboring states (Vermont, New York and Connecticut); the other being Worcester County. The two counties are also the only ones to touch both the northern and southern state lines.

Running north-south through the county are the Hoosac Range of the Berkshire Hills in the eastern part of the county and the Taconic Mountains in the western part of the county. Due to elevation, environment, arts and culture, and recreation, the Berkshires attract tourists and summer residents year-round.

For a full review of the Berkshire region, including additional economic and demographic indicators, please review the About the Berkshires report.

Towns/Cities.

Berkshire County's largest city and historical county seat is Pittsfield. The Berkshires have 32 towns and cities that can be (for the purposes of this report) organized into three sub-regions: south, central, and north. Cummington, while not in Berkshire County, is included in some regional analyses as it is a member town in the Central Berkshire Regional School district. Detail follows on Table 2.

Table 2. List of Berkshire County Towns/Cities

South (15)	Central (8)	North (10)
Alford	Becket	Adams
Egremont	*Cummington*	Cheshire
Great Barrington	Dalton	Clarksburg
Lee	Hinsdale	Florida
Lenox	Peru	Hancock
Monterey	Pittsfield*	Lanesborough
Mount Washington	Washington	New Ashford
New Marlborough	Windsor	North Adams*
Otis		Savoy
Richmond		Williamstown
Sandisfield		
Sheffield		
Stockbridge		
Tyringham		
West Stockbridge		

*Cities

8 Town RSDPB towns

Berkshire County Total Population.

16% population loss experienced between 1970 and 2019

46% population loss projected between 1970 and 2060

Overall, the Berkshire county population has been on the decline. A high mark of approximately 150,00 residents was realized around 1970 when General Electric was headquartered in Pittsfield. This reflects an approximate loss of 454 people per year, with a 12% decline over the past 40 years. Below, the total county population over the past fifty years is displayed on Table 3.

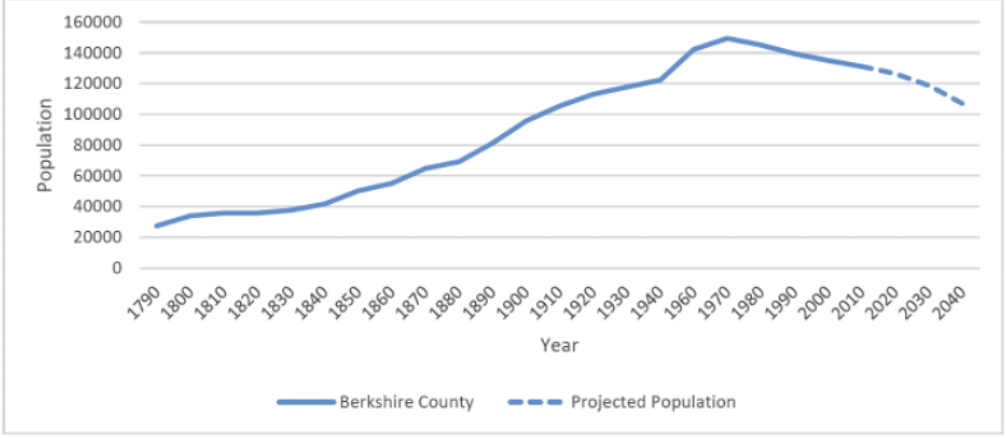
Table 3. Berkshire County Population, Selected Years 1970 through 2019

Year	Population
2020	129,026*
2019	124,944
2016	126,903
2010	131,219
2000	134,953
1990	139,352
1980	145,110
1970	149,402

*The most recent 2020 census data is identified in red and will be explored further below. It suggests a slowing population decline.

Projecting forward, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission expects (see Figure 2) that, based on demographic profiles, the slow decline will accelerate by 2030 as baby boomers age, with a long-range projected population of 80,695 by 2060. It should be noted that these projections likely do not capture the substantial number of visitors and part-time residents who live in and/or frequent the Berkshires over the course of the year to participate in recreation (ski areas, lakes, hiking) and art/cultural venues. For example, while Otis may have only 1500 or so full-time residents, the summertime population can rise to 20,000 due to the number of cottages/camping sites around the Reservoir.

Figure 2. Berkshire County Population Change, 1790 through 2040



Source: US Census Bureau, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

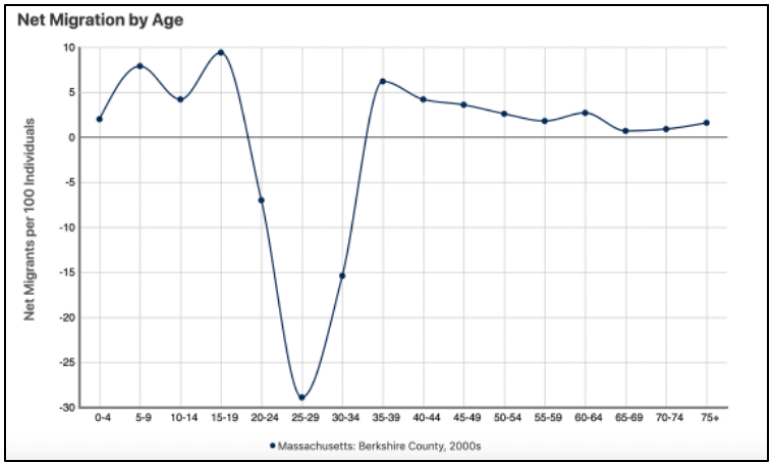
Why is the Berkshire population declining?

The reason for population change, decline in the case of the Berkshires, can be expressed as a function of natural change (births and deaths) and migration (in and out).

- *Natural Change:* Between 1994 and 2010, births averaged about 1,300 per year and contrasted with 1,500 deaths. However, it appears that births have decreased (in 2010 there were 1,174) while deaths remain relatively stable.
- *Migration:* Between 1994 and 2010, in-migration averaged about 2,600 people per year as contrasted with out-migration of 3,262. In 2010, the net loss due to migration patterns was 238 people.

This is further illustrated graphically below in Figure 3. This trendline suggests an out-migration of 20-34 year-olds across the Berkshire region, reinforcing concerns that the region is losing its younger age band talent.[2]

Figure 3. Net migration across the Berkshires, by Age



Source: https://netmigration.wisc.edu/

This data is based on the 2010 census. The 2020 census data, in the process of release, will offer an updated and more current look at these trends. As an additional data set, the American Community Survey (ACS) survey represents the most recent five-year period (2014-2018) and suggests this trend could be reversing, with a net gain of 804 residents (about 160/year):

In-migration:

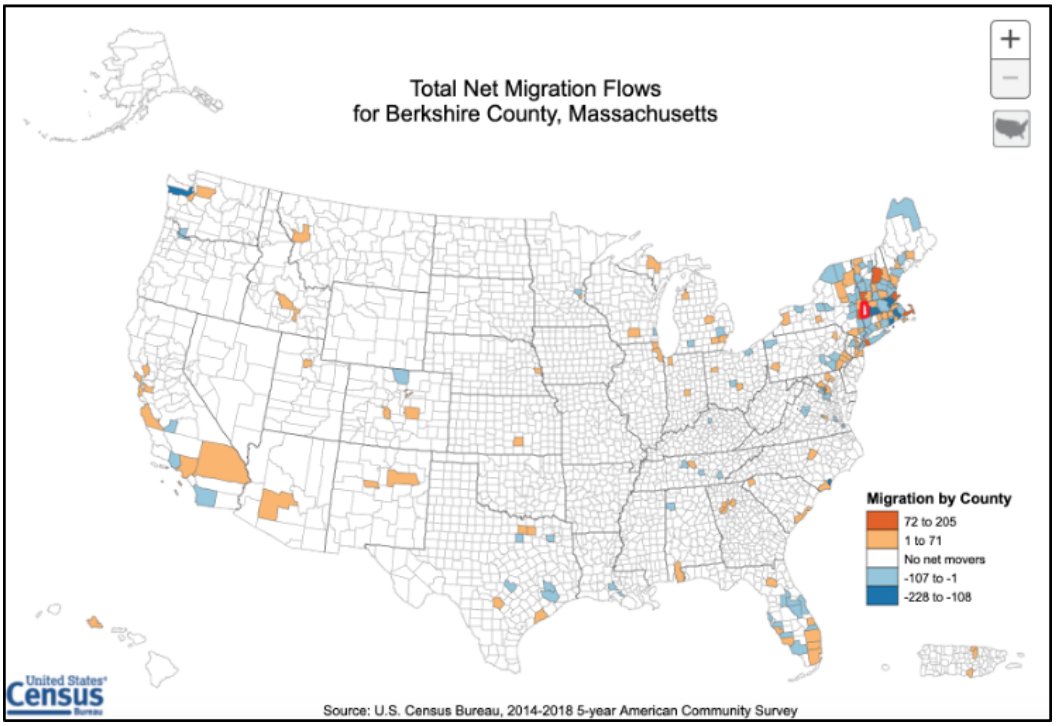
Movers from a different state	+3,409
Movers from a different county, same state	+1,618
Movers from abroad	+735
Total In-migration	+5,762

[2] The issue of talent loss has been explored by 1Berkshire via the Berkshire Initiative for Growth (B.I.G.) effort. More information is available at https://1berkshire.com/read-berkshire-initiative-growth-final-report/. You can also read the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Young Adult Surveys in 2015 and 2019, link to these reports at: https://berkshireplanning.org/reports/berkshire-county-young-adult-survey-reports-sept-2015/.

Out-migration	
Movers to a different state	-3,100
Movers to a different county, same state	-1,858
Total Out-migration	-4,958
Five-year change	+804 (around +160 per year)

Overall migration patterns (where residents migrate nationally) are displayed in Figure 4 below, displaying domestic in/out flow of Berkshire residents.

Figure 4: Migration Flow Locations, from Berkshire County



2019 data reinforces the 5-year pattern of an increase in total in-migration with 69 leaving and 437 entering the region, a net gain of 368.[3] It appears, then, that trends of more migration out than in may be shifting (slowing) and could influence population projections as we look ahead. It's expected the 2020 Census will support confirmation of these trends.

Why are Berkshire youth out-migrating?

A recent survey (Berkshire County Survey, 2019) by BRPC sought to gain insights into the attitudes of 18+ year old adults in Berkshire County and contrast them against a 2015 study conducted in concert with the Berkshire Initiative for Growth. The aim of the study was to learn more about why young adults stay or leave the Berkshires. The reasons for potentially staying in or leaving the Berkshires, offer insights for communities and leaders to consider. A short summary list is provided below.

[3] Source: https://www.governing.com/gov-data/census/2018-county-migration-census-data.html

Reasons for living in the Berkshires included:

- Family in the area
- Scenic beauty
- Offered job
- Less stress/traffic/people
- Outdoor recreation
- Desire to raise family in a “secure” environment
- Cultural activities

Important considerations included:

- Quality housing
- Job within interest area
- Cost of living
- Job Advancement & Pay
- Good schools
- Low crime rate

Finally, reasons for potentially leaving included:

- Better paying job
- Lack of things to do
- Don’t like cold/snow
- Need for career advancement
- Quality of life
- No nightlife
- Not enough diversity

This survey data may be important as we engage our K-12 students and consider ways to expose them to employment and lifestyle choices and options here in the Berkshires.

Population, by Town.

Below, on Table 4, population estimates are displayed by town (bundled by sub-region) over 8 years, beginning at the last census (2010). Note, the eight RSDPB towns are displayed in blue. All sub-regions have experienced population loss, with the south region the lowest at -1.7%. The central and north regions, over the last 18 years, have lost about -4% each. It should be noted that smaller towns would be expected to have larger fluctuations, accounting for a large decline in Monterey and Hancock, for example, and a large increase in Tyringham and New Ashford.

Table 4. Population by Town, 2010 to 2018, Change

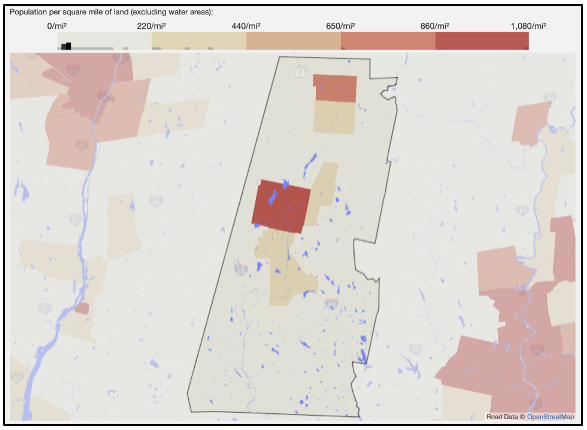
Town	2010	2016	2018	%change (2010 - 2018)
South Region				
Alford	494	491	418	-15.4%
Egremont	1,225	1,207	1,202	-1.9%
Great Barrington	7,104	6,854	6,933	-2.4
Lee	5,943	5,777	5,856	-1.5%
Lenox	5,025	4,965	5,015	-.2%
Monterey	961	941	827	-13.9%
Mount Washington	167	162	156	-6.6%
New Marlborough	1,509	1,473	1,435	-4.9%
Otis	1,612	1,564	1,576	-2.2%
Richmond	1,475	1,419	1,508	2.2%
Sandisfield	915	905	869	-5.0%
Sheffield	3,257	3,172	3,205	-1.6%
Stockbridge	1,947	1,923	2,110	8.4%
Tyringham	327	325	408	24.8%
West Stockbridge	1,306	1,270	1,194	-8.6%
Total	***33,267***		***32,712***	***-1.7%***
Central Region				
Becket	1,602	1,721	1,859	16.0%
Cummington	1,100	884	875	-20.4%
Dalton	6,761	6,682	6,625	-2.0%
Hinsdale	2,228	1,955	1,853	-16.8%
Peru	816	826	872	6.9%
Pittsfield	44,788	43,632	43,058	-3.9%
Washington	593	526	543	-8.4%
Windsor	970	927	842	-13.2%
Total	***58,858***		***56,527***	***-4.0%***
Town	**2010**	**2016**	**2018**	**%change (2010 - 2018)**
North Region				
Adams	8,517	8,266	8,172	-4.1%
Cheshire	3,255	3,192	3,172	-2.6%
Clarksburg	1,886	1,652	1,744	-7.5%
Florida	766	793	785	2.5%
Hancock	718	670	529	-26.3%
Lanesborough	3,072	3,019	3,000	-2.3%
New Ashford	234	308	347	48.3%
North Adams	13,851	13,326	13,089	-5.5%
Savoy	747	764	719	-3.8%
Williamstown	7,879	7,592	7,759	-1.5%
Total	***40,925***		***39,316***	***-3.9%***

Population Density.

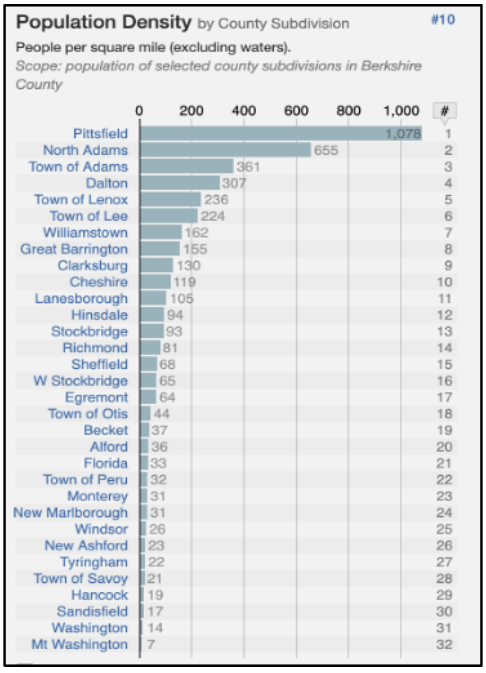
As a county with 946 square miles, density factors into understanding travel distances as well as concentrations of employment and educational opportunities. Below, on Figures 5 & 6, Berkshire County is mapped as total population by town. Pittsfield is most highly concentrated, followed by the City of North Adams, Dalton, Lee, Lenox, and Adams. Towns/Cities with highest concentrations of residents

(darker colors) include Pittsfield followed by the city of North Adams and towns of Dalton, Lee, Lenox, and Adams.

Figures 5 & 6: Density by Town/Subdivision



Source:
https://statisticalatlas.com/county/Massachusetts/Berkshire-County/Population



Age, by Region.

The relative age of residents in a region or town has significant implications for public schools in various ways. First, the composition of age bands can be used to predict and drive future school enrollment, both in terms of young children who will be entering school and individuals of child-bearing age who have children who will, ultimately, enter school. Second, older residents without children in the schools may or may not feel connected to schools in supporting public school budgets, capital investments, and policy decisions.

Median Age of Berkshire Residents = 47.7

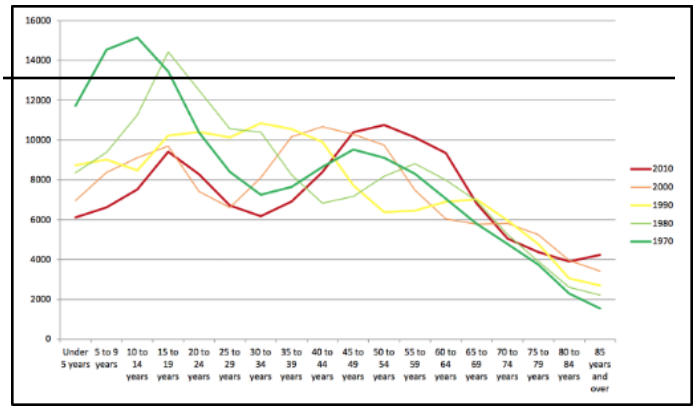
Compared to Massachusetts = 39.7

Compared to the United States = 38.5

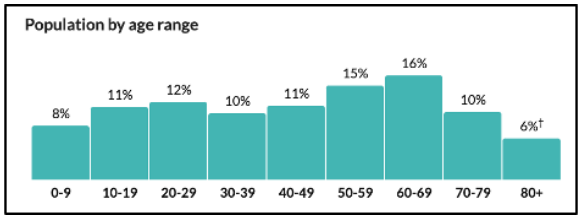
Population trends are further explained by examining the age profile of the region. In the Berkshires, the median age has risen from 40 (2000) to 47.7 (2019). The graphs, below, from the BRPC, show how the percentages of residents in various age bands have differed since 1970 as compared to state trends.

Noteworthy, is a reduction in 25-40 year-olds and an increase in 50+ year-olds. For example, in 2005, 30% of people were 50 or older, in 2016 that number had risen to almost 40%. This raises concerns, recognizing that a smaller percentage of family/child-bearing residents, in theory, could lower future birth rates. Figures 7 & 8, below, illustrate these trends

Figures 7 & 8 Berkshire Population by Age Range



In 2019:



https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US25003-berkshire-county-ma/

By age band, the population of 0-19 year-olds has and is expected to continue to decline (school enrollment projections are described in more detail later in this document). And, while the retention of 20-34 year-olds may have seen a slight uptick since 2010, it appears that, longer term, this age band will continue to decline overall – see Figure 9 and Table 5 below. In contrast, 65+ year-olds have and will continue to grow as baby boomers age and represent a larger share of the total Berkshire population.

Figure 9: Historical and Projected Population, Under 18 versus Over 65

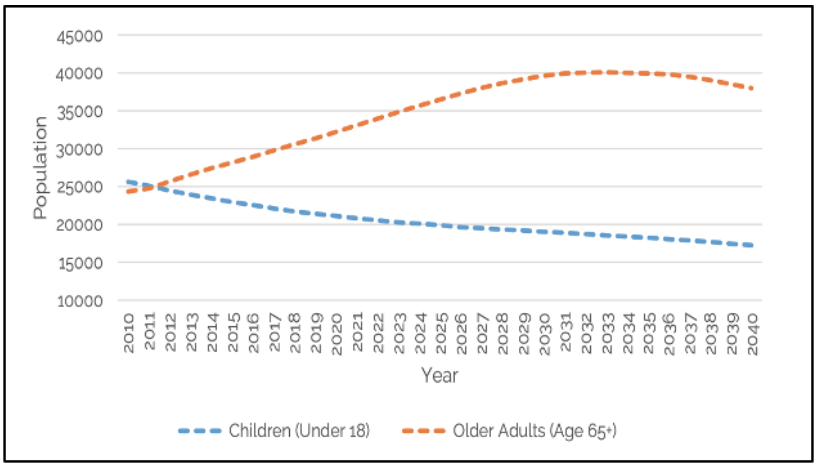


Table 5: Population Age Bands, 2010 Projected Through 2028

Age Cohort	Total Population/% (2010)	Total Population/% (2018)	% Change (2010-2018)	2028 Population Projections	% Change (2018-2028)
0-19 years old	29,683	25,961	-12.54%	22,987	-11.46%
20-34 years old	21,187	21,757	2.69%	19,513	-10.31%
35-54 years old	36,472	30,952	-15.1%	22,410	-27.60%
55-64 years old	19,491	20,594	5.66%	17,119	-16.87%
65+ years old	24,386	28,064	15.08%	38,637	37.67%
Total Population	131,219	127,328	-2.97	120,666	-5.23%

Age, by Town.

By town, median age varies across the Berkshires, see Table 6. Below, communities are sorted from ***youngest to oldest*** based on median age. Williamstown, as the youngest community, is likely influenced by the Williams college population, while many south region communities, such as Alford reporting the oldest median age at 62, would include (likely older) second homeowners.

Overall, the Berkshire median age is almost - across the board - older than the state average of 39. Four of the municipal centers (North Adams, Pittsfield, Lee, & Adams) are among the youngest communities, and this may be due to the higher availability of affordable housing, access to work centers, and transportation services.

A quick analysis, see Table 6, of percentages of two age bands, under 21 and over 65, offers additional insights into median town age. In Williamstown, for example, 37% of residents are under 21, while in Alford 44% of residents are over the age of 65. In communities like Lenox, where 18% of its population is under 21 and 37% is over 65, the need to fill its enrollment with choice students (discussed later in this document) will, likely, be a necessary strategy to maintain enrollment.

Of the eight RSDPB towns (in blue), seven are among those Berkshire towns with the highest median age.

Table 6. Age by Town, % Under 21 and Over 65

Town	Region	Median Age	% under 21	% over 65
Williamstown	north	31	37%	20%
Massachusetts	***AVERAGE***	***39***	***25%***	***15%***
North Adams	north	43	26%	19%
Pittsfield	central	43	23%	19%
Lee	south	44	22%	22%
Adams	north	45	20%	19%
Berkshire	***AVERAGE***	***46***	***23%***	***22%***

Town	Region	Median Age	% under 21	% over 65
Clarksburg	north	46	23%	22%
Dalton	central	48	20%	21%
Florida	north	48	21%	19%
Sandisfield	south	48	25%	22%
Great Barrington	south	49	28%	22%
Peru	central	49	19%	13%
Savoy	north	49	23%	20%
Lanesborough	north	50	23%	21%
New Ashford	north	50	22%	23%
Otis	south	50	14%	26%
Becket	central	51	18%	20%
Cheshire	north	51	20%	22%
Hinsdale	central	51	20%	20%
Sheffield	south	52	18%	29%
Windsor	central	52	19%	20%
Egremont	south	53	16%	30%
Washington	central	53	18%	27%
West Stockbridge	south	53	19%	27%
Lenox	south	54	18%	37%
Hancock	north	56	15%	27%
New Marlborough	south	56	15%	30%
Stockbridge	south	57	15%	33%
Monterey	south	58	13%	41%
Richmond	south	58	16%	30%
Tyringham	south	59	17%	40%
Mount Washington	south	60	3%	38%
Alford	south	62	14%	44%

***Note, the eight RSDPB towns are identified as blue**

In the RSDPB towns, we await the results of the 2020 census, but have historical data provided by MARS in their Population Reports for both BRHSD and SBRSD, and can include, as a comparison, the most recent American Community Survey estimates. Table 7 illustrates these comparisons, further reinforcing the aging population across the Berkshires, and in particular within the RSDPB eight towns. This has potential consequences for school enrollment based on household composition. Note, the 2020 census column is left blank intentionally and will be populated when that data is released.

Table 7. Median Age by Town, 2000 - 2020

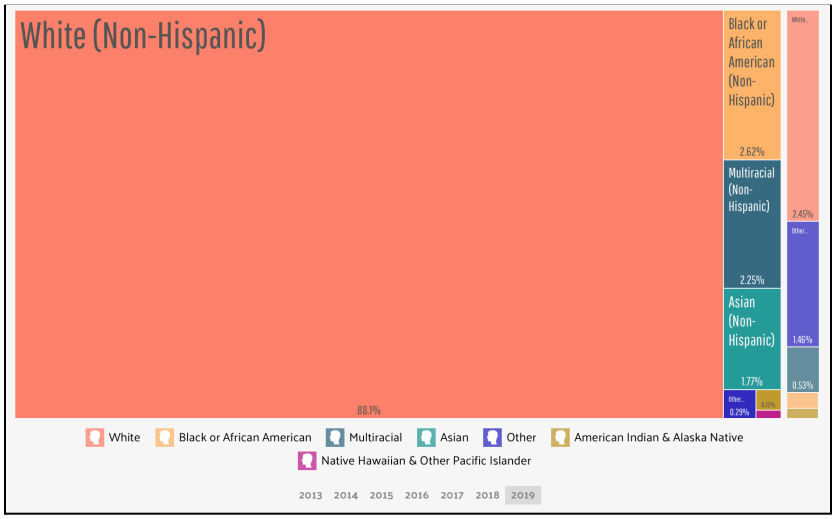
Location	2000 Census	2010 Census	2019 ACS	2020 Census
United States	35.3	37.2	38.5	
Massachusetts	36.5	39.1	39	
Berkshire County	40.5	44.7	46	

Great Barrington	41.8	45.5	49	
Stockbridge	48.6	53.6	57	
West Stockbridge	44.3	52.5	53	
Alford	49.6	55.4	62	
Egremont	47.4	53.5	53	
Monterey	44.5	51.1	58	
New Marlborough	41.2	48.9	56	
Sheffield	41.0	47.8	52	

Demographics, Berkshires.

Below, Figure 10 graphically displays the demographic profile of the Berkshires (2019). This suggests, overall, a general lack of diversity as compared to the United States and Commonwealth, with residents who are White (88%) higher than Black/African American (just under 3%) and Multiracial (just over 2%). The presence of Hispanic residents (4.75%) is much lower than non-Hispanic (95%).

Figure 10: Demographic Profile of Berkshire County, 2019



Source: https://datausa.io/profile/geo/berkshire-county-ma#demographics

Berkshire County remains mostly White and non-Hispanic, however, the number of Hispanic or Latino residents has been on the rise over the last six years. Similarly, the number of citizens identifying as more than one race has risen over the last six years. *Note: This data will be updated with the 2020 census actuals once released.*

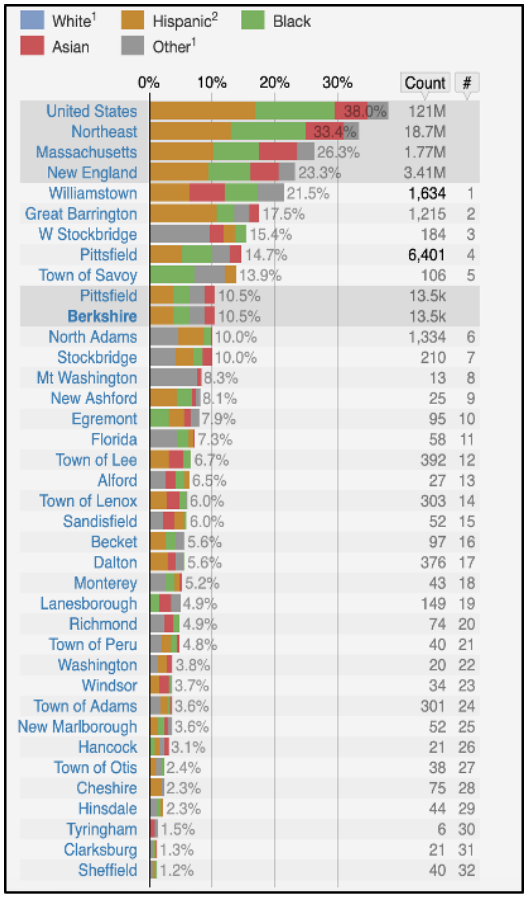
Table 8. Demographic Profile of Berkshire County, Compared to MA and US

	% of Total Berkshire Population					
	2019			Compare to:		
	BC	MA	US	2016	2013	2010
White	91.8%	80.6%	76.3%	91.5%	92.6%	93.2%
Black or African American	3.6%	9.0%	13.4%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%
Asian	1.7%	7.2%	5.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino	5.1%	12.4%	18.5%	4.1%	3.6%	3.2%
Two or more races	2.5%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	2.4%	1.9%

BC = Berkshire County
MA = Massachusetts
US = United States

This data can be unpacked further by town, see Figure 11. While the region is mostly White and less diverse than the state and nation, several communities, such as Williamstown, Great Barrington, and Pittsfield, are slightly more diverse. Other smaller towns, such as Hinsdale and Cheshire, are more homogenous (White) than the collective region. This data reflects 2019 ACS, thus will be updated with the 2020 census to determine to what degree these trends are shifting.

Figure 11: Demographic Profile by Town, Ranked from Least to Most (% White)

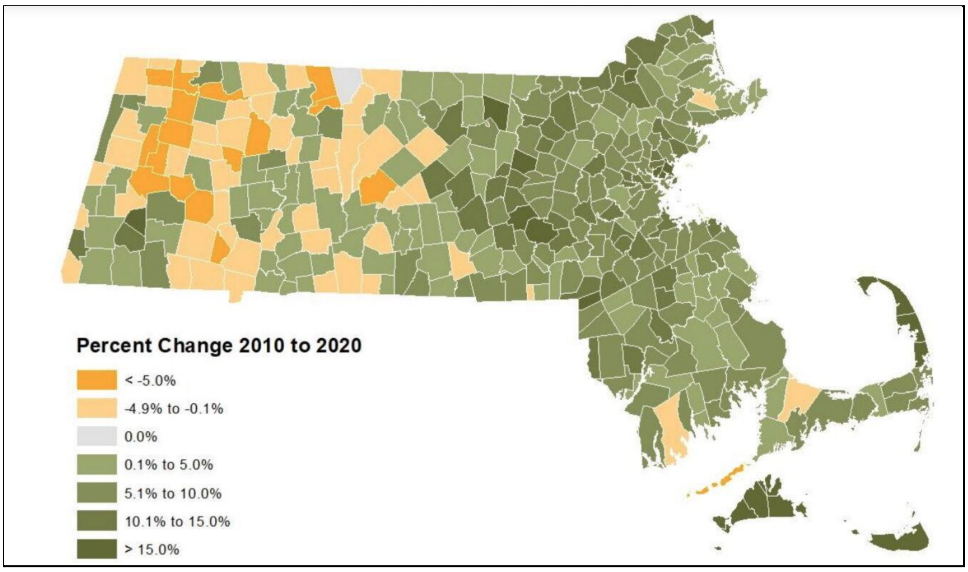


Source: https://statisticalatlas.com

Does the 2020 Census confirm or question these trends and…..is population loss slowing?

The Berkshire Eagle recently reported general population trends based on the recent 2020 US Census, confirmed through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. While a 7.4% increase across Massachusetts has outpaced a 4.1% gain in the Northeast over the last decade (2010-2020), the Berkshires have, overall, declined at -1.7% (about 2,000 residents, from 131,219 to 129,026). The Berkshires were, in fact, one of only two counties in the Commonwealth (Franklin is the other) that experienced a decline in population, see Figure 12 below.

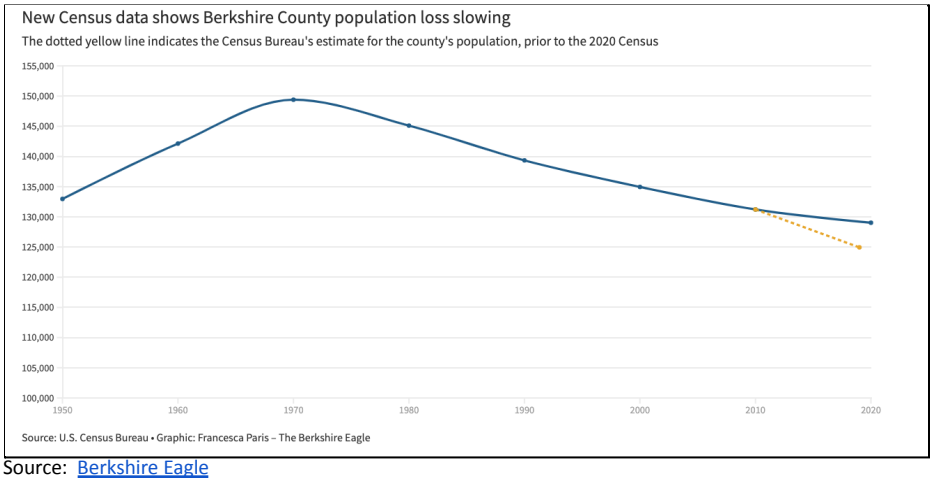
Figure 12. Percentage Change of Population, Massachusetts, 2010 through 2020



Source: Berkshire Eagle

The good news is that the population decline across the Berkshires may be slowing, based on the most recent census estimates, population may be slowing as compared to pre-census estimates according to a Berkshire Eagle analysis. As can be seen in Figure 13 below, the actual 2020 census as compared to the estimated 2020 population displays a slowing trend (blue line) as compared to estimated (yellow line). The loss of about 2,000 residents is less than the estimated 5,000 to 10,000 that had been predicted.

Figure 13. Berkshire County Census (2020 actual versus estimated)

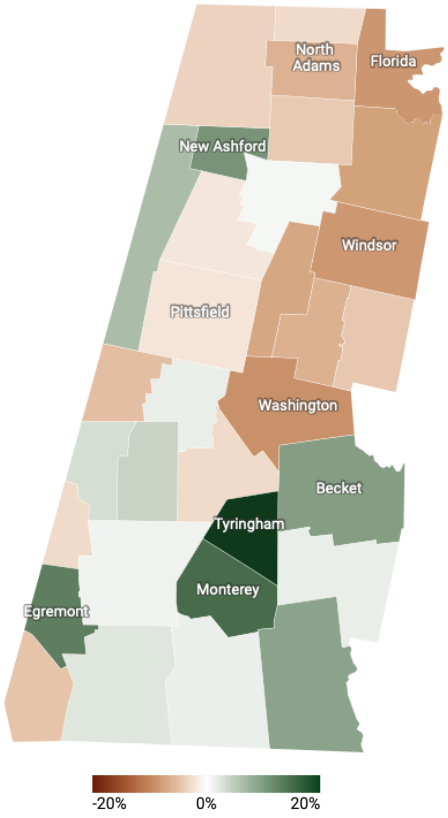


Source: Berkshire Eagle

Population change, towns, emphasis on eight in RSDPB.

Of course, an analysis of the Berkshires doesn't tell the entire story, in that when we apply town-by-town analysis, we see much more variation. Below, Figure 14 displays town-by-town population change from 2010 to 2020. While Pittsfield (-1.9%) and North Adams (-5.5%) lost residents, almost all south county towns *increased* in population. This interactive map, allowing for a deeper look at each town, is available here.

Figure 14. Population rate of change (2010 v. 2020 Census)



Below on Table 9, the actual 2010 to 2020 Census numbers are provided, by town, to better understand the population trends based on the decennial surveys. While the entire county decreased in population (-1.7%), it did so at a lower rate than expected. Additionally, the RSDPB eight towns (displayed at the top of the table in blue) increased in population, with Alford (-1.6%) as the one exception.

Table 9. Census comparison, 2010 to 2020

Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Minor Civil Divisions in Massachusetts: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019

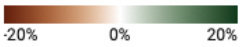
Municipality	April 1, 2010	April 1, 2020	(#)Change	(%) Change
Alford	494	486	(8)	-1.6%
Egremont	1,225	1,372	147	12.0%
Great Barrington	7,104	7,172	68	1.0%
New Marlborough	1,509	1,528	19	1.3%
Monterey	961	1,095	134	13.9%
Sheffield	3,257	3,327	70	2.1%
Stockbridge	1,947	2,018	71	3.6%
West Stockbridge	1,306	1,343	37	2.8%
Adams	8,485	8,166	(319)	-3.8%
Becket	1,779	1,931	152	8.5%
Cheshire	3,235	3,258	23	0.7%
Clarksburg	1,702	1,657	(45)	-2.6%
Dalton	6,756	6,330	(426)	-6.3%
Florida	752	694	(58)	-7.7%
Hancock	717	757	40	5.6%
Hinsdale	2,032	1,919	(113)	-5.6%
Lanesborough	3,091	3038	(53)	-1.7%
Lee	5,943	5,788	(155)	-2.6%
Lenox	5,025	5,095	70	1.4%
Mount Washington	167	160	(7)	-4.2%
New Ashford	228	250	22	9.6%
North Adams	13,708	12,961	(747)	-5.4%
Otis	1,612	1,634	22	1.4%
Peru	847	814	(33)	-3.9%
Pittsfield	44,737	43,927	(810)	-1.8%
Richmond	1,475	1,407	(68)	-4.6%
Sandisfield	915	989	74	8.1%
Savoy	692	645	(47)	-6.8%
Tyringham	327	427	100	30.6%
Washington	538	494	(44)	-8.2%
Williamstown	7,754	7,513	(241)	-3.1%
Windsor	899	831	(68)	-7.6%
Berkshire County	131,219	129,026	(2,193)	-1.7%
Massachusetts	6,547,629	7,029,917	482,288	7.4%

Going a step further, we examine how closely the 2020 census matched the last ACS estimate (2019) and a study conducted by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute projecting population into 2020.

Table 10 compares the 2020 census data to both the 2019 ACS and UMDI 2020 estimates to see how approximate (or not) they were to the 2020 census. Five of 8 RSDPB towns exceeded both the ACS and the UMDI estimates, suggesting that the estimates were on the outer edge of error bands (which can happen with smaller population sizes) ***and/or*** there was/is a trend change in population. The remaining three (Alford, Egremont, and New Marlborough) had mixed predictions with one estimating higher, the other lower.

Table 10. RSDPB eight town population 2010 to 2020, % change

Town	2020 Census		2019 ACS	2020 UMDI	Analysis
Alford	486		431	611	Higher than ACS Lower than UMDI
Egremont	1,372		1,402	1065	Lower than ACS Higher than UMDI
Monterey	1,095		774	910	Higher than ACS Higher than UMDI
New Marlborough	1,528		1,544	1,439	Lower than ACS Higher than UMDI
Sheffield	3,327		3,160	3,068	Higher than ACS Higher than UMDI
Great Barrington	7,172		6,901	7,007	Higher than ACS Higher than UMDI
Stockbridge	2,018		1,795	1,614	Higher than ACS Higher than UMDI
West Stockbridge	1,343		1,084	1,152	Higher than ACS Higher than UMDI



The reason for an increase in population in the RSDPB region may be attributed to several factors such as increased levels of migration into the region, reduced levels of migration out of the region, fewer deaths, and additional births, for example. MARS conducted an enrollment and demography study in 2020 and considered both housing and births as elements of potential enrollment/population change. The full MARS studies can be found here. Summarized, they found:

1. **Birth rates:** Birth rates have been and are on the decline. This could have a negative impact on both overall population and K12 enrollment. Table 11 displays the overall decline in birth rates since 2004. Annual data should be collected to confirm that these trends are expected to and will continue.

Table 11. Birth Rates 2004-2018

	Average Births/Year Span		
	2004-2008	**2009-2012**	**2013-2018**
SBRSD	60	47	44
BHRSD	76	64	60

2. **Housing:** Housing demand is up and there may be a pent-up demand among Millennials to purchase a home and raise a family. However, prices and demand are high, and inventory is low. Affordability was reported as a challenge.

   While there are very limited single-family projects in either district (12 permits in SBRSD, 0 in BHRSD) recently approved, there are several multi-family projects in Great Barrington that could result in additional housing options for families. Single-family home sales are about 120 per year. There appears to be some influx of buyers from the New York City area.

   Below, a simple snapshot of household data is provided on Table 12. Both SBRSD and BHRSD have experienced growth in the number of households as the number of K12 students in those households has declined. This may further reinforce an aging population with few school-aged children. It will be useful to update this data with 2020 census data once released.

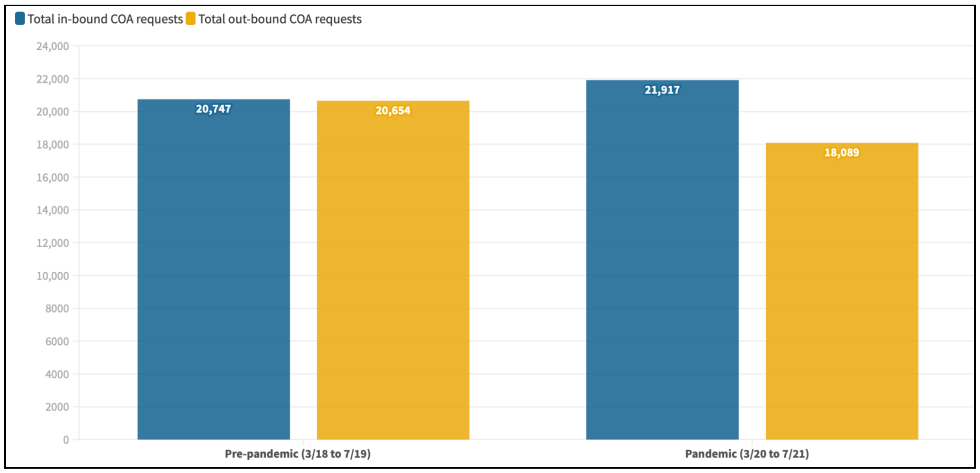
Table 12. Household Data, 1990-2010

# of households	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**
SBRSD	2,617	3,118	3,266
BHRSD	4,306	4,600	4,391
#K-12 students/household			
SBRSD	.37	.32	.26
BHRSD	.37	.35	.33

3. **In-migration, COVID-19 effect.** As mentioned, MARS cited a potential influx of buyers (shared through their research) from the New York City Area. The Berkshire Eagle explored this question through an analysis of change-of-address (COA) requests via the United State Postal Service. While this does not constitute a formal research study, it is interesting nonetheless. What they found is that the number of COA requests for in-bound residents had increased while the

number of COA for out-bound residents had decreased. As a proxy, this overall net migration is positive into the Berkshires, suggesting some (potentially) pandemic-driven relocation, see Figure 15.

Figure 15. Change of Address Requests, Pre-pandemic v. Post-pandemic



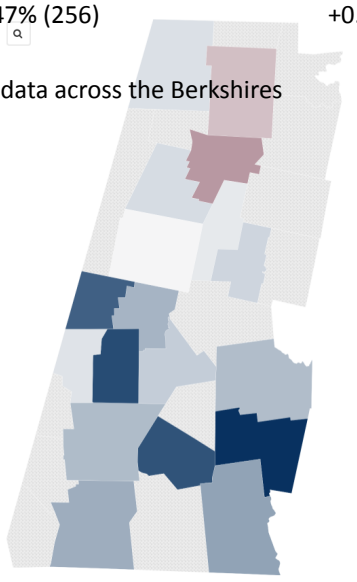
Source: Berkshire Eagle

Additional analysis was conducted by region (groupings of towns) and the following data, Table 12, suggests that the southern part of Berkshire County showed among the ***highest*** net in-migration across the region. Additionally, vacancy rates have also declined in south county. While this could mean that second home owners have relocated in the Berkshires (theoretically during the pandemic), what is unclear is whether they will stay and if these households include children who will attend our schools.

Table 12. Net gain/loss of Change of Address before and during the Pandemic

	Net gain/loss	
	During pandemic	**Pre-pandemic (2018-19)**
Great Barrington/Egremont	+8.72% (743)	+3.12% (266)
Sheffield/surrounding	+10.91% (220)	+6.45% (130)
Monterey/surrounding	+24.4% (204)	+6.58% (55)
Stockbridge	+25.47% (256)	+0.1% (1)

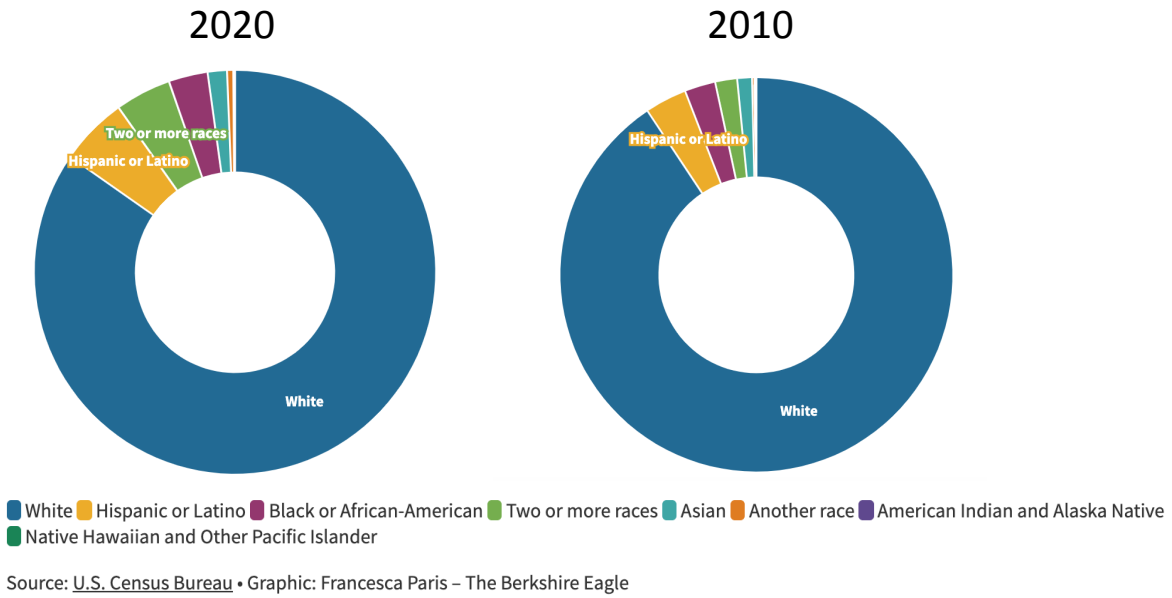
Link here for an interactive map that displays this data across the Berkshires



Demographic shifts, and the 2020 Census.

How, if at all, the county shifted demographically is a final area of analysis in this section on General Population Trends. The 2020 Census offers updated insights into shifting demographics in a region that has historically been White but is growing more diverse. Hispanic residents rose overall by 56%, non-Hispanic Black residents rose by 22%, and Asian residents by 25%. That said, these groups remain relatively small overall as the Berkshires, which declined over the last ten years by 8% from 90.63% to 84.68% (about 10,000 residents) remain majority White, non-Hispanic. Below, Figure 16 displays the changing demographic across the Berkshires based on the 2010 and 2020 Census (Source: Berkshire Eagle).

Figure 16. Racial and Ethnic Characteristics of the Berkshires, 2010 v. 2020 census



Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Graphic: Francesca Paris – The Berkshire Eagle

Link to ***Berkshire Eagle*** to view this interactive graph.

Census Demographics, RSDPB Towns.

Extending the 2020 Census analysis into the RSDPB eight towns, see Table 13, a general trend towards greater diversity is ongoing, albeit slowly (2-6%). Of the eight RSDPB towns, all have White populations of 90% or higher, with only Great Barrington (81.1%) and Sheffield (89.1%) less than 90%. Black populations have generally dropped (very slightly), and Asian populations have increased (again slightly), across the eight towns. The two populations with the largest changes have been Hispanic/Latino and Multi-Race, both growing. Hispanic/Latino residents account for 4.1% in SBRSD towns, 7.4% in BHRSD towns, and 5.5% overall across the RSDPB eight towns.

Across the eight communities, the towns are generally similar, with Great Barrington serving as a more diverse outlier, although not as diverse as other communities in the Berkshires and across the Commonwealth.

These factors are important as they speak to population and migration patterns that are predicted to continue over time. As our communities become more diverse, this will present additional needs in our schools for culturally responsive teaching and curriculum, English language supports, and family outreach and engagement strategies, among others.

Table 13. Demographic shifts 2010 v 2020 census

Town	Population		White		Black/Afr. Amer.		Asian		Multi-Race		Hispanic	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Alford	494	486	97.4%	92.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	2.1%	0.4%	4.3%
Egremont	1,225	1,372	95.6%	90.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	2.3%	2.4%	5.0%
Monterey	961	1,095	97.6%	91.2%	1.5%	1.5%	0.1%	1.2%	0.2%	2.7%	0.6%	2.9%
New Marlborough	1,509	1,528	95.4%	93.3%	1.2%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	2.8%	1.8%	2.0%
Sheffield	3.327	3.257	94.3%	89.1%	1.0%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	0.9%	4.2%	3.2%	5.1%
SBRSD	7,446	7,808	95.3%	90.5%	1.0%	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%	3.3%	2.3%	4.1%
Great Barrington	7,104	7,172	87.3%	81.1%	2.5%	2.3%	1.7%	2.9%	2.0%	4.3%	6.0%	9.0%
Stockbridge	1,947	2,108	94.0%	91.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	4.0%
West Stockbridge	1,306	1,343	95.7%	90.9%	1.1%	0.7%	1.4%	0.9%	0.8%	3.6%	0.9%	3.4%
BHRSD	10,357	10,533	89.6%	84.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	2.2%	1.6%	3.7%	4.8%	7.4%
RSDPB	17,803	18,341	92.0%	87.0%	1.6%	1.4%	1.1%	1.5%	1.3%	3.5%	3.7%	6.0%
Berkshire	131,219	129,026	90.63%	84.68%	2.54%	3.15%	1.22%	1.55%	1.8%	4.51%	3.45%	5.47%

A final note on census data. As mentioned in several articles, census methodology is imperfect….recognizing the very intense effort the Berkshire County Complete Count Committee put into ensuring a high regional response rate. Still, changes in classification (such as multiracial), a pandemic that complicated the census count, the somewhat fuzzy line between permanent and temporary residencies during the pandemic, all point to some degree of caution in using data as precise points of reference. Rather, we encourage the ongoing consideration of data holistically, as patterns and trends, that tell a story about what has, is, and may happen.

It is expected that a more detailed 2020 census report will occur in later 2021/2022 and can be used to provide additional detail and updates that can be used to confirm, challenge, and more deeply inform us about the conditions of our Berkshire and the eight RSDPB towns.

III. K12 Enrollment

The purpose of this section is to explore historical, current, and future trends in school enrollment. General regional population trends have been outlined above in the General Population section of this report, and can be found in the "About Berkshires" BCETF report.

School Enrollment.
Various studies of enrollment have been conducted over the last decade. This section will draw from several key resources:

- Historical analysis of K12 school enrollment patterns/trends
- The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission *Berkshire County Public School Enrollment Projections* (Versions 2015, 2018, 2020)
- The MARS recent Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) analysis of Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills enrollment
- Current estimates from the most available ESE data sets
- Some early indicators of enrollment, as influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic in 20-21 and the current 21-22 school years, as reported by schools

It is important to distinguish how enrollments are computed in that some models *include* Pre-Kindergarten (PK) and Special education Post-graduate (SP) students, others do not.

- **15,348.** In 2020, students enrolled in Berkshire County public schools *with* PK & SP.
- **14,748.** In 2020, students enrolled in Berkshire County public schools *without* PK & SP.

28%	Current	21%
Decline since	**Enrollment**	**Further Decline by**
2000	**2020**	**2030**
20,477	**14,748**	**11,651**

Methodologies for tracking enrollment.
Enrollment data is collected through several ESE-required reporting processes. These reports include student information management data accessed in October, January, March, and in June, at year-end. Additionally, a school-attending report is submitted based on January 1 enrollment numbers. These figures are used to calculate enrollment and are critical in establishing foundation budgets and the transfer of funds across communities via tuition, charter, and choice. District and school specific data can be accessed at: https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/

The process of projecting into the future is always somewhat speculative and imprecise. As mentioned, influencing factors can include births, deaths, migration patterns, choice, construction (housing) projects, and both charter and vocational enrollments. Most models (such as BRPC's) use available birth data, average five years of birth data to determine rate of change, which is then applied to project future enrollments. Additionally, patterns of choice and migration are tracked and applied forward. For

example, if a particular district has a pattern of students choicing out-of-district as they advance from 5th-6th grade (elementary to middle), this historical pattern is assumed and applied to future cohort projection. These models, while accounting for historical patterns of student migration, do not assume all future possibilities such as the construction of a new school that could draw additional out-of-district students in, or even particular perception issues, such as violence/safety concerns or below-average test scores, that might increase out-migration in a particular school/district.

Finally, while the model captures some limited data on housing/construction activity, it does not fully account for external community factors such as in or out-migration due to business development/recruitment, construction of significant housing complexes, or unforeseeable factors like the recent pandemic that some believe will result in more remote workers who choose Berkshire towns as a place to work and raise families.

Historical Studies & Projections:

A number of enrollment studies have been conducted in recent years. A few selected include:

- **UMass Donahue Institute** (2016). Conducted in 2016, applied three methodologies and BRPC estimates with an average projected loss calculated.
- **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission** (2015, 2018, 2020). First comprehensive study completed in 2015 and has been updated twice with the most recent 2020 version.
- **Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools** (2020). Completed for Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Regional School District Planning Board.
- **New England School Development Council (NESDEC).** Has conducted enrollment studies across the Berkshires for district planning purposes.

These reports used varying methodologies and focused on different time periods, see Table 14. However, we are able to compare the closest similar projected timeframe from each study to determine to what degree they vary or not. All projections suggest a consistent decline in population across the 5-19 age group and/or the K12 total enrollment. The more recent models are mixed in the intensity of enrollment rates of decline, with BRPC projected a *higher* rate of enrollment decline, while NESDEC (specific to south county) projects a *lower* rate of enrollment decline. While the most conservative estimate of ten-year change was the UMDI V2015 model at -7.1% loss, the most recent BRPC study suggests this change will be more than double at -17.0% loss. While some indications of the pandemic effect are emerging, it will be some time before the full effect is realized and understood.

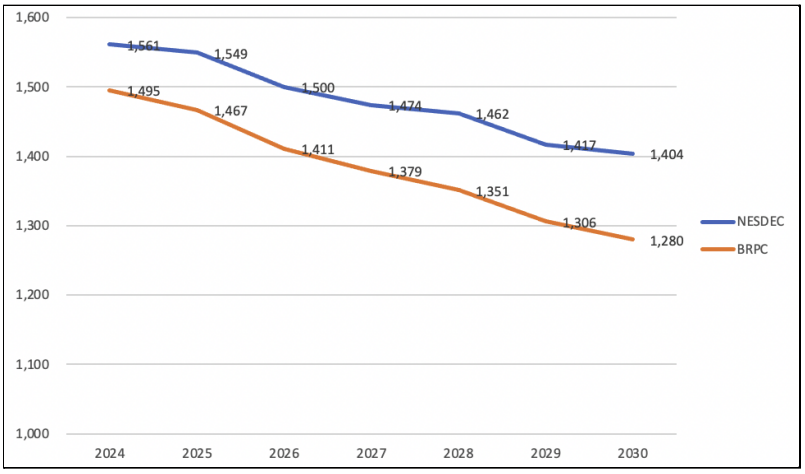
Table 14. Selected enrollment studies, 2015 - 2020

Study	2015	2025	% Change 2015-2025
Used several methodologies to evaluate population change among 5-19 year olds (extrapolated to fit 2025 time frame)			
UMDI V2015	19,786	18,374	-7.1%
UMDI CCR	21,822	19,214	-12.0%
UMDI CSM	21,288	19,507	-8.4%
BRPC 2013	21,838	18,408	-15.7%

UMDI Average	21,184	18,876	-10.8%
Evaluated K-12 Enrollments			
BRPC 2015	15,904	14,115	-11.2%
BRPC 2018	15,911 (actual)	13,478	-15.3%
BRPC 2020	15,911 (actual)	13,099	-17.0%
Examined BHRSD & SBRSD K-12 projected enrollment through 2030			
	2019-2020 (Actual)	**2030 (Projected)**	**% Change 2020 - 2030**
MARS/NESDEC 2020			
• BHRSD	1,163	934	-19.6%
• SBRSD	624	470	-24.7%
• RSDPB Combined	1,787	1,404	-21.4%
BRPC 2020			
• BHRSD	1,163	877	-24.5%
• SBRSD	624	403	-35.4%
• RSDPB Combined	1,787	1,280	-28.4%

The recent numbers for comparison are pulled from the RSDPB MARS/NESDEC study. This study projected enrollments 2020 through 2030 for the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire regional districts. As a comparison, projections from the most recent BRPC (2020) study were applied. Matched, it appears that the studies both predict significant enrollment declines (above 20%) between 2020 and 2030, with the BRPC study expecting a higher rate (28%) than the MARS study (21%), see Figure 17 for the two methodologies, combined RSDPB project enrollments.

Figure 17: Two Projected Methodologies, Combined RSDPB 2024 - 2030



By district, SBRSD is expected to lose a larger percentage of their current population under either model, recognizing the degree of this change varies between the two models.

Model Accuracy

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, see Table 15, has generated three K12 enrollment studies since 2015, with reports published in 2015, 2018, and 2020. The accuracy of these studies can be evaluated based on predicted versus actual outcomes. From the 2015 study, the predicted 2018 versus actual only varied by .07% (about 10 students) and the predicted 2020 enrollment was 2.1% off, with about 320 fewer actual students than predicted. In the 2018 study, the actual enrollment was .37% higher than the predicted.

Table 15. BRPC Projections, Predicted versus Actual

	Enrollment for Grades K - 12					
	2018			**2020**		
Study Year	**Predicted**	**Actual**	**% Diff.**	**Predicted**	**Actual**	**% Diff.**
2015	15,214	15,224	.07%	15,066	14,748	2.1%
2018				14,693	14,748	.37%

Neither the MARS/NESDEC study or BRPC 2020 study was completed ahead of the 2020-21 school year or the current 2021-22 school year (both pandemic-influenced years). Table 16 examines how these predictive models fared against actual enrollments.

Table 16. MARS & BRPC Projections, Predicted versus Actual (2020-21 and 2021-22)

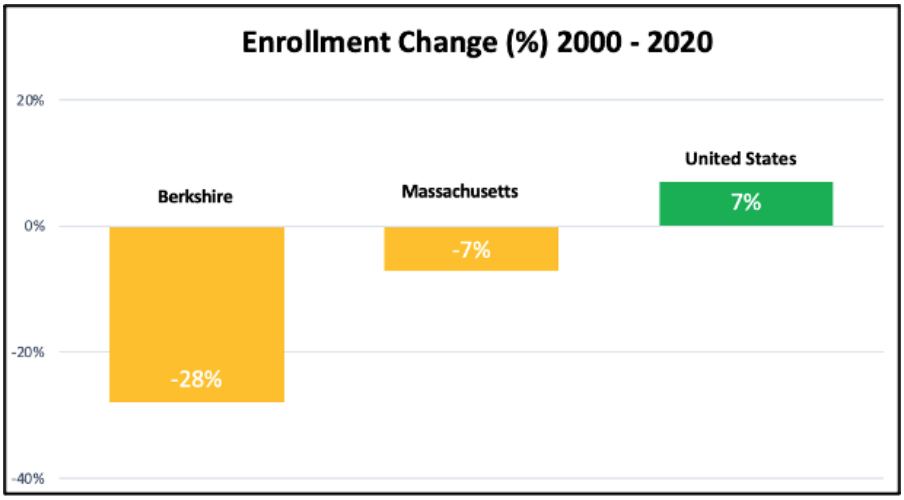
	Enrollment for Grades K - 12					
	2020-21			**2021-22 (current data)**		
Study	**Predicted**	**Actual**	**% Diff.**	**Predicted**	**Actual**	**% Diff.**
MARS/NESDEC						
● BHRSD	1,138	1,149	-1.0%	1,096	1,215	-9.8%
● SBRSD	613	607	1.0%	590	590	0%
● **RSDPB Combined**	**1,751**	**1,756**	**-0.3%**	**1,686**	**1,772**	**-5.1%**
BRPC						
● BHRSD	1,131	1,149	-1.6%	1,088	1,215	-10.4%
● SBRSD	590	607	2.7%	557	590	-5.9%
● **RSDPB Combined**	**1,721**	**1,756**	**-2.0%**	**1,645**	**1,772**	**-7.7%**

The models have been relatively accurate for 2020-21, although there is a more dramatic predicted undercount in the current school year (with a caveat that the October 1, 2021 population has not yet been certified). This may be, in part, driven by the pandemic effect and the somewhat disrupted enrollment situation. It may also be influenced by additional enrollment into one/both of the districts that may not have been expected.

Based on this analysis of historical studies, the BRPC 2020 study, combined with MARS/NESDEC study and ESE historical data, will be used to inform enrollment projects. While no methodology is perfect, together they demonstrate a reasonable level of reliability.

Enrollment Trends, Berkshire County.
Note: A full enrollment study was conducted by the Berkshire County Education Task Force in 2019-2020. The full report can be accessed by linking here. A selection of content from that report has been included below. Overall, K12 enrollment across Berkshire County has experienced a consistent decline. Figure 18, and the corresponding data table below, illustrates K12 enrollment change since 2000. The Berkshire decline is four times greater than the loss of students across the Commonwealth, and is in contrast with generally increasing enrollments across the nation. The rate of change since 2015 has been around -1.5%/year.

Figure 18. Enrollment Change, 2000-20202, Berkshire, Massachusetts, United States



	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	% change 2000-2020
Berkshire	20,477	18,986	17,412	15,904	14,748	-28%
Massachusetts	979,593	972,371	955,563	953,429	911,432	-7%
US	47,203,539	49,113,298	49,484,181	50,438,000	50,654,000	+7%

Source: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d13/tables/dt13_203.20.asp

Districts closely follow Berkshire population patterns. Below, Table 17 is organized by Berkshire subregion. Three time periods were chosen (2000, 2010, and 2020) to examine patterns/trends related to population change in each district. Also, totals by subregion were calculated.

By subregion, population loss is relatively consistent, about 27% loss between 2000 and 2020, and 15% between 2010 and 2020. This matches quite closely to overall Berkshire losses of 28% between 2000 and 2020, and 15% between 2010 and 2020.

While this pattern looks somewhat balanced across subregions, there are wide variations in enrollment drop across districts. In the southern region, Southern Berkshire (-42%) and Farmington River (-47%) have experienced the greatest, while Lenox (-11%) has experienced the lowest decline since 2000. Central Berkshire has lost more (-37%) than Pittsfield (-24%). Finally, in north county, the greatest losses of students since 2000 have been felt in North Adams (-43%) and Hoosac Valley (-46%), while McCann and Savoy have seen slight increases.

Table 17. Enrollment K-12, by district, 2000 through 2020

	Enrollment K-12			% Change since	
District	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**2000**	**2010**
Berkshire Hills RSD	1,612	1,356	1,156	-28%	-15%
Southern Berkshire RSD	1,072	865	624	-42%	-28%
Farmington River	154	121	81	-47%	-33%
Lee	876	819	693	-21%	-15%
Lenox	843	805	750	-11%	-7%
Richmond	184	162	154	-16%	-5%
South Sub-region Totals	***4,741***	***4,128***	***3,458***	***-27%***	***-16%***
Central Berkshire RSD	2,407	1,987	1,522	-37%	-23%
Pittsfield	6,721	5,930	5,129	-24%	-14%
Central Sub-region Totals	***9,128***	***7,917***	***6,651***	***-27%***	***-16%***
Berkshire Arts & Technology	NA	216	372	NA	72%
Clarksburg	220	175	197	-10%	-13%
Florida	104	103	73	-30%	-29%
Hancock	51	30	39	-22%	+30%
Hoosac Valley Regional RSD**	1,928	1,507	1,038	-46%	-31%
Lanesborough	274	244	NA	NA	NA
Mt. Greylock	833	641	1,129	NA	-12%*
North Adams**	2,196	1,524	1,236	-43%	-19%
Northern Berkshire RVT	426	500	507	+19%	+1.4%
Savoy	44	35	48	+9%	+37%
Williamstown	532	392	NA	NA	NA
Northern Sub-region County	***6,608***	***5,367***	***4,639***	***-30%***	***-14%***
Berkshire Totals	**20,477**	**17,412**	**14,748**	**-28%**	**-15%**

*Mt. Greylock (2020) reflects combination of Mt. Greylock, Lanesborough, and Williamstown

**It should be noted that the opening of BART influenced enrollment of several districts, with specific impact to North Adams and Hoosac Valley.

Enrollment, high school.
One point of keen interest throughout the studies by BCETF and RSDPB efforts has been enrollment in our regional high schools, see Table 18. The questions of how full our schools are, whether we have enrollment and cohorts necessary to support robust academic programming, what programs are or are not being offered across our high schools, and how many high schools we need have been critical areas of focus.

Below is historical data on our regional high schools, alphabetized by high school name. It should be noted that enrollment is based on a traditional 9-12 grade span, recognizing that some schools contain additional grades (6, 7, or 8). Information regarding school configuration and building capacity/usage can be found in additional report sections.

Most high schools across the region have experienced enrollment loss. The exceptions include BART, which did not exist in 2000, and McCann, which has grown and/or maintained enrollment over the last two decades. While the reasons for variations, including school choice and tuition, are not detailed below, enrollment losses have occurred across all Berkshire high schools. An example is Lenox, which has remained stable since 2000 (-0.4% loss), but largely due to an influx of choice students. The greatest losses, since 2000, have been at Hoosac Valley (-56%), Drury (-53%), and Mt. Greylock (-40%).
The reductions since 2010 demonstrate similar patterns and offer additional insights on how rapidly student loss is occurring. For many schools, much of the population loss has been realized since 2010 including Drury, Hoosac, Lee, Monument, and Pittsfield, for example.

Table 18. Grade 9-12 enrollment by high school, 2000 through 2020

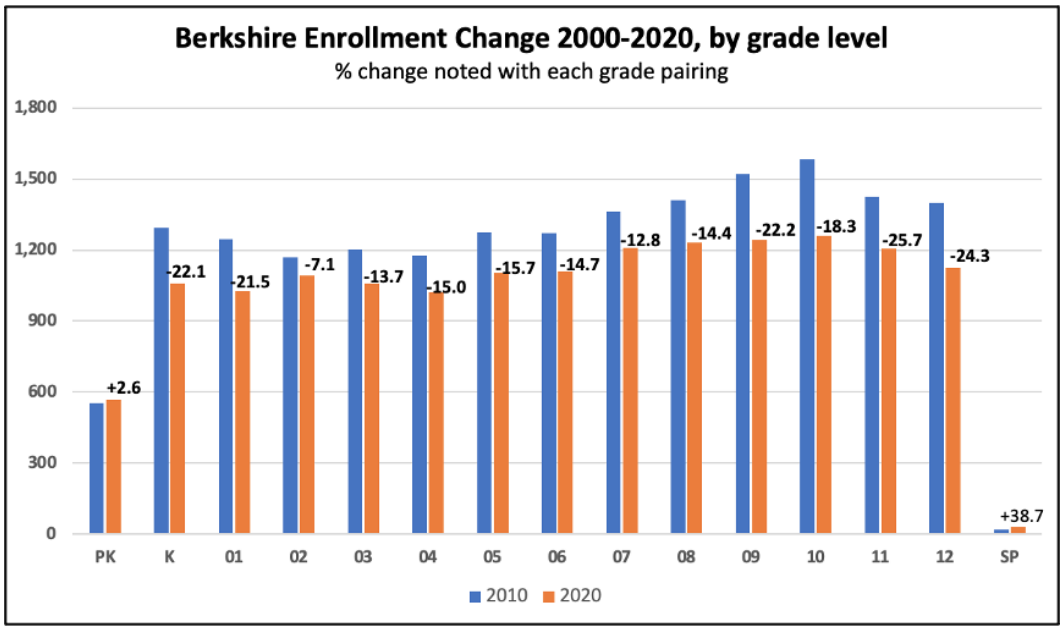
	Grades 9-12 Enrollment			% Change since	
High School	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**2000**	**2010**
MMRHS	644	595	501	-22%	-16%
Mt. Everett	291	261	211	-28%	-19%
BART	0	83	168	NA	+102%
Drury	632	500	298	-53%	-40%
Hoosac	559	436	246	-56%	-44%
Lee	341	339	240	-30%	-29%
Lenox	262	269	261	-0.4%	-3%
McCann	451	500	507	+12%	+1.4%
Mt Greylock	554	406	330	-40%	-19%
PHS*	782	972	744	-22.5%*	-21.9%
Taconic*	786	946	830		
Pittsfield Vocational	360	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wahconah	745	628	500	-33%	-20%
Berkshire County	**6,407**	**5,935**	**4,836**	**-25%**	**-19%**
State	**265,174**	**290,080**	**290,201**	**+9%**	**0**

*In 2000, Pittsfield had a third high school (on paper), the Pittsfield vocational school. This is added to the 2000 Pittsfield totals to calculate total change. Percent change (on the PHS line) represents a combination of PHS, Taconic, and Pittsfield Vocational.

Enrollment, by grade.
More broadly, enrollment by grade, see Figure 19, sheds light on historical and future patterns as students move into and through the schools. Below is a snapshot of changes between 2010 and 2020, the ten-year time frame used frequently throughout this report. Only PreK and Special education/Post-grad have seen increases since 2010. All other grades report declining enrollment with

the highest % decrease in Grades 11 (-25.7%) and Grade 12 (-24.3%). Lesser change has occurred in Grades 2 (-7.1%) and 7 (-12.8%).

Figure 19. Enrollment change by grade level, 2010 through 2020



Enrollment, schools.

To carry this analysis further, we've included school-level change. Below, Table 19 includes a list of Berkshire schools with three enrollment checkpoints (2000, 2010, 2020). The enrollment below reflects the additions of Pre-Kindergarten and Special education Post-graduate students. School reconfiguration is noted in places where schools were closed, opened, consolidated and, in some cases, renamed. Given the number of changes since 2000, % changes between 2010 and 2020 were added where applicable. With rare exceptions, enrollment has declined across Berkshire schools to varying degrees, from about -2.5% (Lee Elementary) to -38% (Undermountain Elementary).

Table 19. Enrollment by school, 2000 through 2020

		2000	2010	2020	%change 2010 - 2020
Adams-Cheshire	Hoosac Valley ES			387	
	Hoosac Valley High	559	692	341	-50.7
	Hoosac Valley MS			375	
	Cheshire ES	341	268		
	CT Plunkett ES	647	594		
	Adams MS	430			
Berkshire Arts and Technology	Berkshire Arts and Technology		216	372	72.2
Berkshire Hills	Monument Mt Reg'l High	678	599	508	-15.2
	W.E.B. Du Bois MS		369	349	-5.4
	Muddy Brook Reg'l ES		409	349	-14.7
	Hoosatonic Grammar	92			
	Searles MS	337			
	Stockbridge Plain	306			
	Village	62			
	William Cullen Bryant	144			
Central Berkshire	Becket Washington		113	113	-27.1
	Craneville	475	472	424	-10.2
	Kittredge	276	180	150	-16.7
	Nessacus Reg'l Middle	608	502	377	-24.9
	Wahconah Reg'l High	745	628	501	-20.2
	Berkshire Trail	130	92		
	Becket Consolidated	155			
	Central Berkshire ECC	18			
Clarksburg	Clarksburg ES	220	175	197	12.6
Farmington River	Farmington River Elementary	172	148	105	-29.1
Florida	Abbott Memorial	104	115	95	-17.4
Hancock	Hancock ES	51	41	47	14.6
Lee	Lee ES		369	360	-2.4
	Lee MS/HS		470	353	-24.9
	Lee ES (PK-8)	558			
	Lee HS (9-12)	341			
Lenox	Lenox Memorial High	476	468	459	-1.9
	Morris	390	361	317	-12.2
Mount Greylock	Lanesborough ES	300	270	198	-26.7
	Mt Greylock Reg'l High	833	641	553	-13.7
	Williamstown ES	567	426	409	-4.0
North Adams	Brayton	504	458	255	-44.3
	Colegrove Park ES			311	
	Drury High	637	616	542	-12.0
	Greylock	247	268	250	-6.7
	J S Sullivan	353	270		
Northern Berkshire RVT	McCann Technical RVT	451	500	507	1.4
Pittsfield	Allendale	387	313	317	1.3
	Capeless (Highland)	258	243	193	-20.6
	Conte Community	506	398	340	-14.6
	Crosby	568	415	389	-6.3
	Egremont	469	488	435	-10.9
	Herberg MS	764	678	603	-11.1
	Morningside	606	410	368	-10.2
	Pittsfield High	782	972	755	-22.3
	Reid Middle	788	633	525	-17.1
	Stearns	184	244	230	-5.7
	Taconic High	786	946	830	-12.3
	Williams	353	332	276	-16.9
	Crosby Educational Academy				
	Eagle Education Academy				
	Pittsfield Vocational	360			
	Hibbard Alternative	97			
Richmond	Richmond Consolidated	184	172	171	-0.6
Savoy	Miller	53	42	58	38.1
Southern Berkshire	Mt Everett Regional	482	400	344	-14.0
	New Marlborough Central	85	79	77	-2.5
	South Egremont	17	17	11	-35.3
	Undermountain	522	395	243	-38.5
	Monterey	10	9		

Some schools that have lower rates of change from 2010-2020 (Allendale, Crosby) saw a dramatic drop when examined over a twenty-year (2000-2020) timeframe, see Table 20. Stearns Elementary is one of the outlier schools that saw an increase in enrollment. It should be cautioned that % change in some of the smaller schools is highly volatile in that a few students (more or less) in a given year can amplify the reported change, such as in Hancock, Florida, and Savoy.

Analysis of school by grade level data can become complicated in a report this size. For context, below is a listing of school, by grade level, across Berkshire County in 2020. Districts have been color coded by unique grade span in order to compare "like" schools. While particular staffing allocations for each grade cohort and/or mixed grade level cohorts are not noted, this data offers some insights into relative cohort and class sizes that could prove useful in future consideration of likely school/grade level consolidation possibilities. For example, Farmington River has 12 students in Grade 1 (with likely 1 classroom teacher assigned), while Lee has 48 (with likely three teachers assigned). If the districts were to consider consolidation, four sections (with average size of 13) could be reduced to three sections (with average size of 20). This would, in effect, free up a full-time teacher (or the resources associated with that teacher) for added remedial, enrichment, or student support functions.

This sort of analysis would require careful attention that would need to account for travel distances and space, for example. However, it does illustrate how class size balancing could generate additional efficiencies and educational resources.

<u>Table 20.</u> Enrollment by school and grade, 2020

District	School	grade span configuration	PK	K	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	SP	00	# of BC students attending schools with this grade span
Southern Berkshire	South Egremont	k through 1		10	1													11	11
Adams-Cheshire	Hoosac Valley ES	preK through 3rd	62	88	80	78	79											387	387
Southern Berkshire	New Marlborough Central	preK through 4th	17	10	15	5	18	12										77	426
Berkshire Hills	Muddy Brook Reg'l ES	preK through 4th	22	72	67	58	55	75										349	
Savoy	Miller	preK through 5th	10	7	5	10	6	8	12									58	961
Central Berkshire	Kittredge	preK through 5th	29	21	17	25	24	18	16									150	
Pittsfield	Capeless	preK through 5th	15	28	26	32	33	25	34									193	
Southern Berkshire	Undermountain	preK through 5th	34	28	30	28	37	42	44									243	
Lenox	Morris	preK through 5th	26	44	52	46	53	52	44									317	
Pittsfield	Conte Community	preK through 5th	18	47	55	65	55	37	63									340	2,892
Pittsfield	Crosby	preK through 5th	70	44	45	61	59	49	61									389	
Pittsfield	Morningside	preK through 5th	18	68	54	66	46	60	56									368	
Central Berkshire	Becket Washington	through 5th	13	15	17	16	18	14	20									113	
Pittsfield	Stearns	K through 5th		30	29	51	38	38	44									230	
Pittsfield	Williams	K through 5th		42	40	41	48	49	56									276	
Pittsfield	Allendale	K through 5th		59	54	58	46	47	53									317	
Central Berkshire	Craneville	K through 5th		79	64	72	71	63	75									424	
Pittsfield	Egremont	K through 5th		72	82	73	72	68	68									435	
Hancock	Hancock ES	preK through 6th	8	11	5	4	5	4	6	4								47	1,935
Farmington River	Farmington River Elementary	preK through 6th	24	13	12	11	13	9	10	13								105	
Mount Greylock	Williamstown ES	preK through 6th	16	38	56	61	58	68	60	52								409	
Mount Greylock	Lanesborough ES	preK through 6th	13	28	27	24	34	22	26	24								198	
North Adams	Greylock	preK through 6th	40	41	30	30	25	30	22	32								250	
North Adams	Brayton	preK through 6th	34	21	35	33	33	29	36	34								255	
North Adams	Colegrove Park ES	preK through 6th	43	50	34	35	47	38	33	31								311	
Lee	Lee ES	preK through 6th	18	53	48	58	48	48	49	38								360	
Adams-Cheshire	Hoosac Valley MS	4th through 7th						71	106	104	94							375	375
Florida	Abbott Memorial	preK through 8th	22	7	9	1	9	8	4	14	14	7						95	266
Richmond	Richmond Consolidated	preK through 8th	17	18	16	18	15	16	16	14	19	22						171	
Clarksburg	Clarksburg ES	K through 8th		15	22	32	14	22	20	34	22	16						197	197
Berkshire Hills	Monument Valley Reg'l MS	5th through 8th							68	79	97	84						328	328
Central Berkshire	Nessacus Reg'l Middle	6th through 8th								110	128	139						377	1,505
Pittsfield	Reid Middle	6th through 8th								177	176	172						525	
Pittsfield	Herberg MS	6th through 8th								174	211	218						603	
Southern Berkshire	Mt Everett Regional	6th through 12th								39	54	40	55	49	50	57		344	1,175
Berkshire Arts and Technol	Berkshire Arts and Technolog	6th through 12th								72	64	68	52	53	36	27		372	
Lenox	Lenox Memorial High	6th through 12th								64	62	72	69	68	63	61		459	
Lee	Lee MS/HS	7th through 12th									53	58	66	59	65	50	2	353	1,448
North Adams	Drury High	7th through 12th									125	114	78	66	77	77	5	542	
Mount Greylock	Mt Greylock Reg'l High	7th through 12th									91	130	85	77	84	84	2	553	
Adams-Cheshire	Hoosac Valley High	8th through 12th										92	59	73	43	71	3	341	341
Central Berkshire	Wahconah Reg'l High	9th through 12th											122	126	134	118	1	501	3,101
Berkshire Hills	Monument Mt Reg'l High	9th through 12th											119	142	128	112	7	508	
Northern Berkshire RVT	McCann Technical RVT	9th through 12th											140	134	116	117		507	
Pittsfield	Pittsfield High	9th through 12th											180	189	197	178	11	755	
Pittsfield	Taconic High	9th through 12th											219	225	212	174		830	

Public School Attending.
There are various ways that students participate in their educational (K12) experience including public, private, home schooling, etc. Below, data from 2020 shows the relative % of students across the region based on their schooling option.

Public schools, see Table 20, continue to service about 93% of students locally, as compared with around 88% nationally. Eighty-five percent of students in the Berkshires attend their public school of residence. As it turns out, choice-out (10%) may be the most common option for students seeking to attend schools other than their school of residence. About 14% of Grades 9-12 students are in Chapter 74 vocational programs, although this is not balanced across the county with 25% of north county students in Chapter 74 programs, 11% in central county, and less than 3% in **all** of south county. *Note: Choice, tuition, Chapter 74 will be discussed in later sections.*

Overall, about 1.5% of students are home schooled, and about 4% (excluding special education settings) attend private/parochial schools.

Table 21. Schooling options for resident students, Berkshire County (2020)

Schooling option		Number	% Total
Resident students, in public schools, in BC		**15,348**	**93%**
Attend their home/resident school	13,087		
Attend charter (BART)	372		
Classified as Chapter 74 students	653		
Choice-out to another BC school	1,476		
Tuition	413		
Resident students, attending schools, outside BC		**1,204**	**7%**
Public school, out of BC	149		
Home schooled	246		
Private school in-state	777		
Of these, 100 are Special Education			
Private school out-of state	32		
Of these, 10 are Special Education			
Total number of eligible students		**16,552**	**100%**

Students who attend public school options outside of Berkshire County include the following in Table 22. The majority attend one of the two Massachusetts virtual schools. This data pre-dates the pandemic and it is expected that these numbers may shift in the 2020-21 school year.

Table 22. Locations where resident students attend public schools outside of Berkshire County

School	# students from BC
Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual District	25
TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School District	68
Northampton-Smith Vocational Agricultural	29
Worthington	12
Williamsburg	9
Westfield	3
Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public (District)	2
Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District	1
Total	**149**

School Choice.
Finally, unpacking , which is free movement between districts, offers a deeper understanding of patterns and trends. It should be noted that choice is allowable via state regulation as long as districts vote to participate and establish enrollment targets by school committee vote. Of note, resident districts are not able to block resident students from choicing out, but can vote to eliminate the option of non-resident students to choice in. Choice students/families, while able to attend school outside of the town of residence, have to provide their own transportation to/from school. It has been argued this creates equity issues about who does and doesn't have access to the choice program. Several studies have been conducted about choice, and reasons for family/student participation in choice can be based on school/district size, perception of quality and breadth of curriculum, geographic convenience, and perceptions of school safety, for example.

Below, Table 23, is a listing of the % of choice-in students that comprise a district's total enrollment. Additionally, % non-resident is noted and includes tuition students who arrive in a district from a town that does not operate its own school (entirely or by grade span).

Choice continues to serve as a primary enrollment driver for several districts such as Lenox (39%), Richmond (36%), Clarksburg (34%) and Florida (27%). Districts with low choice-in numbers include Pittsfield (2%), North Adams (4%) and Hoosac Valley (3%). When tuition is added to choice, total non-resident students rises among several districts including Richmond (44%), Florida (42%), and Savoy (50%). The movement of students has significant fiscal implications that will be discussed later in this report.

Table 23. Choice and Non-resident, by district

	Choice as percentage (%) of total enrollment (2018)	
	%Choice	%Non-Resident
Berkshire Hills RSD	20%	26%
Southern Berkshire RSD	13%	15%
Farmington River	17%	22%
Lee	20%	28%
Lenox	39%	40%
Richmond	36%	44%
Central Berkshire RSD	14%	15%
Pittsfield	2%	2%
Berkshire Arts & Technology	-	100%
Clarksburg	34%	35%
Florida	27%	42%
Hoosac Valley Regional RSD	3%	4%
Mt. Greylock	7%	13%
North Adams	4%	8%
Northern Berkshire RVT	0%	15%
Savoy	45%	50%

Choice by district can also be described by how many students are receivedby and/or leave each district. Below, see Table 24, is a list of how many students were received or left via school choice in 2020 and

2000. The largest choice receivers include Berkshire Hills and Lenox, with Lee, Richmond, Central Berkshire, Mt. Greylock, Florida, Clarksburg, and Savoy all receiving more students than they send out.

Pittsfield, North Adams, Hoosac and Farmington River all send more students than they receive. Southern Berkshire also lost students (net) who choiced out in 2020, in contrast with 2000 when they gained students via choice.

Overall, choice patterns have increased since 2000, suggesting an increasing willingness and interest among families and students to seek options other than their resident public school. Generally, choice tends to follow economic lines, with more choice into wealthier districts and out of municipal/less wealthy districts.

Table 24. Choice receiving and sending, by district 2000 and 2020

	2020			2000		
District	**Receiving**	**Sending**	**Diff.**	**Receiving**	**Sending**	**Diff.**
Berkshire Hills RSD	240.4	88.1	+152.3	154.0	125.7	+28.3
Southern Berkshire RSD	89.4	119.9	-30.6	122.6	93.5	+29.1
Farmington River	16.8	48.4	-31.6	18.8	21.0	-2.2
Lee	148.6	109.3	+39.3	84.8	70.8	+14
Lenox	300.9	34	+266.9	110.6	22.3	+88.3
Richmond	61.3	13.3	+48.0			
	2020			**2000**		
Pittsfield	99.0	582.0	-482.9	21.0	152.6	-131.6
Central Berkshire	217.8	180.8	+37.0	83.7	60.4	+23.3
	2020			**2000**		
Hoosac Valley Regional	38.1	138.4	-100.3	54.4	13.8	+40.6
North Adams	52.8	141.6	-88.7	0	74.7	-74.7
Mt. Greylock	83.4	45.3	+38.1	40.2	10.7	+29.5

Florida	20.6	9.5	+11.1	0	1.0	-1.0
Clarksburg	63.3	21.8	+41.5	0	5.4	-5.4
Williamstown				46.0	1.0	+45.0
Lanesborough				10.8	7.0	+3.8
Savoy	23.0	9.0	+14.0	2.0	13.0	-9.0

While additional choice analysis will be offered in our team's fiscal analysis, we will call out additional choice patterns across the three defined sub-regions. Leading questions:

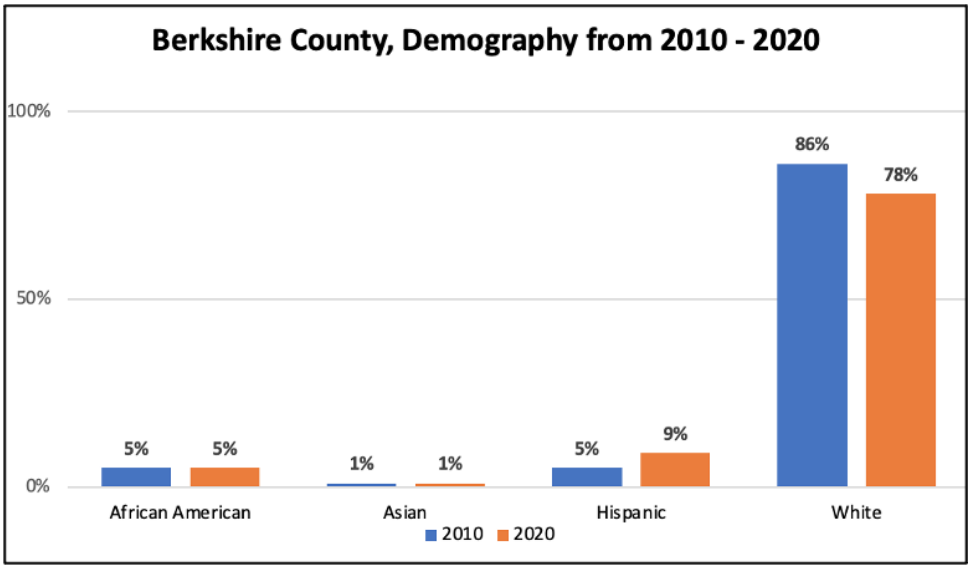
1. What percentages of resident students, by sub-region, attend their home school?
   North (97.4%) **Central (88.6%)** **South (98.0%)**
2. What percentage of total district enrollment is derived from residents of associated towns?
   North (92.5%) **Central (98.1%)** **South (85.6%)**

3. What are patterns of choice movement across sub-regions?
   a. **North (5.9% are from Central, 0% are from South)**
   b. **Central (1.2% are from North, 0.4% are from South)**
   c. **South (0.3% are from North, 13.3% are from Central)**

This reinforces the finding that most migration is out of Central and towards South, with modest movement from Central to North, and that the South sub-region is filling its schools with choice students mostly from Central county. There is also significant movement across the south county, a trend that will be further explored below.

School demography, race and ethnicity.
School Demography is relatively consistent with regional trends as outlined in the *General Population* section. Overall, see Figure 20, the schools remain predominantly White, although there has been a decline from 86% to 78% White between 2010 and 2020. This is captured, mostly, in a rising Hispanic population and more students of other races/ethnicity (6% in 2020).

Figure 20. Berkshire County school demography, 2010 versus 2020



By district, there are greater fluctuations in demographic profiles. Below, Table 25, changes within four ethnic/racial subgroups are compared by district and between 2010 and 2020. The most diverse district in 2020 is Pittsfield, at 62% White, down from 76% in 2010. While most districts have seen a decline in the % of White students, BART, Berkshire Hills, Lenox, and Savory experienced double-digit decline between 2010 and 2020.

Pittsfield and BART hold the highest percentages of African American/Black students, just over 10% of their student body. Pittsfield has the highest % of Asian students (8%). The population most on the rise, consistent with general population demographic shifts, are Hispanic students. Pittsfield (16%), Berkshire Hills (11%), Lee (10%), and BART (10%) all have experienced increases in this demographic category since 2010. While the Berkshires are slowly becoming more diverse, as follows general population trends, the region remains much less diverse than all of Massachusetts where less than 70% are White, more than 20% are Hispanic, with African American/Black and Asian students just under 10%.

Specific to the 8 Town RSDPB, both districts (in blue) are growing more diverse, BHRSD more dramatically. Overall, both districts are less white, with the Hispanic population increasing over the last decade.

While the Berkshires are slowly becoming more diverse, as follows general population trends, the region remains much less diverse than all of Massachusetts where less than 70% are White, more than 20% are Hispanic, with African American/Black and Asian students just under 10%.

Table 25. Demography by district, 2010 versus 2020

	White		Afr. Amer.		Asian		Hispanic	
Berkshire District Districts	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Berkshire Hills RSD	90%	79%	1%	1%	1%	3%	6%	11%
Southern Berkshire RSD	90%	85%	1%	1%	1%	0%	3%	8%
Farmington River	90%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%
Lee	87%	84%	1%	1%	3%	3%	8%	10%
Lenox	91%	81%	1%	1%	3%	4%	3%	9%
Richmond	94%	85%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	8%
Central Berkshire RSD	94%	91%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	5%
Pittsfield	76%	62%	11%	11%	2%	8%	8%	16%
Berkshire Arts & Technology	91%	70%	5%	12%	0%	3%	3%	10%
Clarksburg	98%	94%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	3%
Florida	96%	99%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Hancock	95%	96%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	0%
Hoosac Valley Regional RSD	95%	91%	2%	4%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Mt. Greylock*	89%	89%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	4%
North Adams	85%	82%	4%	3%	1%	1%	6%	6%
Northern Berkshire RVT	94%	95%	1%	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%
Savoy	83%	93%	2%	3%	0%	0%	5%	3%
Berkshires	**86%**	**78%**	**5%**	**5%**	**1%**	**1%**	**5%**	**9%**
Massachusetts	**69%**	**58%**	**8%**	**9%**	**5%**	**7%**	**15%**	**22%**

**Combines Lanesborough and Williamstown data in 2010 number*

Beyond race and ethnicity, see Table 26, enrollment can also be analyzed by economic need, students with disabilities, and numbers of English Language Learners. The metric for Low-Income [4]and Economically Disadvantaged[5] changed between 2010 and 2020, thus it is not a perfect apples-to-apples comparison. Still, both offer a relative standard to benchmark against. Across the board, general economic needs among student populations is on the rise. North Adams (62%) and Pittsfield (54%) both meet/exceed the state average, while Hoosac Valley (51%) and Savoy (50%) also report high percentages of students who are economically disadvantaged. Lenox (11%), Mt. Greylock (12%) and Hancock (11%) have among the lowest percentages of students who are economically disadvantaged.

Special education ratios across the Berkshires are varied, and likely rise/fall based on unique student needs, the identification of students for services, response capability of district, and district size. Ten districts (Berkshire Hills, Farmington River, Pittsfield, BART, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Hoosac Valley, North Adams and Savoy) all meet/exceed the state average/Berkshire (19%) of students who are identified with disabilities, while Lenox (10%), Central Berkshire (14%) and Mt. Greylock (15%) report the fewest students with disabilities.

Pittsfield (5%), Berkshire Hills (4%) and Lee (4%) report the highest numbers of students receiving English Language Learner services/supports. It should be noted that the ESE does report students for whom English is not a first language and this number is higher among districts, recognizing students who may have exited formal services. Overall, the Berkshires (3%) has relatively modest ELL populations as compared to the state (11%).

Table 26. Berkshire County selected student characteristics, 2010 versus 2020

	Low Inc. Econ Dis.		Special Education		English Learners		High Needs	
Berkshire District Districts	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2015	2020
Berkshire Hills RSD	22%	31%	15%	19%	2%	4%	35.4%	42.9%
Southern Berkshire RSD	21%	33%	16%	18%	0%	2%	36.5%	45.9%
Farmington River	30%	33%	17%	22%	0%	0%	45.5%	45.7%
Lee	33%	34%	13%	15%	2%	4%	36.7%	44.6%
Lenox	11%	18%	10%	10%	1%	2%	24.6%	25.8%
Richmond	16%	27%	9%	15%	0%	0%	16.5%	37.4%
Central Berkshire RSD	27%	30%	16%	14%	0%	0%	24.7%	38.5%
Pittsfield	50%	54%	16%	22%	4%	5%	54.5%	63.2%
Berkshire Arts & Technology	52%	45%	26%	21%	0%	1%	53.6%	55.4%
Clarksburg	30%	35%	19%	19%	0%	0%	40.8%	47.0%
Florida	43%	24%	23%	20%	0%	0%	50.6%	36.8%
Hancock	12%	17%	12%	21%	0%	0%	48.7%	63.0%
Hoosac Valley Regional RSD	40%	51%	16%	24%	0%	1%	47.9%	59.6%
Mt. Greylock*	12%	18%	14%	15%	1%	0%	24.2%	26.9%

[4] Indicates the percent of enrollment who meet ANY ONE of the following definitions of Low-income: The student is eligible for free or reduced price lunch; or The student receives Transitional Aid to Families benefits; or The student is eligible for food stamps

[5] Calculated based on a student's participation in one or more of the following state-administered programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC); the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) foster care program; and MassHealth (Medicaid).

North Adams	58%	62%	25%	25%	2%	1%	62.3%	68.9%
Northern Berkshire RVT	38%	36%	17%	18%	0%	0%	35.8%	44.4%
Savoy	33%	50%	5%	21%	0%	0%	39.0%	60.3%
Berkshires	**37%**	**42%**	**16%**	**19%**	**2%**	**3%**		
Massachusetts	**33%**	**54%**	**17%**	**19%**	**6%**	**11%**	**42.2%**	**51.0%**

**Combines Lanesborough and Williamstown data in 2010 number*

Another measure of economic determinants for schools is the **High Needs** designation. High needs includes students who are low income, economically disadvantaged, English Language Learners, and/or students with a disability. North Adams is highest in % of need, with just about 7 in 10 students meeting this designation. Pittsfield (63%), BART (55%), Savoy (60%), and Hoosac Valley (60%) all have about 6 of 10 students designated as high needs. Lenox (26%) and Mt. Greylock (27%) have the lowest numbers of high needs students. All other districts fall into the 30% to 50% range.

Specific to the RSDPB districts, both high needs and low income/economically disadvantaged students have risen over the last decade. These follow the general pattern we see across the Berkshires. Similarly, the numbers of ELL students, while still well below the state average, has risen in both districts.

Enrollment Trends, RSDPB.

The preceding sections set the stage for a deeper dive into the enrollment patterns and trends for SBRSD and BHRSD (combined RSDPB) that serve as the focus areas for this study. This context helps us to benchmark RSDPB patterns and trends against those in the county, the state and the nation, while recognizing that the RSDPB does not exist in isolation, and student movement into and out of the districts is influenced by those districts outside the RSDPB catchment. Below are several historical snapshots from 2000, every 10 years, the most recent year (2021) and a projection into 2030, see Table 27.

Table 27. Enrollment Change, 2000, 2020, 2021, and projected for 2030

Year	**BHRSD**	% change since '00	**SBRSD**	% change since '00	**COMBINED RSDPB**	% change since '00
2000	1,612		1,072		2,684	
2010	1,356	-15%	865	-19%	2,221	-17%
2020	1,163	-27%	624	-42%	1,787	-33%
2021	1,149	-28%	607	-43%	1,756	-35%
2030	877	-45%	403	-62%	1,280	-52%

*Note, enrollment is K-12, no PreK

The RSDPB catchment has declined by 35% since 2000 and is anticipated to decline further (a total drop of over 50%) when examining the 30-year period between 2000 and 2030. While, as demonstrated earlier, the predictions into 2030 may be imperfect, even the more conservative number of 1,400 would result in a 48% drop from 2000 to 2030.

Over the course of the last 30 years, the average student loss is:

- BHRSD. Has lost about 15 students per year, around 1% per year

- SBRSD. Has lost about 15.5 students per year, around 1.4% per year
- RSDPB. Has, combined, lost about 31 students per year, just over 1% per year

Table 28 displays the most recent five years, represented both with and without PreK. This data suggests an ongoing enrollment decline over the last five years, 2017-2021. Combined, the districts dropped about 10% in their PreK through Grade 12 enrollment counts. This decline represents an approximate 2% drop per year, slightly higher than the 30-year average. However, SBRSD dropped a bit more in the K12 count, about 3% per year, suggesting a high PreK census.

The 2022 column, yellow, represents initial 2021-2022 enrollment counts, which will be certified on October 1, 2021 and officially released later in the fall. What is worth noting is that the current data may reflect a pandemic effect in which students may not have attended school, or may have chosen educational alternatives. In that the pandemic is still ongoing, the full effect of this trend is still yet to be fully understood.

Table 28. Enrollment Change, 2017-2021, BHRSD, SBRSD, RSDPB

District	2022 (initial)	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Change 2017-2021
BHRSD							
• Total PK-12	1,216	1,164	1,185	1,203	1,245	1,286	**-9%**
• Total K-12	1,190	1,149	1,163	1,184	1,231	1,272	**-10%**
SBRSD							
• Total PK-12	635	645	675	688	681	725	**-11%**
• Total K-12	590	607	624	649	645	721	**-16%**
RSDPB							
• Total PK-12	1,851	1,809	1,860	1,891	1,926	2,011	**-10%**
• Total K-12	1,780	1,756	1,787	1,833	1,876	1,993	**-12%**

RSDPB Trends compared to General Population.

	2000-2020	2010-2020
RSDPB General Population	-385 (-2.1%)	+538 (+3.0%)
RSDPB School Population	-887 (-33.2%)	-434 (-19.5%)

As the summary above shows, the 2000, 2010, and 2020 census counts can be summarized to examine the rate of change in towns, as compared to rate of change in the schools. In many communities, a balanced number would suggest some level of equilibrium between the town population and the school population. This is not the case in RSDPB.

Between 2000 and 2020, the total population of the RSDPB eight towns declined about -2.1%, much less than the 33.2+% decline in the schools. That difference is as dramatic using the most recent census numbers and comparing the 2010 to 2020 census period. Overall, the RSDPB general population increased (+3.0% overall), while the combined school populations decreased by almost -20%.

Table 29 provides detail to support these numbers on a town and district basis.

Table 29. Town and District Population Changes, 2000 - 2020

				2000-2020		2010-2020	
Municipality	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**(#)Change**	**(%) Change**	**(#)Change**	**(%) Change**
Alford	399	494	486	87	21.8%	-8	-1.6%
Egremont	1,345	1,225	1,372	27	2.0%	147	12.0%
Monterey	934	961	1,095	161	17.24%	134	13.9%
New Marlborough	1,494	1,509	1,528	34	2.3%	19	1.3%
Sheffield	3,335	3,257	3,327	-8	-0.2%	70	2.1%
SBRSD Towns	**7,507**	**7,446**	**7,808**	**301**	**4.0%**	**362**	**4.9%**
SBRSD Schools	1,072	865	624	-448	-41.2%	-241	-38.6%
Great Barrington	7,527	7,104	7,172	-355	-4.7%	68	1.0%
Stockbridge	2,276	1,947	2,018	-258	-11.3%	71	3.6%
West Stockbridge	1,416	1,306	1,343	-73	-5.2%	37	2.8%
BHRSD Towns	**11,219**	**10,357**	**10,533**	**-686**	**-6.1%**	**176**	**1.7%**
BHRSD Schools	1,612	1,356	1,163	-449	-27.4%	-193	-14.2%
RSDPB	2,684	2,221	1,787	-897	-33.2%	-434	-19.5%

We recognize the small total sizes of many of these towns, and the variability associated with smaller numbers.

Between 2000 and 2020, most of the SBRSD towns, with the exception of Sheffield, had increases in total population while the total school population declined by over 40%. The three BHRSD towns all decreased in this time period, somewhat more dramatically than the SBRSD towns, but still lagged behind the over 27% drop in the BHRSD enrollment.

Between 2010 and 2020, all SBRSD and BHRSD towns with the exception of Alford, gained residents. However, SBRSD enrollment dropped by over 38% and BHRSD by over 14%.

To illustrate this point, we have combined all the towns, see Table 30, by district to examine the changes side-by-side.

Table 30. Summarized Town and District Population Changes vs. School Population, 2000 - 2020

	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	% Change 2000-2020	% Change 2010-2020
Towns					
SBRSD (5 Towns)	7,507	7,446	7,808	+4.0%	+4.9%
BHRSD (3 Towns)	11,219	10,357	10,533	-6.1%	+1.7%
RSDPB (8 Towns)	18,726	17,803	18,341	-2.1%	+3.0%
School Districts					
SBRSD	1,072	865	624	-42.8%	-38.6%
BHRSD	1,612	1,356	1,163	-27.4%	-14.2%
RSDPB	2,674	2,221	1,787	-33.2%	-19.5%

Again, overall, the entire eight towns decreased by 385 residents between 2000 and 2020 (about a 2% loss) while the schools declined by over 33%. Between 2010 and 2020, the towns grew by 538 (about +3.0%) residents while the schools lost 434 (just under 20%).

RSDPB Enrollment, by District, by Grade.

Below grade enrollment is provided for each district, 2017-2021. Additionally, the preliminary 2021-22 enrollment (unofficial October 1) is displayed. While this data is limited in what it offers, it does reveal some insights into general enrollment trends, whether student cohorts remain stable or increase/decrease, and if there are any grade levels where students enter or exit the system.

BHRSD data, Table 31, demonstrates an overall decline in enrollment consistent with the overall 9% drop over the five-year period. Cohort sizes vary, thus there is some fluctuation in comparing single grade levels over the five years. Cohorts are illustrated with the yellow and blue cells that illustrate students advancing grades across years. If all students advanced and no students transferred in or out, these numbers would remain stable. There are several observational take-aways:

- Enrollment in PreK is relatively low, only about a quarter of the average elementary cohort.

- There appears to be a drop-off between K and Grade 1. Students are either retained, or are selecting other educational options.
- Enrollment rises in Grades 7, 8, and 9. These likely reflect tuition students from Richmond and Farmington River, and choice students into the high school.
- High school cohort enrollments remain relatively steady, suggesting that Monument retains students.
- Initial counts suggest that enrollment is up in 2021-22 by about 3.6%. This follows a number of consecutive years of enrollment decline. Where and why this increase occurred will be studied once the January 2022 sending data is compiled, or as available from the districts prior.

Table 31. BHRSD Grade Level Enrollment, 2017-2021, Initial October 1, 2021

BHRSD		Last Five Years					% Change
	Sept. 2021	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2017-2021
PK	26	15	22	19	14	14	7%
K	57	68	72	78	84	71	-4%
1	58	60	67	53	48	70	-14%
2	65	66	58	49	73	62	6%
3	70	53	55	70	61	65	-18%
4	57	56	75	60	68	70	-20%
5	70	84	68	74	78	71	18%
6	93	70	79	87	75	93	-25%
7	92	90	97	81	101	119	-24%
8	104	100	84	102	120	104	-4%
9	135	113	119	149	128	121	-7%
10	120	118	142	127	118	142	-17%
11	114	148	128	108	145	125	18%
12	151	122	112	141	126	148	-18%
SP	4	1	7	5	6	11	-91%
Total PK-12	1,216.00	1,164.00	1,185.00	1,203.00	1,245.00	1,286.00	-9%
Total K-12	1,190.00	1,149.00	1,163.00	1,184.00	1,231.00	1,272.00	-10%

SBRSD data, Table 32, demonstrates an overall decline in enrollment consistent with the overall 16%

drop over the five-year period. While Grade 9 had a small 2021 cohort, other high school cohorts have increased slightly over the 5-year period. Cohort sizes vary, thus there is some fluctuation in comparing single grade levels over the five years. As with the BHRSD data, cohorts are illustrated with the yellow and blue cells that illustrate students advancing grades across years. There are several observational take-aways:

- Enrollment in PreK is relatively high at 65-80% participation.
- There appears to be a strong retention, generally, between K and 1.
- There appears to be some dropoff between Grades 4 and 5.
- Overall, SBRSD appears to retain student cohorts across time.
- SBRSD appears to have declined just under 3% in the initial 2021-22 student count. Where and why this increase occurred will be studied once the January 2022 sending data is compiled, or as available from the districts prior.

Table 32. SBRSD Grade Level Enrollment, 2017-2021

SBRSD		Last Five Years					% Change
	Oct. 2021	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2017-2021
PK	45	38	51	39	36	4	850%
K	57	63	48	56	42	55	15%
1	53	47	46	38	53	52	-10%
2	45	44	33	51	51	53	-17%
3	48	34	55	53	49	48	-29%
4	34	50	54	47	45	66	-24%
5	47	44	44	41	56	51	-14%
6	46	43	39	54	45	64	-33%
7	44	35	54	45	62	46	-24%
8	34	57	40	62	46	52	10%
9	51	35	55	52	51	55	-36%
10	31	54	49	51	55	48	13%
11	52	50	50	56	45	45	11%
12	48	51	57	43	45	46	11%
SP		0	0	0	0	0	
Tota PK-12	635	645	675	688	681	725	-11%
Total K-12	590	607	624	649	645	721	-16%

Because the assignment of students to particular schools has shifted in SBRSD over the last five years, we have illustrated this below on Table 32b. Each of the colored bands indicates the grade span contained within each school, including changes that have occurred over time (removal of Grade 1 from South Egremont in 2019, movement of Grade 6 from Undermountain to Mt. Everett in 2020). This year, 2022, Grade 4 has been moved from New Marlborough to Undermountan, thus this will be reflected in the current year (2022) enrollments.

Table 32b. Grade Enrollment, 2017-2021, SBRSD by School and Grade Spans

2017	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
Southern Berkshire - New Marlborough Central	11	19	10	17	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Southern Berkshire - South Egremont	0	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Southern Berkshire - Undermountain	33	30	35	36	33	48	51	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330
Southern Berkshire - Mt Everett Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	52	55	48	45	46	0	292
2018	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
Southern Berkshire - New Marlborough Central	14	8	20	11	18	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87
Southern Berkshire - South Egremont																
Southern Berkshire - Undermountain	22	34	33	40	31	29	56	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	290
Southern Berkshire - Mt Everett Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	46	51	55	45	45	0	304
2019	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
Southern Berkshire - New Marlborough Central	11	12	8	19	11	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
Southern Berkshire - South Egremont	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Southern Berkshire - Undermountain	28	31	30	32	42	31	41	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	289
Southern Berkshire - Mt Everett Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	62	52	51	56	43	0	309
2020	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
Southern Berkshire - New Marlborough Central	17	10	15	5	18	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
Southern Berkshire - South Egremont	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Southern Berkshire - Undermountain	34	28	30	28	37	42	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243
Southern Berkshire - Mt Everett Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	54	40	55	49	50	57	0	344
2021	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
Southern Berkshire - New Marlborough Central	7	16	12	14	7	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73
Southern Berkshire - South Egremont	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Southern Berkshire - Undermountain	31	32	35	30	27	33	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	232
Southern Berkshire - Mt Everett Regional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	35	57	35	54	50	51	0	325

RSDPB Enrollment, by School, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2021.

School enrollment can be examined over time, with snapshots taken to determine to what degree enrollment is changing more or less dramatically in a particular school.

Below, Table 33, school enrollment for all RSDPB schools is noted. All schools have experienced a decline between 2010 and 2021 from -7% (W.E.B. DuBois) to -41% (Undermountain). **Note: As mentioned, Undermountain shifted grade 6 to Mt. Everett in 2019-20, thus the significant change noted above. We will see a similar shift in New Marlborough, which shifted Grade 4 to Undermountain this year.*

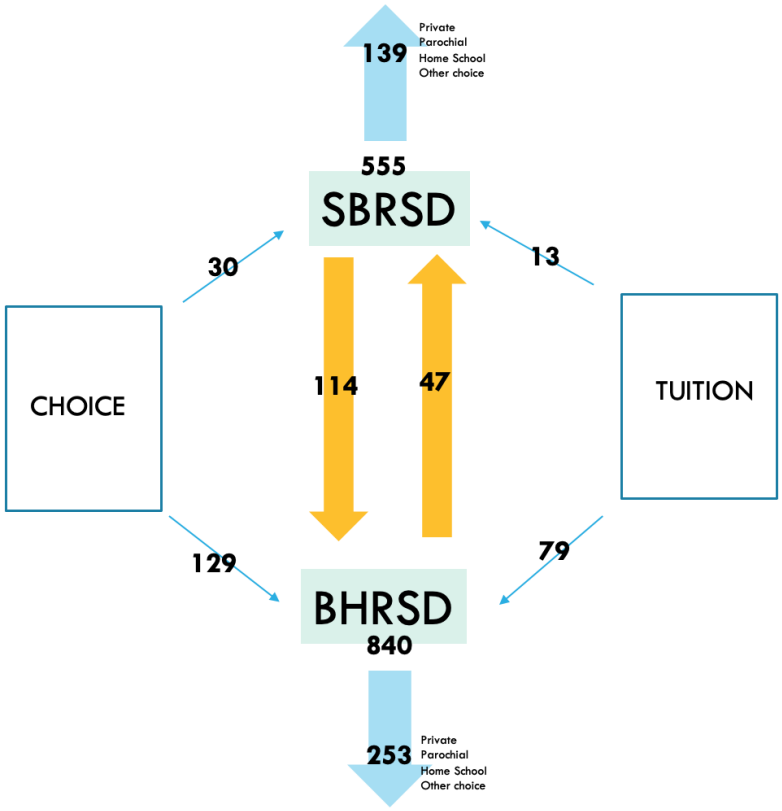
Table 33. Enrollment by RSDPB School, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2021

	2010 (PK)	2015 (PK)	2020 (PK)	2021 (PK)	%
BHRSD					
Muddy Brook ES	409 (21)	385 (16)	349 (22)	318 (15)	-22%
W.E.B. DuBois MS	369	403	328	344	-7%
Monument Mountain HS	599	552	508	502	-16%
SBRSD					
Monterey	9	6			
New Marlborough	79 (11)	84 (9)	77 (17)	73 (7)	-8%
South Egremont	17	13	11	15	-12%
Undermountain*	395 (24)	329 (13)	243 (34)	232 (31)	-41%
Mt. Everett	400	330	344	325	-19%

Student Flow.

Generally, we describe *student flow* as the movement of students in and out of districts. As mentioned earlier in this document (see **Counting and finance, a brief overview, page 3)**, students are considered from the perspective of where they reside, and how they arrive in each receiving district. Figure 21, below, was shared with the RSDPB Board on September 14, 2021 to illustrate the complexities of movement.

Figure 21. Student Movement In/Out of SBRSD & BHRSD, 2020



Both towns begin with students who reside in their towns and attend their resident schools. Other resident students opt for non-public options such as private, parochial and home schooling. Other students select (through school choice) to attend the other districts. The districts then receive non-resident students through both school choice and tuition.

The following section will unpack this tangled web of student flow, recognizing that consolidation/collaboration/regionalization models will have to address, in varying ways, this student movement.

Where do RSDPB resident students attend school?

As mentioned earlier, there are various ways that students participate in their K12 educational experience including public, private, home schooling, etc. options. Below, data from 2020 shows the relative % of students across the RSDPB towns in terms of where and how they attend school.

We chose 2019-20 as it was a non-pandemic year (at least until March) so the public school sending data should be relatively consistent. Below, Table 34, has several major categories of where resident students for each of the eight towns attend school. The first column indicates the number of students eligible to attend school who are residents of the identified town. The remaining columns offer the percentages of students who attend their resident school, select an Out-Of-District public school, are home schooled or attend private/parochial schools.

By town, Alford has the fewest students attend their resident school (at 22%) with many selecting choice and/or private/parochial options. In contrast, Sheffield, New Marlborough, and all three BHRSD towns experience more than three-quarters of their resident students attending their schools. Egremont and Monterey also both see higher levels of choice out.

Table 34. Public School Attending Data, 2019-20, Eight Towns

	Total #	Resident School	OOD Choice	Home School	Private Parochial
Alford	41	22%	37%	10%	31%
Egremont	99	56%	24%	9%	11%
Monterey	82	56%	35%	4%	5%
New Marlborough	158	77%	13%	4%	7%
Sheffield	396	80%	9%	3%	8%
Great Barrington	830	75%	6%	1%	18%
Stockbridge	138	78%	11%	4%	8%
West Stockbridge	157	78%	12%	2%	8%

Resident students: Live in the town and attend their school of residence
OOD: Students who live in the town but choose to attend school, through choice/tuition in another district
Home school: An educational program privated at home or as part of a home school network
Private/Parochial: School that charge tuition but in and out of state.

As provided earlier in this document (see Table 21) public schools in the Berkshires service about 93% of

students in local public schools, as compared with around 88% nationally. About 80% of students in the Berkshires attend their resident public school district.

Table 35, below, captures five years of aggregated public school attending data 2017-2021. RSDPB districts have a lower rate of resident students that attend their home public school at 70% in SBRSD and 74% in BHRSD as compared to their Berkshire peers. More students also choice out of SBRSD (15%) as compared to BHRSD (8%). There are slightly more home-schooled students in SBRSD (5%) than BHRSD (2%). Both districts have relatively high levels of private/parochial school attendance, although more BHRSD families (17% versus 11%) choose to send their children to private and/or parochial options.

Table 35. Public School Attending Data, Summarized by District and Combined RSDPB (2017-2021)

	Total #	Resident School	OOD Choice	Home School	Private Parochial
SBRSD	3,809	70%	15%	5%	11%
BHRSD	5,971	74%	8%	2%	17%
RSDPB (Combined)	**9,780**	**72%**	**11%**	**3%**	**14%**

Again, BHRSD sends a few more resident students to their schools, and of those who don't attend, more attend private/parochial options. In contrast, more SBRSD students select to choice out of the district and home school.

This aggregated five-year data, however, does not reveal trends over these five years. This can be understood by examining choice-out data by town. Below, on Table 36, each of the RSDPB towns is identified as sending choice money to another community for a student who is enrolled in a neighboring public school district through the school choice option. BHRSD has seen a decline in the total number of choice-out students with Great Barrington declining from 84 students in 2017 to 48 in 2021. In contrast, SBRSD has seen a rise in choice-out from 102 in 2017 to 128 in 2021. This data reflects the Out-of-District choice numbers presented in Table 34, but confirms a shifting trend of higher numbers of students choicing out in SBRSD than BHRSD.

Table 36. Choice-Out Students by Town, 2017-2021

Town	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Great Barrington	84	68	73	53	48
Stockbridge	13	14	17	14	15
West Stockbridge	18	18	20	22	15
BHRSD Total	**115**	**100**	**100**	**89**	**79**
Alford	12	15	12	12	9
Egremont	15	19	23	23	29
Monterey	31	21	28	28	31
New Marlborough	21	20	21	20	25
Sheffield	23	27	32	32	34
SBRSD Total	**102**	**102**	**116**	**115**	**128**

We can also get a glimpse as to where resident students who attend public schools and either attend the home district or choice to the other district, by town, on Table 37 (*Note: These numbers do not include students on the previous sending tables who attend private/parochial/home school*).

This may shed some light on potential regionalization planning in that there is already some pattern of movement across the RSDPB districts. While Great Barrington and Sheffield enroll over 90% of resident students, towns like Alford choice 55% of their students to BHRSD. Egremont and Monterey also have a quarter to a third of their students choice out of district to BHRSD. In contrast, BHRSD has much smaller numbers of students choosing into SBRSD. Combined with the sending data to private/parochial/home school, it suggests that in some cases the choice to attend school outside of the home district is quite dramatic.

Table 37. Percentage of Resident Students choosing BHRSD or SBRSD, 2020

Town	Resident students in Public Schools	% Enrolled in BHRSD	SBRSD
Great Barrington	700	92%	6%
Stockbridge	119	87%	0.8%
West Stockbridge	138	84%	2%
Alford	22	55%	45%
Egremont	78	27%	71%
Monterey	76	33%	63%
New Marlborough	150	13%	87%
Sheffield	365	9%	91%

While where students choose to attend school (from each town) is critical, we will next examine how each district receives students.

Where do students enrolled in BHRSD and SBRSD arrive from?

The sending data (above) offers a partial picture of what is happening. This section probes further how students arrive in each district, recognizing the importance of student movement to both finances and potential regionalization/consolidation options. We will start with the number of resident students who live in each of the district catchment towns, Table 38. High school numbers have been isolated in that this is a specific consolidation solution that will be modeled.

Table 38. Numbers of Resident Students in each District (2017-2021)

- All grades

Member towns of:	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change %*
Berkshire Hills	1,067	1,041	1,008	962	921	*-14%*
Southern Berkshire	681	660	682	691	683	*0%*
Total	1,748	1,701	1,690	1,653	1,604	-8%

- HS grades

Member towns of:	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change %*
Berkshire Hills	378	381	387	367	361	*-4%*
Southern Berkshire	204	199	221	221	204	*0%*
Total	582	580	608	588	565	-3%

S. Carleton (9.13.21)

This table shows a somewhat different picture than total enrollment in that it measures **resident students only**. Overall, the resident student population of the BHRSD three towns has declined 14% over the last 5 years, while the SBRSD resident enrollment has remained somewhat stable (0%). This change is more dramatic in the elementary grades as compared to the BHRSD high school grades, which only experienced a 4% decline.

Overall, the way that students **arrive** into a district sheds further light on the enrollment picture. Table 39 displays the number of enrolled students in each district and how they arrive at the school through a variety of categories. So, while the Public School Attending report shows where all resident students of a town attend school (both inside and outside the home district), the data below accounts for the ways that each enrolled student in the district arrives (both inside and outside the district). This will be critical later to our fiscal analysis as students arriving through various pathways have varying levels of fiscal implications.

Table 39. Sources of Student Enrollment, by District, 2017-2021

Berkshire Hills

Reason for enrollment	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Resident/Member	948	939	892	870	840	*-11%*
Foreign Exchange student	2	2	1	1		
School Choice	211	196	222	233	250	*18%*
Tuitioned - Agreement with in state distric	122	105	86	81	73	*-40%*
Tuitioned - Out of State	3	2	2		1	*-67%*
Tuitioned - Waived by local agreement		1				
Total	**1,286**	**1,245**	**1,203**	**1,185**	**1,164**	***-9%***

Southern Berkshire

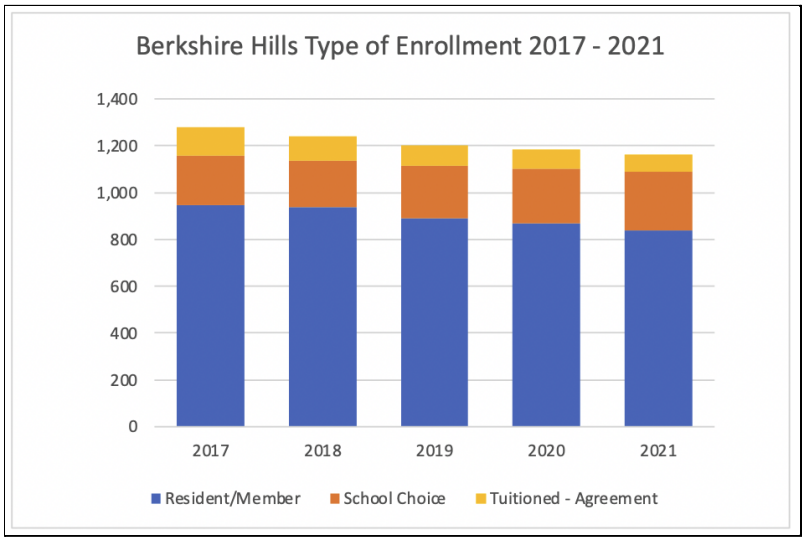
Reason for enrollment	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Resident/Member	578	558	566	576	555	*-4%*
Foreign Exchange student			1	1		
School Choice	133	113	111	89	77	*-42%*
Tuitioned - Agreement with in state distric	5	2	2	1	5	*0%*
Tuitioned - Out of State	9	8	8	8	8	*-11%*
Total	**725**	**681**	**688**	**675**	**645**	***-11%***

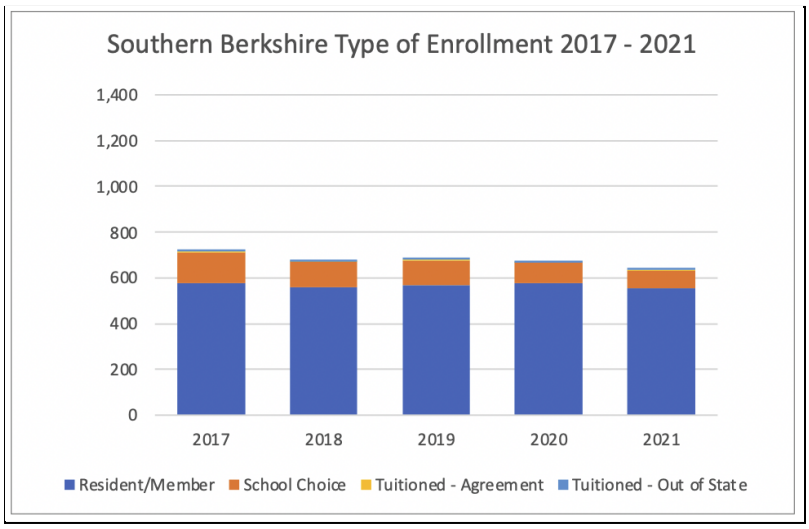
Both districts enroll choice students, or students who live outside the assigned towns, yet choose to attend school through the state's school choice program. In 2021, BHRSD's total enrollment consisted of about 21% choice students, and SBRSD's was about 11%. Students also arrive through tuition agreements with towns, for towns who don't have high schools and/or specialized programming, such as special education and Career Vocational Technical Education. Tuition accounts for a larger portion of BHRSD's overall student enrollment (about 6%) than SBRSD's (about 2%).

Over the five-year period noted (2017-2021), school choice has increased in BHRSD while decreasing in SBRSD. In BHRSD, tuition declined most dramatically in terms of total student count, while SBRSD has been relatively flat when combining both in-state and out-of-state students. This will be explored a bit further below.

The sources of student enrollment, supported by data on Table 38, are illustrated on Figures 22 & 23 which illustrate the numbers of students who make up the district total enrollment by the pathway through which they arrive.

Figure 22 & 23. Types of Enrollment, by District, 2017-2021

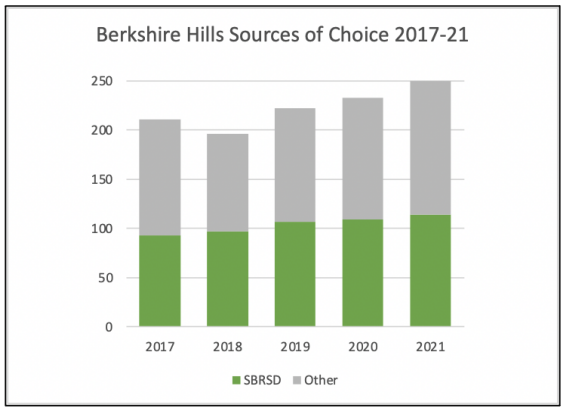


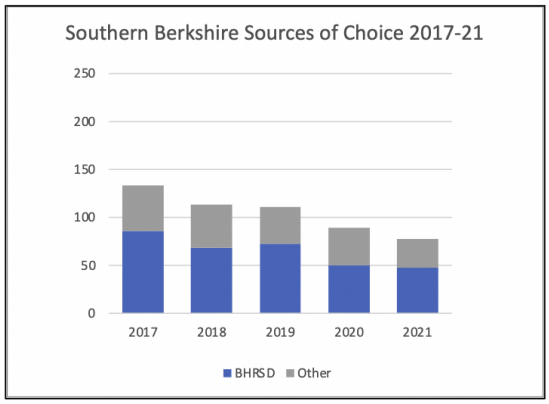


Of particular importance in the choice question, and the RSDPB study of collaboration/consolidation/regionalization (building off data provided in Table 36, choice by town) is the level of student movement between the two districts. Figures 24 and 25 (below) illustrate, with supporting data tables, the level of student movement via school choice between the two districts over a five year period, 2017-2021. While in 2017 the exchange between the two districts was just about balanced (93 and 86 students exchanged), in 2021 that number has shifted in that BHRSD accepted 114 choice students from SBRSD while SBRSD accepted only 47 from BHRSD. Over time, the migration from SBRSD to BHRSD via school choice has increased. Additionally, BHRSD is gaining additional students from neighboring districts via choice, while SBRSD is experiencing less choice in from neighboring districts. Interestingly, the percentage of students from the neighboring district as a percentage of total choice in

each district has not moved that much. This, in part, is because the increase in BHRSD has been increasing proportionally, while in SBRSD it has been decreasing proportionally. That is, BHRSD is receiving more students from **both** SBRSD **and** other districts, while SBRSD is receiving fewer students from **both** BHRSD **and** other districts.

Figures 24 & 25. Choice Patterns in SBRSD & BHRSD, 2017-2021





From	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
SBRSD	93	97	107	109	114	*23%*
Other	118	99	115	124	136	*15%*
Total	211	196	222	233	250	*18%*
SBRSD %	*44%*	*49%*	*48%*	*47%*	*46%*	

From	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
BHRSD	86	68	72	50	47	*-45%*
Other	47	45	39	39	30	*-36%*
Total	133	113	111	89	77	*-42%*
BHRSD %	*65%*	*60%*	*65%*	*56%*	*61%*	

Pulling out the high school data, see Table 40, we notice that the BHRSD choice in data has increased, with a higher rate in all grades as compared to high school. SBRSD follows a similar pattern with more students choicing out in all grades as compared to the high school. This may suggest that choice in/out is happening in earlier grades than at the high school level.

Table 40. Choice Patterns, High School versus All Grades, 2017-2021

- All grades

District	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Berkshire Hills	211	196	222	233	250	*18%*
Southern Berkshire	133	113	111	89	77	*-42%*

- High school (grades 9-12 and SP)

District	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Berkshire Hills	101	92	110	105	114	*13%*
Southern Berkshire	39	39	38	37	34	*-13%*

Students enrolling through tuition agreements, see Table 41, decreased in BHRSD by almost 40%, while in SBRSD (recognizing relatively small tuition numbers) remained relatively flat (increase of 1 student, 8%) between 2017 to 2021.

Table 41. Tuition Patterns, BHRSD & SBRSD 2017-2021

District	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Berkshire Hills	116	103	85	77	71	*-39%*
Southern Berkshire	12	10	9	9	13	*8%*
Total	139	117	98	90	87	*-37%*

Tuition enrollments for each of the districts are displayed in Tables 42 and 43. BHRSD, Table 42, receives tuition students from Richmond, Otis and Sandisfield. There has been a steady decline in the numbers of students tuitioning in, which may be a function of lower enrollments in these schools and/or families opting for other districts, such as Pittsfield, Lenox or Lee. BHRSD picks up about 6-10 students from Richmond, 6-10 students from Otis, and 3-5 from Sandisfield each year.

SBRSD, Table 43, has very modest tuitioning in students, although they receive an occasional student from Mount Washington. They do receive some out-of-state tuition students, about 8-9 per year, this likely a function of their proximity to the CT border.

Table 42. Tuition sources, BHRSD, 2017-2021

Berkshire Hills							
Town	Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Richmond	09	9	3	4	4	6	
	10	6	9	2	5	3	
	11	5	4	8	2	4	
	12	11	4	3	7	3	
Richmond Total		31	20	17	18	16	*-48%*
Otis	07	10	5	4	2	6	
	08	8	10	4	4	3	
	09	9	7	9	5	4	
	10	11	9	5	8	5	
	11	9	10	8	2	8	
	12	4	8	11	9	2	
Otis Total		51	49	41	30	28	*-45%*
Sandisfield	07	4	4	2	5	3	
	08	6	6	4	2	4	
	09	5	7	7	6	3	
	10	4	5	5	5	5	
	11	5	7	4	8	6	
	12	10	5	5	3	6	
Sandisfield Total		34	34	27	29	27	*-21%*

To underscore that the decline in tuition-in enrollment is somewhat (but not completely) driven by decline in population from the sending town, below each student population (by town) is contrasted against the change in tuition patterns detailed on Table 42. This appears to suggest mixed patterns. Richmond has, in effect, declined by the same number of students as the net loss in tuition students in BHRSD. In contrast, Otis has declined by more students, while BHRSD has lost fewer Otis students,

suggesting more students are tuitioning into BHRSD from Otis. Finally, Sandisfield displays a different result in that their student population has grown by 7 students, while tuition into BHRSD has declined. Thus, while some changes in tuition have followed population/enrollment patterns, others indicate students may be opting into alternative tuition/educational settings.

	Town Student Population				Compare to	
Town	2017	2021	%Change		Tuition % Change (2017-2021)	
Richmond	132	117	-11%	-15	-48%	-15
Otis	161	123	-24%	-38	-45%	-23
Sandisfield	88	95	+8%	+7	-21%	-7

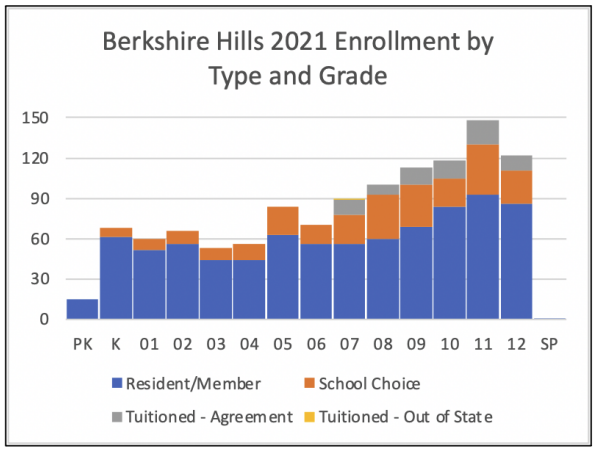
Table 43. Tuition sources, SBRSD, 2017-2021

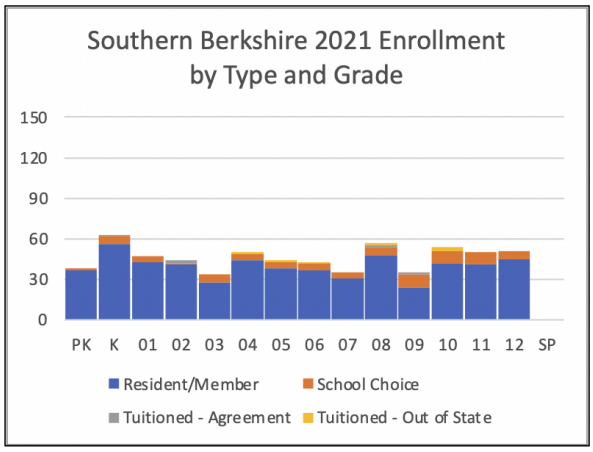
Southern Berkshire

Town	Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*Change*
Mount Washington	K					1	
	02					2	
	05	1					
	07			1			
	08				1	1	
	09					1	
	11	2					
	12		2				
Mount Washington Total		3	2	1	1	5	*+2*
Out of State	K	1					
	01	1	1				
	02		1	1			
	03	1		1	1		
	04	1		1	1	1	
	05		1		1	1	
	06	3		2		1	
	07		3		2		
	08			3		2	
	09				3		
	10					3	
	11	2					
	12		2				
Out of State Total		9	8	8	8	8	*-1*

By grade level, we can also examine the enrollment patterns as they relate to resident and non-resident students. Figures 23 & 24 illustrate enrollment by grade, by enrollment pathway for both BHRSD and SBRSD. Choice and tuition students account for a larger overall percentage of BHRSD total enrollment and increase in Grade 7. Tuition students increase in Grade 7 also, accounting for tuition agreements with both Richmond and Farmington River, for example. School choice is relatively consistent in SBRSD, although accounting for less overall percentage of total enrollment. Tuition, as mentioned, is a very small overall percentage of total enrollment.

Figure 26 & 27. Enrollment by Type and Grade, BHRSD & SBRSD, 2017-2021





Finally, we'll go a bit deeper to examine the overall in-migration patterns for school choice and tuition by examining by sending town, including those who attend as residents, through choice, and through tuition. The following Tables (44 through 46) provide an overview of both change over time and partners by grade level.

Table 44 illustrates the source of enrolled students in BHRSD. Blue indicates resident students, green is the SBRSD choice in students, orange is the tuition in students, and all others are outlying towns from which students choice into BHRSD. While resident population has declined over the last five years, choice in from Lee, Pittsfield, Egremont, and Sheffield and Lenox is on the rise. Fewer students from Otis, Richmond and Sandisfield are tuitioning into BHRSD. Overall, students arrive into BHRSD from 22 Berkshire towns.

Table 44. BHRSD Student Enrollment from Sending Town, 2017-2021

Berkshire Hills						Change 2017-21	
Town	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	#	%
Great Barrington	683	698	666	650	634	*-49*	*-7%*
Stockbridge	135	121	107	105	103	*-32*	*-24%*
West Stockbridge	131	122	120	116	103	*-28*	*-21%*
Alford	12	15	12	12	9	*-3*	*-25%*
Egremont	15	18	21	21	27	*12*	*80%*
Monterey	26	19	24	25	25	*-1*	*-4%*
New Marlborough	18	19	20	19	23	*5*	*28%*
Sheffield	22	26	30	32	30	*8*	*36%*
Otis	58	51	43	31	28	*-30*	*-52%*
Richmond	34	22	19	23	18	*-16*	*-47%*
Sandisfield	36	36	33	34	33	*-3*	*-8%*
Lee	51	44	45	52	57	*6*	*12%*
Pittsfield	26	23	27	27	32	*6*	*23%*
Lenox	11	13	13	15	18	*7*	*64%*
Tyringham	5	4	6	6	7		
Becket	9	5	6	6	6		
Blandford	3	2	3	1	1		
Dalton	3	1	3	4	4		
Goshen					1		
Hancock	2			1			
Hinsdale				1	1		
Mount Washington				1			
Out of State	3	2	2		1		
Peru		1					
Tolland	1	1	2	3	3		
Washington		1	1				
Williamstown	2	1					

Table 45 illustrates the source of students enrolled in SBRSD. Again, blue reflects resident students, green is the SBRSD choice in students, orange is the tuition in students, and all others are outlying towns from which students choice into BHRSD. Resident population is a mixture of increases (Alford and Sheffield) and decreases (Egremont, Monterey, and New Marlborough). Historically, Great Barrington was the largest choice sender, yet is sending 50% fewer students over the last five years. Both Stockbridge and West Stockbridge send very few students, and a smattering of students arrive from other Berkshire Towns. As was the case with BHRSD, few students are arriving from Otis and Sandisfield via tuition. In total, students arrive from 16 towns into SBRSD.

Table 45. SBRSD Student Enrollment from Sending Community, 2017-2021

Southern Berkshire						Change 2017-21	
Town	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	#	%
Alford	8	11	11	10	12	*4*	*50%*
Egremont	67	59	63	55	55	*-12*	*-18%*
Monterey	53	56	53	48	49	*-4*	*-8%*
New Marlborough	136	115	112	130	100	*-36*	*-26%*
Sheffield	314	317	327	333	339	*25*	*8%*
Great Barrington	80	62	64	46	40	*-40*	*-50%*
Stockbridge	4	2	5	1	4	*0*	*0%*
West Stockbridge	4	4	5	3	3	*-1*	*-25%*
Mount Washington	5	3	1	1	5	*0*	*0%*
Out of State	9	8	8	9	8	*-1*	*-11%*
Otis	15	11	12	11	10	*-5*	
Sandisfield	17	18	15	14	9	*-8*	
Lee	3	4	5	5	7	*4*	
Becket	2	3	1	1	1	*-1*	
Lenox				2		*0*	
North Adams	3	3	1	1	1	*-2*	
Pittsfield	2	2	2	2	2	*0*	
Tolland	3	3	3	3		*-3*	

Finally, we can examine the in-migration to each of our RSDPB districts by grade level.

BHRSD grade level enrollment data is provided on Table 46. Of total enrollment, 72% arrive from member towns, 10% from SBRSD via school choice, 7% through tuition agreements, and about 11% from other towns from which students choice into BHRSD. Choice into the district appears to occur throughout the grades, with a particular jump in grades 7-10.

Table 46. BHRSD Student Enrollment from Sending Town, by Grade, 2017-2021

Berkshire Hills 2021

Town	PK	K	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	SP	Total	
Great Barrington	13	50	36	48	34	36	48	42	38	45	51	63	68	61	1	634	
Stockbridge	1	2	6	5	7	4	8	11	4	10	8	15	13	9		103	Members
West Stockbridge	1	9	10	3	3	4	7	3	14	5	10	6	12	16		103	**840**
Sheffield		2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	6		5	3	3		30	
Egremont				1	1	2	2	1	1	3	7	2	6	1		27	
Monterey			1	1			4	1	3	3	2	1	6	3		25	
New Marlborough				1	1	2	2	1	6	4	1		3	2		23	SBRSD
Alford			2		1	1				1		1	1	2		9	**114**
Sandisfield							2	2	3	6	3	5	6	6		33	
Otis									6	3	4	5	8	2		28	
Richmond						1			1		6	3	4	3		18	Tuition
Out of State									1							1	**80**
Lee		3	2	2	3	3	3	3	5	7	6	7	8	5		57	
Pittsfield			1	2	1	1	3	1		3	10	2	4	4		32	
Lenox		2					2	1	4	2	2		3	2		18	
Tyringham				1		1			1	1	1	1	1			7	
Becket			1					1				2		2		6	
Dalton								1	1				2			4	
Tolland										1	1			1		3	
Blandford											1					1	
Goshen							1									1	Other
Hinsdale				1												1	**130**
Count		*6*	*9*	*11*	*9*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*15*	*15*	*15*	*14*	*16*	*16*		*22*	

SBRSD grade level enrollment data is provided on Table 47. Of total enrollment, 86% arrive from member towns, 7% from BHRSD via school choice, 2% through tuition agreements, and about 5% from other towns from which students choice into BHRSD. Choice into the district appears to occur throughout the grades, with a particular jump in grades 8-10.

Table 47. SBRSD Student Enrollment from Sending Town, by Grade, 2017-2021

Southern Berkshire 2021

Town	PK	K	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	SP	Total	
Sheffield	29	34	27	23	17	26	28	23	19	28	15	24	22	24		339	
New Marlborough	3	9	6	10	5	9	4	5	3	8	3	11	9	15		100	
Egremont	1	6	8	4	3	2	3	4	3	6	3	3	5	4		55	
Monterey	2	4		4	3	7	1	5	6	4	3	4	4	2		49	Members
Alford	2	3	2				2			2			1			12	**555**
Great Barrington	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	4	7	6	4	1		40	
Stockbridge						1		2					1			4	BHRSD
West Stockbridge											1		1	1		3	**47**
Out of State						1	1	1		2		3				8	Tuition
Mount Washington		1		2						1	1					5	**13**
Otis					1	1	1			1	2	1		3		10	
Sandisfield		1	2		1			1	1	1		1	1			9	
Lee		2			1		2		1			1				7	
Pittsfield						1								1		2	
Becket													1			1	Other
North Adams													1			1	**30**
Count		*9*	*6*	*6*	*8*	*9*	*9*	*8*	*7*	*10*	*8*	*9*	*11*	*8*		*16*	

Overall, there are some themes that emerge from this student flow section and some ongoing and interesting questions still to explore. The need to understand student flow is critical to the fiscal analysis and modeling that will follow. Several points to underscore:

In the BRHSD:

- Choice-in students have increased even as the total and the number of resident/enrolled students have decreased
- BHRSD enrolls about 74% of its resident students, with 8% choicing out and 17% choosing private options.
- In 2021, choice from SBRSD member towns was 46% of total choice (114), and had increased by 23% from 2017 to 2021
- Students tuitioning in by agreement for middle and high school grades have dropped significantly, recognizing this is also connected to smaller cohorts of students from these sending districts.
- The district is larger and more centrally located, and may have the capacity to recruit and attract more choice students
- The district has more resident students attending the high school, compounded by more choice/tuition students arriving at these grades

In the SBRSD:

- Resident/enrolled students fluctuate by year but, overall, is relatively flat
- Choice-in students are decreasing, as choice out has been on the rise
- SBRSD enrolls about 70% of its resident students, with 15% choicing out and 11% choosing private options.
- Choice students are distributed fairly evenly by grade.
- 2021 choice from BHRSD member towns was 61% of total choice (47), and had decreased by 45% from 2017 to 2021
- District is smaller, somewhat geographically isolated, and recruits fewer choice students.
- The number of resident students varies across grades, but is not higher in HS grades

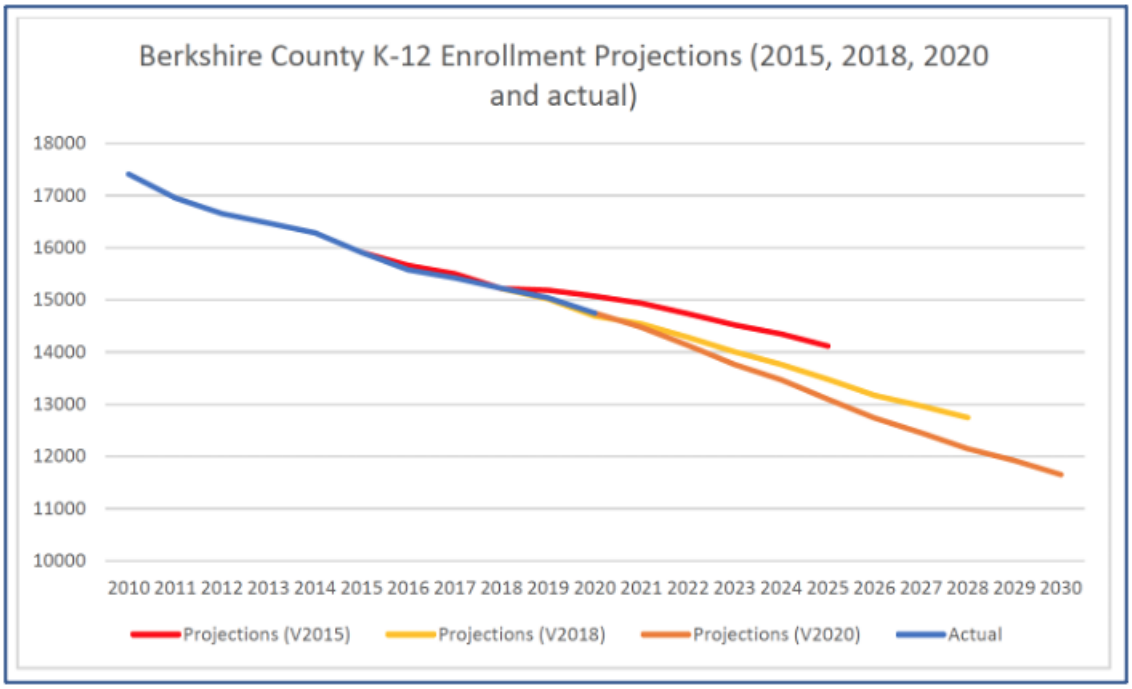
Enrollment Projections, Berkshire County.

As demonstrated, the BRPC enrollment[6] studies have generated projected results that have been quite close (overall) to actual enrollments. The adjustments across the three studies (2015, 2018, 2020) have been mostly downward, with 2020 actuals being 55 students less than the 2018 projected, and 322 less than the 2015 projections. The takeaway: enrollment is shrinking at slightly higher rate than had been projected in earlier models.

Figure 28 below, from BRPC, displays all three years of enrollment with 2015 (red), 2018 (yellow), and 2020 (orange) projections set against the actual enrollments (blue). Each modeling study has resulted in lower projected enrollments.

[6] The full BRPC Enrollment study, which includes a summary of their methods, can be found at https://www.berkshireeducationtaskforce.org/documents, under the Reports drop down menu.

Figure 28. Berkshire County enrollment Predicted versus Actual, 2010 through 2030



Overall, Berkshire County enrollment is projected to shrink to 11,651 (K-12) by 2030, from 14,748 in 2020. This represents approximately a 21% decline over ten years. This reduction in students will be felt across districts in different ways.

Below, Table 48, enrollments are summarized by district, across five time periods including historical (2000, 2010, and 2020 actual enrollment), and projected (2025, 2030). Overall projected change (2020 to 2030) is calculated and included. It should be recognized that percentage change which is smaller in districts such as Florida (-48%), and Farmington River (-38%) is highly volatile due to smaller cohort sizes.

The two municipal districts North Adams (-43%) and Pittsfield (-26%) will experience substantial reductions over the next 10 years. Three of the four region districts including Southern Berkshire (-35%), Mt. Greylock (-31%), and Berkshire Hills (-24%) are projected to lose between one-quarter and one-third of their students. Central Berkshire is projected to lose just over 10% of its student body.

Relatively stable districts appear to include Northern Berkshire RVT (-1%), Hoosac Valley (-2%), and Clarksburg (-4%). Districts with projected increases include BART (+2%), Richmond (+51%), and Hancock (+36%).

The process of projecting enrollment is imperfect. Yet, BRPC models have proved reasonably reliable. The BRPC 2015, 2018, and 2020 reports are available and can be reviewed for additional insights into year-by-year historical and projected enrollments, birth and migration rates, and enrollment modeling details.

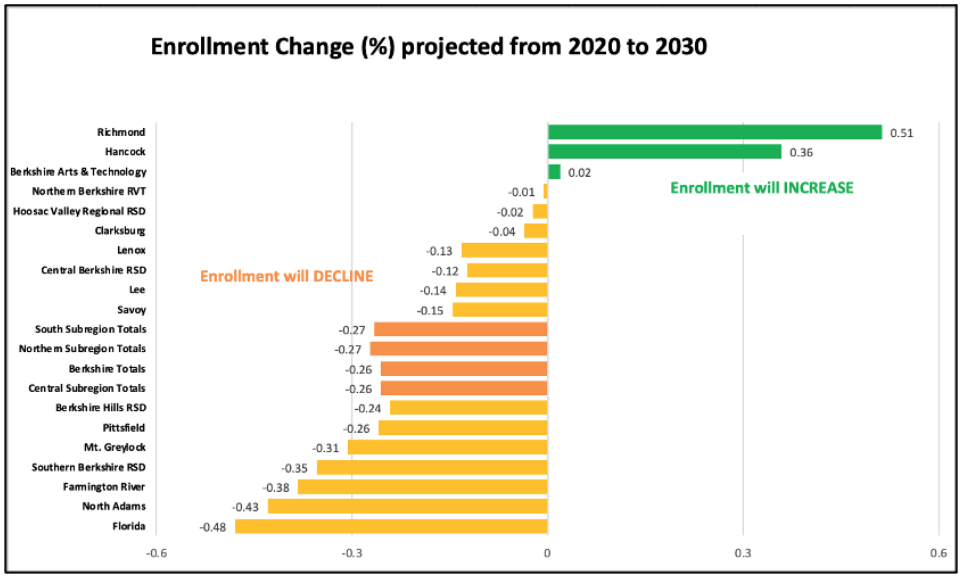
Table 48. Berkshire County enrollment by district, 2000 through 2030 with change
**Note, RSDPB district are highlighted in red*

	Enrollment K-12					
	Actual			Projected		% Change
District	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030	2020-2030
Berkshire Hills RSD	1,612	1,356	1,516	988	877	-24%
Southern Berkshire RSD	1,072	865	624	479	403	-35%
Farmington River	154	121	81	64	50	-38%
Lee	876	819	693	648	595	-14%
Lenox	843	805	750	713	651	-13%
Richmond	184	162	154	184	233	+51%
South Sub-region Totals	***4,741***	***4,128***	***3,458***	***3,076***	***2,809***	***-19%***
Central Berkshire RSD	2,407	1,987	1,522	1,397	1,335	-12%
Pittsfield	6,721	5,930	5,129	4,461	3,800	-26%
Central Sub-region Totals	***9,128***	***7,917***	***6,651***	***5,858***	***5,135***	***-23%***
Berkshire Arts & Technology	NA	216	372	373	379	+2%
Clarksburg	220	175	197	194	190	-4%
Florida	104	103	73	48	38	-48%
Hancock	51	30	39	51	53	+36%
Hoosac Valley Regional RSD	1,928	1,507	1,038	990	1,014	-2%
Mt. Greylock	833	641	1,129	958	783	-31%
North Adams	2,196	1,524	1,236	1,003	705	-43%
Northern Berkshire RVT	426	500	507	501	504	-1%
Savoy	44	35	48	47	41	-15%
Northern Sub-region Totals	***6,608***	***5,367***	***4,639***	***4,165***	***3,707***	***-20%***
Berkshire Totals	**20,477**	**17,412**	**14,748**	**13,099**	**11,651**	**-21%**

*Mt. Greylock (2020) reflects combination of Mt. Greylock, Lanesborough, and Williamstown

Below, see Figure 29, the projected change for each district between 2020 and 2030 is graphed, amd ranked from highest student gains, to most student loss. Three districts project into the growth (+) side (Richmond, Hancock, BART) and the balance of districts project into the loss (-) side. Southern Berkshires, Farmington River, North Adams, and Florida are all projected to have the greatest losses.

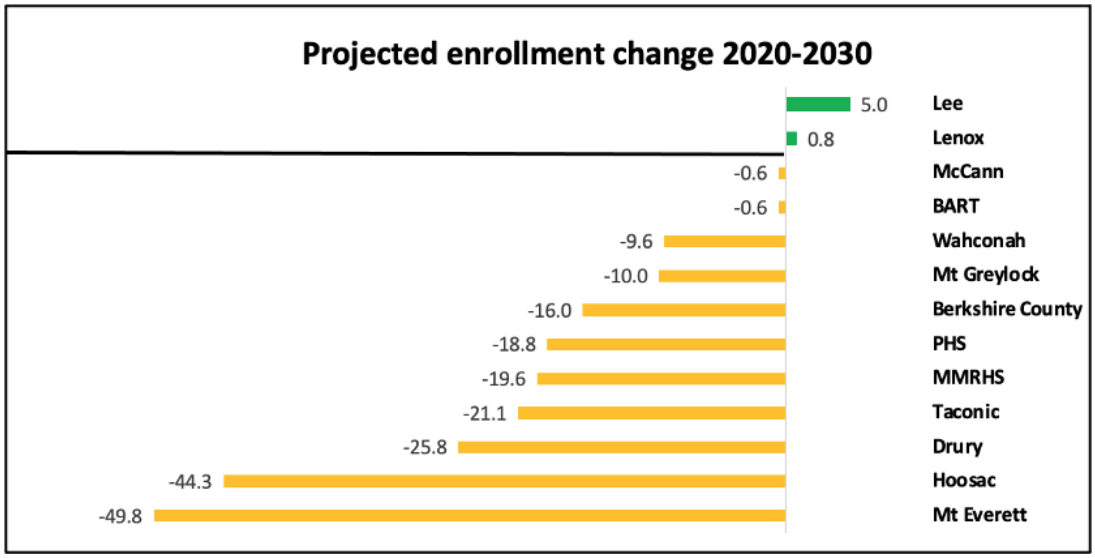
Figure 29. Projected enrollment change by district, 2020 through 2030



High School, Projected Enrollment.
High schools are specifically examined and, to further illustrate the decline, Figure 30 displays the change in high school enrollment that is expected to occur by 2030 under the BRPC model. Mt. Everett is projected to lose almost half its current population over the next 10 years, and Hoosac will lose 44%. Drury will lose about one-quarter, and Taconic, Monument, and Pittsfield High, about one-fifth each. Greylock and Wahconah will lose about 10% of their Grades 9-12 students. BART, McCann and Lenox will remain stable, while Lee will have a short-lived spike, as larger cohorts of elementary and middle school students move through the high school.

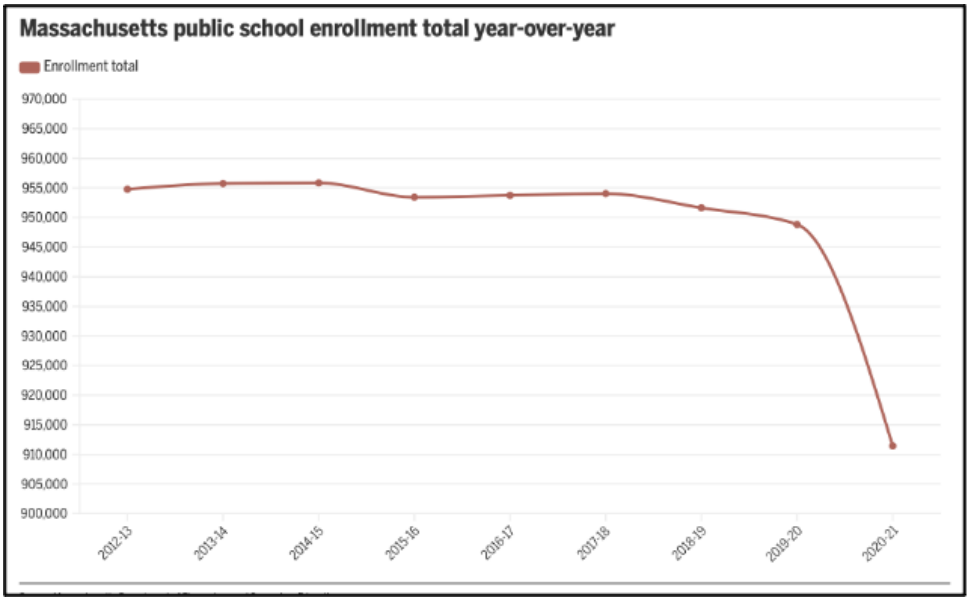
This data can be combined with 2000-2020 losses, resulting in the prediction that between 2000 and 2030 Hoosac Valley will have lost 75% of its Grades 9-21 students, Drury (65%), Mt. Everett (-64%), Mt. Greylock (-46%), and Monument (-39%).

Figure 30. High school enrollment, projected % change 2020 through 2030



Enrollment, pandemic effect, Berkshire County.
March 2020 introduced a new variable that has impacted Berkshire school and state public school enrollments - the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Boston Globe* (October 24, 2020) reported a 4% drop in enrollment statewide. This was due to *"a wave of families who have pulled their children out of public schools."* Many state leaders report the drop is the biggest that they have seen during their careers, and further complicates stagnant or dropping enrollment in recent years. The graphic, Figure 31, below (copied from *the Globe* article) displays this recent change.

Figure 31. Massachusetts public school enrollment, 2012 through 2021



Much of the change was experienced in early grades, specifically Pre-Kindergarten (-30%) and Kindergarten (-12%), amplified by parents who have opted to keep their children home. This is compounded by additional students opting into private, home, and parochial school options.

Many have probed the question of whether the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an influx of new residents into the Berkshires, detailed in a previous section of this report. Pertaining to the schools, there was some speculation that the pandemic has pushed families into home school, virtual school, options, with some shifting in school choice. Additionally, private schools Berkshire Country Day, Berkshire Waldorf, Montessori, and Berkshire School reported general/slight increases.

The October 1, 2020 census reports allow some analysis of how enrollment, and the pandemic, impacted enrollment in the last school year.

Enrollment PK-12

2020	2021	Student change
15,348	14,628	-720 (-4.7%)

Overall, between 2020 and 2021, enrollment (all grades including Pre-K and Special education Post-graduate) across the Berkshires is down 4.7%, from 15,348 to 14,628 (720 fewer students). This is a significant change, in that the average decline has been about 1.5% (note: BRPC projected about a 1.8% decline into 2021).

In order to understand where change was greatest, and if the Pre-K and K trend applies to the Berkshires, we can examine it at the grade level. Below, see Table 49, are 2020 and 2021 enrollments, by grade level, in all Berkshire schools.

As is consistent with state data, a large part of student decline can be attributed to PreK (-39.5%), Kindergarten (-13.7%) and SP (-16.1%) decline. However, there are some other grades such as Grade 2 (-9.2%), Grade 5 (-9.5%), and Grade 7 (-9.7%) where significant declines were realized. The reasons for these declines are less clear. In contrast, Grade 3 (-0.5%) and Grade 4 (1.1%) were relatively stable, while Grade 11 (2.7%) saw a modest gain. Some of this variation could be part of cohort sizes and expected change. Still, the overall effect is more than expected, and of concern.

Table 49. Berkshire County enrollment by grade, change 2020 through 2021

	Berkshire Enrollment		
Grade Level	**2020**	**2021**	**%Change (students)**
PK	569	344	-39.5% (225)
K	1,059	914	-13.7% (145)
1	1,027	974	-5.2% (53)
2	1,092	991	-9.2%. (101)
3	1,059	1,054	-0.5% (5)
4	1,022	1,033	1.1% (11)
5	1,102	997	-9.5% (105)
6	1,109	1,093	-1.4% (16)
7	1,210	1,093	-9.7% (117)
8	1,232	1,215	-1.4% (16)
9	1,244	1,277	-9.7% (117)
10	1,261	1,220	-1.4% (17)
11	1,205	1,219	2.7% (33)
12	1,126	1,178	-3.3% (41)
SP	31	26	-16.1% (5)
Total	**15,348**	**14,628**	**-4.7% (720)**

Going one step further, we can examine district enrollment 2020 versus 2021, and how much deviation there was from expected, see Table 50. Several districts experienced larger changes, including Richmond (-11%), Pittsfield (-10%), Florida (-16%), and Savoy (-24%). Again, in smaller districts, % change is more dramatic and, for example, in Savoy nine fewer students can be attributed to Pre-K and K declines.

Exceeding the -4.5% decline are Pittsfield (-4.7%), Hoosac Valley (-6.2%), and Mt. Greylock (-5.8%). Relatively stable from 2020 to 2021 are Berkshire Hills (-1.8%), BART, and Northern Berkshire RVT. Hancock experienced an increase, with students added in grades 1, 2, 4, and 6. The remaining Berkshire districts experienced an average in the -3% to -5% range.

Table 50. Berkshire County enrollment by district, change 2020 through 2021

	PK – Grade 12 Enrollment		
Berkshire District Districts	**2020 Actual**	**2021 Actual**	**% Change**
Berkshire Hills RSD	1,185	1,164	-1.8%
Southern Berkshire RSD	675	645	-4.4%
Farmington River	105	107	+1.9%
Lee	713	683	-4.2%
Lenox	776	750	-3.4%
Richmond	171	152	-11.1%

Central Berkshire RSD	1,565	1,515	-3.2%
Pittsfield	5,261	5,012	-4.7%
Berkshire Arts & Technology	372	372	0%
Clarksburg	197	190	-3.6%
Florida	95	80	-15.8%
Hancock	47	57	+21.3%
Hoosac Valley Regional RSD	1,103	1,035	-6.2%
Mt. Greylock	1,160	1,093	-5.8%
North Adams	1,358	1,223	-9.9%
Northern Berkshire RVT	507	506	-0.2%
Savoy	58	44	-24.1%
Berkshire Total	**15,348**	**14,628**	**-4.7%**

While enrollment at the school level data is not included at the county level, several schools saw substantial drops including Muddy Brook (-9%), Becket-Washington (-11%), Abbott Memorial (-16%), Brayton (-12%), Colegrove (-17%), Greylock (-12%), Capeless (-15%), Conte (-14%), Crosby (-23%), Stearns (-10%), Richmond (-11%), and Miller (-24%).

Finally, when compared to BRPC (Version 2020 report) predictions for the 2021 expected enrollment, the total is 221 students lower than BRPC had projected, see Table 51. Significant differences are noted in the two municipal districts, Pittsfield (-97) and North Adams (-52), with Lee (-26), Central Berkshire (-28), and Mt. Greylock (-25) also lower than predicted.

It is interesting that several south county districts, Berkshire Hills (+17), Southern Berkshire (+17) and Farmington River (+14) exceeded projected enrollments from 2020 to 2021. This leads us to return to the question of whether school choice patterns or an influx of residents moving into south county is accounting for this difference.

Table 51. Enrollment actual versus predicted, 2020 to 2021

	K – Grade 12 Enrollment (no PK/SP)		
Berkshire District Districts	**2021 Actual**	**2021 Predicted**	**Difference**
Berkshire Hills RSD	1,148	1,131	+17
Southern Berkshire RSD	607	590	+17
Farmington River	89	75	+14
Lee	667	693	-26
Lenox	735	750	-15
Richmond	140	152	-12
Central Berkshire RSD	1,474	1,502	-28
Pittsfield	4,936	5,033	-97
Berkshire Arts & Technology	372	378	-6
Clarksburg	190	204	-14
Florida	80	71	+9
Hancock	52	43	+9

Hoosac Valley Regional RSD	1,005	1,012	-7
Mt. Greylock	1,074	1,099	-25
North Adams	1,143	1,195	-52
Northern Berkshire RVT	506	506	0
Savoy	40	45	-5
Berkshire Total	**14,258**	**14,479**	**-221**

Enrollment Projections, RSDPB.

	2021	2030	% change 2021-2030
MARS/NESDEC	1,756	1,470	-16%
BRPC	1,756	1,280	-27%

Specific to our RSDPB districts, we will go a bit deeper into the data and add to this analysis the MARS/NESDEC projections completed in 2020. Both BRPC and NESDEC conducted projections that allow us to peek into the future. Full NESDEC projections can be found here, and BRPC projections here.

Below, on Table 52, these two projections are displayed, with averages of the two models computed. Overall, MARS/NESDEC projections are less dramatic than BRPC, suggesting a steady decline, but are about 13% higher (by 2030) than the BRPC numbers. Regardless, whether we use the most conservative or aggressive models, both predict ongoing enrollment decline.

Table 52. RSDPB Enrollment Projections, NESDEC & BRPC, 2024-2030

		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
NESDEC	SBRSD	535	525	502	499	487	479	468
BRPC	SBRSD	490	479	455	447	436	419	403
	AVG.	**512.5**	**502**	**478.5**	**473**	**461.5**	**449**	**435.5**
NESDEC	BHRSD	1,111	1,088	1,066	1,045	1,046	1,013	1,002
BRPC	BHRSD	1,005	988	956	932	915	887	877
	AVG.	**1,058**	**1,038**	**1,011**	**988.5**	**980.5**	**950**	**939.5**
NESDEC	Total	1,646	1,613	1,568	1,544	1,533	1,492	1,470

BRPC	Total	1,495	1,467	1,411	1,379	1,351	1,306	1,280
AVG	**AVG.**	**1,570.5**	**1,540**	**1,489.5**	**1,461.5**	**1,442**	**1,399**	**1,375**

It should be noted that MARS/NESDEC completed two reports, the first on 7.23.20 and the second on 11.24.20. For example, in the first model, BHRSD was projected to have 934 students K12 in 2030, while in the second report they projected 1,002. This reflects about a 10% difference. The differences were less dramatic in SBRSD, with the first report project 470 students K12 and the second report projecting 468. Given that the projections changed between the two reports, we have selected to use the 11.24.20 report as it would be the most current.

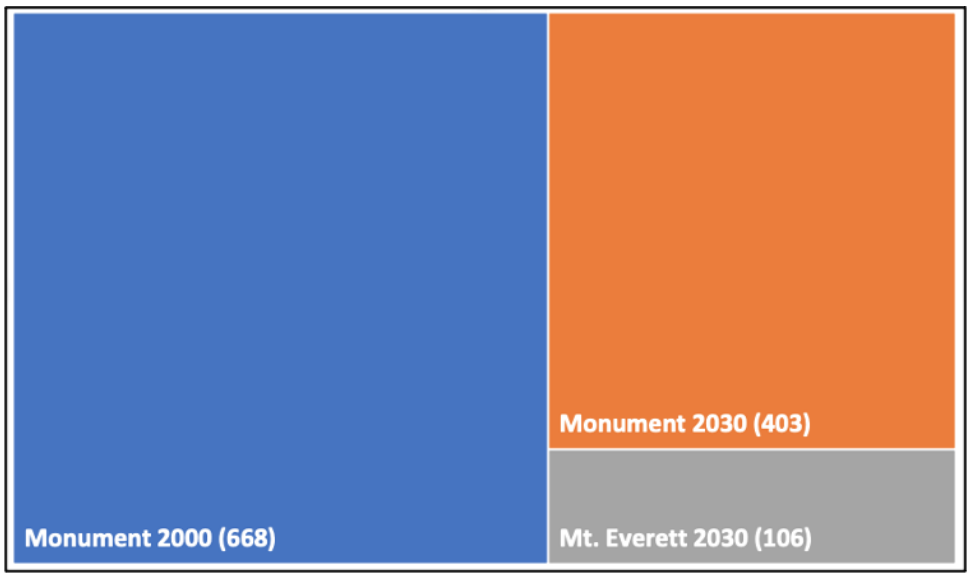
A full grade level analysis can be found in the MARS/NESDEC report. We offer, here, a brief summary and side-by-side with the BRPC data, projecting towards 2030 - see Table 53.

Table 53: Enrollment Projections, by Grade Level, 2010, 2020, 2030, BRHSD & SBRSD

	BERKSHIRE HILLS				**SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE**			
Grade	2010	2020	MARS 2030	BRPC 2030	2010	2020	MARS 2030	BRPC 2030
PK	21	22	30	NA	35	51	53	NA
K	98	72	61	60	85	48	44	47
1	71	67	49	41	60	46	41	40
2	60	58	52	45	65	33	38	38
3	74	55	53	45	59	55	41	39
4	85	75	55	47	68	54	40	37
5	82	68	48	51	61	44	31	33
6	85	79	76	55	67	39	34	22
7	98	97	82	64	72	54	29	21
8	104	84	72	66	67	40	33	20
9	121	119	108	89	52	55	42	28
10	152	142	117	101	87	49	35	28
11	176	128	124	112	64	50	35	32
12	176	112	105	101	58	57	25	18
SP	4	7	0	NA	0	0	0	NA
Total (K-12)	1,377	1,163	1,002	877	865	624	468	403

Additional birth data and graphs that illustrate the historical and projected change can be accessed in both the MARS/NESDEC and BRPC studies. However, to illustrate the magnitude of the change, we will select two examples.

1. If we set the 2000 Monument enrollment against the projected Monument and Mt. Everett enrollments in 2030 we find that regardless of methodology, BRPC projects a combined enrollment of 509 and NESDEC projects a combined enrollment of 587, the total student body will be less than the 668 students Monument held in 2000.



2. In 2006, BHRSD opened two new schools that consolidated all operations into the three schools (Muddy Brook, W.E.B. DuBois, and Monument Mountain). At the time, the total district enrollment was 1,466. Regardless of whether you choose the NESDEC, BRPC, or Average it is expected the entire RSDPB enrollment will reach this level by:
    a. BRPC - 2025
    b. Average - 2026
    c. NESDEC - 2030

Thus, regardless of the methodology the combined RSDPB enrollment will, at some point in the next eight years, equal the total BHRSD enrollment in 2006, in the three existing and operational buildings. It could be concluded, then, that all students in the two districts could be educated in the existing three BHRSD school buildings. This does not account for additional capacity that may exist in these buildings and/or plans for a renovated/reconstructed Monument High School.

RSDPB, Pandemic Enrollment Effect.
As mentioned throughout this report, there has been some speculation that the pandemic has or will influence enrollments throughout the county, more significantly in south county. This was explored in an earlier section of this report.

To put one additional set of data against this claim, we can specifically look at how the current enrollment (October 1, still yet to be certified) stacks up against the 2020-21 data. The initial 2021-22 data suggests an increase in BHRSD (K-12) from 1,149 to 1,190, an additional 41 students, representing about a +3.6% one-year increase. In contrast, SBRSD has a lower census (K-12) from 607 to 590, 17 fewer students, representing a -2.8% decline.

	2020-21	2021-22 (Oct. 1, Prelim)	%Change
BHRSD	1,149	1,190	+3.6% (+41)
SBRSD	607	590	-2.8% (-17)
RSDPB	**1,756**	**1,780**	**+1.4% (+24)**

Below, Table 54, displays the 2021 versus 2022 (preliminary) enrollments by grade level. Enrollment is compared by cohort to determine (in very general terms) whether students were gained or lost between the two years. There are many reasons for this enrollment change including movement in/out of the district and retention, for example.

Using this to conduct an early analysis (which will be further detailed when the enrollment is certified and the sending/receiving data is compiled) you can see places where cohort enrollment either rose or declined dramatically. If you assume that a 1-5 student churn would be expected as normal, numbers falling beyond that range would be cohorts where the change should be examined. Both districts appear to have not retained students in their K to Grade 1 cohort, likely an effect of the pandemic and those families who elected to keep their students at home last year. BHRSD appears to have experienced high increases in students in the Grade 4 to 5 cohort (+14), the Grade 6-7 cohort (+22), the Grade 7-8 cohort (+14), and the Grade 8-9 cohort (+35). SBRSD, in contrast, lost the most students in the Grade 8-9 cohort (-6). These grades tend to serve as jumping on/off points for tuition and choice students and, thus, may reflect additional choice/tuition students into BHRSD. Once resident student enrollment and the sending report are in hand, this data can be examined more carefully.

Table 54. Enrollment Comparisons, by Grade, 2021 to 2022 (initial)

	BHRSD				SBRSD		
Grade	**+/-**	**Oct. 2021**	**2021**		**+/-**	**Oct. 2021**	**2021**
PK	cohort*	26	15		cohort*	45	38
K		57	68			57	63
1	-10	58	60		-10	53	47
2	+5	65	66		-2	45	44
3	+4	70	53		+4	48	34
4	+4	57	56		0	34	50
5	+14	70	84		-3	47	44
6	+9	93	70		+2	46	43
7	+22	92	90		+1	44	35
8	+14	104	100		-1	34	57

9	+35	135	113		-6	51	35
10	+7	120	118		-4	31	54
11	-4	114	148		-2	52	50
12	+3	151	122		-2	48	51
SP		4	1				0
Tota PK-12	+55	1,216.00	1,164.00		-10	635	645
Total K-12	+41	1,190.00	1,149.00		-17	590	607

**cohorts are calculated by comparing diagonal cohorts, for example, Grade 1 in 2021 to Grade 2 in 2022.*

As mentioned, the reasons for these increases and declines are still yet to be unpacked in that the districts will, in January, complete a sending report that details levels of in and out-migration and student flow categories such as home school, private school, and choice, for example. Brief anecdotal data from the school staff suggest the following:

- Some in-migration from urban centers (such as NYC) to the Berkshires during the pandemic
- Return of some students from home school settings post-pandemic
- Some in-migration from students outside the US
- Ongoing choice in and out patterns
- Shifting of grade level arrangements (4th grade at New Marlborough to Mt. Everett)
- Some who enrolled in the district (due to pandemic influenced in-migration) and have since either returned to the cities and/or enrolled in private options.

There does, however, seem to be some agreement that the influx that seems to have occurred in south county due to the pandemic has not had a *significant* impact on overall enrollment. It will be particularly important to determine why BHRSD increased by 41 students, and where specifically those students are arriving from.

RSDPB Demographics.

Town and county demographics have been described earlier in this report, see Table 25, which provides trend data across selected populations. This brief section is designed to present an easy to review side-by-side analysis of selected populations in the two RSDPB districts. We choose a comparison year 2015 (additional data can be found on Table 25) because it was the year that the school transitioned from measuring economics through percentages of students receiving free and/or reduced lunch to economically disadvantaged[7] and high needs[8] designations.

[7] Calculated based on a student's participation in one or more of the following state-administered programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC); the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) foster care program; and MassHealth (Medicaid).
[8] A student is high needs if he or she is designated as either low income (prior to School Year 2015), economically disadvantaged (starting in School Year 2015), or ELL, or former ELL, or a student with disabilities.

As displayed on Table 55, by race and ethnicity, both districts remain overwhelmingly White, with a trend towards greater diversity in race, particularly in Hispanic and multi-race students. Neither approach the race/ethnicity of the Commonwealth in terms of overall diversity. The districts are relatively similar overall, with just a bit more diversity in BHRSD in the Hispanic and Mult-Race populations.

Table 55: Race and Ethnicity, 2021, 2015 by BHRSD, SBRSD, and MA

	2021			2015		
	BHRSD	SBRSD	MA	BHRSD	SBRSD	MA
Race/Ethnicity						
African American	1.5%	1.2%	9.3%	1.5%	1.2%	8.7%
Asian	3.0%	0.2%	7.2%	2.3%	0.1%	6.3%
Hispanic	11.1%	9.0%	22.3%	6.0%	5.1%	17.9%
White	78.2%	84.3%	56.7%	85.2%	88.8%	63.7%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.3%	0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	5.8%	4.7%	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%	3.1%

Table 56 offers an additional set of demographic and student population categories, often used by the DESE and stakeholders to evaluate student, school, and district progress.

Both districts have growing numbers of students for whom their first language is not English and those who are English Language learners. In interviews, it was suggested these numbers have increased additionally in the current year. BHRSD has a slightly higher percentage of students who don't speak English as a first language and those who are English Language Learners. Still, both districts are far below the state averages, recognizing many districts across the Commonwealth have significantly larger populations.

Students with Disabilities are those students who received services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). How students are placed on IEPs varies across districts, thus it is not a perfect apples-to-apples comparison, as we see when scanning the county and the state. Still, it offers some point of comparison. Both districts are comparable with a couple of percentage points, with slightly more students on IEPs in BHRSD (18.2%) than SBRSD (15.8%). Both would be considered comparable to state averages. It is expected that additional analysis of the special education data will occur in the educational analysis section.

High Needs and Economically Disadvantaged indicators are important given that economics is often a strong predictor and correlated to student performance/outcomes. As is the case across the Berkshires, both districts are experiencing rising levels of both High Needs and Economically Disadvantaged students. Both remain slightly below the state averages, with Economically Disadvantaged students relatively close to the state average in both districts (less than 3% difference).

Table 56: Selected Populations, 2021, 2015 by BHRSD, SBRSD, and MA

	2021			2015		
Selected Population	BHRSD	SBRSD	MA	BHRSD	SBRSD	MA
Selected Populations						
First Language not English	9.7%	5.1%	23.4%	6.4%	3.0%	18.5%
English Language Learner	4.4%	2.5%	10.5%	2.2%	1.6%	8.5%
Students with Disabilities	18.2%	15.8%	18.7%	15.3%	14.9%	17.1%
High Needs	44.2%	46.0%	51.0%	35.4%	36.5%	42.2%
Economically Disadvantaged	33.8%	35.5%	36.6%	22.3%	25.3%	26.3%

Postscript, October 1 Official Enrollment Numbers.

This document was published on November 10, 2021. Since that time, the DESE has published the formal October 1 enrollment numbers for 2021-22. By grade level, this data is displayed below and includes totals for both K-12 and PK-12 with post-graduate special education students included in both.

Table 57: Official October 1, 2021 Enrollment for Berkshire County

2021-22 Enrollment By Grade (District)																Total	
District Name	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	K-12	PK-12
Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public (District)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	64	64	49	42	38	41	-	366	366
Berkshire Hills	24	57	58	65	68	55	67	91	91	100	133	116	112	150	1	1,164	1,188
Central Berkshire	57	107	85	113	94	109	116	100	110	112	135	141	121	116	-	1,459	1,516
Clarksburg	20	18	21	15	22	31	14	22	18	30	-	-	-	-	-	191	211
Farmington River Reg	14	19	20	15	10	15	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102	116
Florida	8	12	14	7	10	3	12	7	12	19	-	-	-	-	-	96	104
Hancock	13	5	9	8	6	4	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	57
Hoosac Valley Regional	55	82	69	88	66	69	73	71	95	103	59	52	55	71	-	953	1,008
Lee	20	36	33	43	54	54	47	47	57	37	60	59	54	55	4	640	660
Lenox	22	40	46	43	48	47	50	55	60	60	58	62	62	67	2	700	722
Mount Greylock	49	80	58	74	93	85	97	93	103	85	74	104	84	72	2	1,104	1,153
North Adams	90	101	91	93	100	88	100	80	86	93	97	87	71	75	5	1,167	1,257
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational Technical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157	129	129	108	-	523	523
Pittsfield	118	360	347	356	377	430	373	293	368	339	438	398	377	372	7	4,835	4,953
Richmond	12	15	16	17	17	18	14	19	14	15	-	-	-	-	-	145	157
Savoy	3	6	5	6	6	10	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	51
Southern Berkshire	45	57	53	44	48	35	47	46	44	34	49	30	52	49	-	588	633
State Totals	27,714	62,374	62,602	64,073	65,481	65,789	66,972	67,110	69,038	71,463	75,727	71,088	69,758	70,661	1,679	883,815	911,529
Berkshire County	550	995	925	987	1,019	1,053	1,037	1,015	1,122	1,091	1,309	1,220	1,155	1,176	21	14,125	14,675

With a focus on the RSDPB effort, in order to confirm how/if the numbers deviated from the preliminary enrollment figures, they are set side-by-side below. SBRSD was within 2 students of preliminary and official enrollment figures. BHRSD, however, deviated by 26 students in their K12 totals. Earlier in this report, we had reported a 41 student increase based on the preliminary data, the actual enrollment resulted in an increase of 15 students, or about a 1.3% increase (compared to the 3.6% increase initially noted). Still, overall, BRHSD did increase over the last year while SBRSD continued to decline.

Table 58: 2021-22 Enrollment Comparisons, BHRSD and SBRSD, Preliminary vs. Actual

	BHRSD			SBRSD		
	Sept. 2021	Oct 1 Official		Sept. 2021	Oct 1 Official	
PK	26	24	(2)	45	45	-
K	57	57	-	57	57	-
1	58	58	-	53	53	-
2	65	65	-	45	44	(1)
3	70	68	(2)	48	48	-
4	57	55	(2)	34	35	1
5	70	67	(3)	47	47	-
6	93	91	(2)	46	46	-
7	92	91	(1)	44	44	-
8	104	100	(4)	34	34	-
9	135	133	(2)	51	49	(2)
10	120	116	(4)	31	30	(1)
11	114	112	(2)	52	52	-
12	151	150	(1)	48	49	1
SP	4	1	(3)		-	-
Total PK-12	1,216.00	1,188.00	(28)	635.00	633.00	(2)
Total K-12	1,190.00	1,164.00	(26)	590.00	588.00	(2)

Examining change over the last several years, Table 59 displays enrollment in PK-12 (note addition of PK to this total) for all Berkshire districts 2019 through 2022, accounting for change in the pre-Covid year (19-20) and the Covid years (20-22). Most districts experienced decline between 2019-2020, with a few exceptions among smaller districts such as Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Lee, Lenox, and McCann. Between 2020-2022, again, most districts saw decline with Clarksburg, Farmington River, Florida, Hancock, and McCann growing. Overall, the county increased between 2021 and 2022, a phenomenon we will discuss below.

Table 59: Enrollment Change in Berkshire County, PK12, 2019-2022

District Name	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change 2020-2022		Change 19-20
Berkshire Hills	1,203	1,185	1,164	1,188	3	0.3%	-1.5%
Southern Berkshire	688	675	645	633	(42)	-6.2%	-1.9%
Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public (District)	378	372	372	366	(6)	-1.6%	-1.6%
Central Berkshire	1,579	1,565	1,515	1,516	(49)	-3.1%	-0.9%
Clarksburg	185	197	190	211	14	7.1%	6.5%
Farmington River Reg	115	105	107	116	11	10.5%	-8.7%
Florida	87	95	80	104	9	9.5%	9.2%
Hancock	34	47	57	57	10	21.3%	38.2%
Hoosac Valley Regional	1,161	1,103	1,035	1,008	(95)	-8.6%	-5.0%
Lee	703	713	683	660	(53)	-7.4%	1.4%
Lenox	756	776	750	722	(54)	-7.0%	2.6%
Mount Greylock	1,196	1,160	1,093	1,153	(7)	-0.6%	-3.0%
North Adams	1,365	1,358	1,223	1,257	(101)	-7.4%	-0.5%
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational Technical	496	507	506	523	16	3.2%	2.2%
Pittsfield	5,429	5,261	5,012	4,953	(308)	-5.9%	-3.1%
Richmond	179	171	152	157	(14)	-8.2%	-4.5%
Savoy	63	58	44	51	(7)	-12.1%	-7.9%
State Totals	951,631	948,828	911,465	911,529	(37,299)	-3.9%	-0.3%
Berkshire County	15,617	15,348	14,628	14,675	(673)	-4.4%	-1.7%

BHRSD and SBRSD, as noted earlier, both experienced a decline in enrollment between 2019 and 2020. However, BHRSD saw relatively flat enrollment (a slight increase at +0.3%) while SBRSD saw a -6.2% decline between 2020 and 2022.

If you look closely at these numbers, you all see a rise in overall students from 2021 to 2022 in Berkshire County from 14,628 to 14,675 total students. While this might be cause for celebration, it can almost entirely be accounted for by PK enrollment, shown below. As displayed earlier in this report, the most dramatic change in enrollment between 2020 and 2021 across the county occurred in PK (-39.5%, 344 students) and K (-13.7%, 145 students), this likely the result of parents opting to keep their early childhood students home during the pandemic. Below, you can see that there was a return of PK students to school in 2022 from 344 to 550. Thus, while the K12 enrollment dropped from 14,284 to 14,125 (-1.1%), the PK-12 rise in enrollment can be accounted for by the bump in PK enrollment back to, what could be considered, normal levels. Again, this likely represents the return of students who may have been held back in PK during the pandemic, who are now attending school.

District	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Berkshire (PK-12)	16,515	16,216	16,035	15,820	15,617	15,348	14,628	14,675
Berkshire (K-12)	15,927	15,597	15,442	15,260	15,075	14,779	14,284	14,125
Berkshire (PK only)	588	619	593	560	542	569	344	550

In the 8 towns, both BHRSD and SBRSD also followed this pattern as displayed below. In both districts, they experienced a decline in PK in 2021 (during the height of the pandemic) and a return to relatively normal, higher, levels in 2022.

District	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Berkshire Hills (PK only)	16	15	14	14	19	22	15	24
Southern Berkshire (PK only)	22	49	44	36	39	51	38	45
Total from 8 towns (PK only)	38	64	58	50	58	73	53	69

Finally, we compare the BRPC 2022 projections against the actual 2022 enrollment to see to what degree the predictions materialized. Overall, BRPC predicted the total county enrollment within 3 students, or .02%. Districts varied, with some losing more students than predicted (Hoosac, Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee) and others including the two eight-town districts at a slightly higher enrollment than projected.

Table 60: BRPC Enrollment Projections for 2022, K-12, Actual vs. Projected

K12 Enrollment	2022		
	Actual	Projected	Up/Down
Berkshire Hills	1,164	1,088	76
Southern Berkshire	588	557	31
Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public (District)	366	378	(12)
Central Berkshire	1,459	1,465	(6)
Clarksburg	191	205	(14)
Farmington River Reg	102	73	29
Florida	96	62	34
Hancock	44	44	-
Hoosac Valley Regional	953	1,019	(66)
Lee	640	679	(39)
Lenox	700	748	(48)
Mount Greylock	1,104	1,070	34
North Adams	1,167	1,147	20
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational Technical	523	513	10
Pittsfield	4,835	4,879	(44)
Richmond	145	155	(10)
Savoy	48	46	2
Berkshire County	14,125	14,128	(3)

Closing:
There are a number of ways to examine school enrollment. We have attempted in this section to reflect recent enrollment/demography efforts while treating and examining the data in new ways. Still, there are certainly additional questions and points of view that certainly can be analyzed and reported. We encourage feedback on this report as we work to use this data to inform the RSDPB effort. Not included in this section, still in process, are class size and enrollment in particular types of programming, such as CVTE, electives, Advanced Placement, etc. We anticipate including these items in our future analysis of educational indicators.

Summarized Enrollment Findings:

Berkshire County:

- Student enrollment has declined 28% since 2000, and will likely decline an additional 21% by 2030.
- Enrollment decline is happening more rapidly in the Berkshires (-28%) than across Massachusetts (-7%) and the United States (+7%).
- Almost all districts are experiencing enrollment decline, with several districts losing up to half their students since 2000.
- Exceptions to the declining enrollment patterns are Berkshire Arts & Technology charter and McCann regional vocational/technical school, both with capped and relatively stable enrollments.
- Most individual schools have lost students, varying from a few percent to more than fifty percent.
- High schools (Grades 9-12) have become smaller, such as Hoosac (-56%) and Drury (-53%), and most are projected to continue to lose students through 2030.
- Several districts are offsetting resident population loss with high percentages of non-resident choice students including Lenox (40% non-resident) and Richmond (44% non-resident).
- Most Berkshire students attend their resident school (93%). For those choosing public school options, choice is exercised by about 10%.
- While the Berkshires remain mostly White (78%), there have been slight increases in Black and Hispanic students. The percentage of economically disadvantaged/high needs students has been on the rise.
- The recent pandemic has accelerated enrollment loss (-4.7%), although much of this loss has been realized in early grades (PreK and K). The long-range effect is yet to be determined.

RSDPB:

- In the eight towns represented by the RSDPB, enrollment declined by 33%, from 2,684 (2000) to 1,787 (2020), and is anticipated to decline an additional 28% (to 1,280) by 2030. This total change constitutes slightly over a 50% decline, 2000 through 2030.
- By district, SBRSD has lost more total enrollment (-41.8%) since 2000 than BHRSD (-27.9%). Both districts have a projected student decline through 2030 that will net a total loss (2000 to 2030) of 45.6% of the total enrollment in BHRSD and 62.4% in SBRSD.
- While the RSDPB towns saw a population decline from 2000 to 2010, the most recent 2020 census reported an increase in the RSDPB populations since 2010, +4.9% in the five SBRSD towns and +1.7% in the BHRSD three towns. Despite this total town population increase over the last decade, RSDPB school population has continued to decline over this same time period, -38.6% in

SBRSD and -14.2% in BHRSD. This is likely the result of migratory patterns (in/out of the region), an increasingly aging population, declining birth rates, and shifts in housing patterns - all resulting in fewer school aged children per household.

- The pandemic may have impacted additional in-migration into the RSDPB region as total population, however it does not appear to have significantly influenced the RSDPB K12 schools' enrollment.
- The region remains mostly White (87%) in RSDPB, and is much less diverse than the entire Commonwealth, yet has become more diverse since 2010 when White residents represented 92% of the total population. Hispanic and Multi-Race residents have seen the most significant increases over the last decade. Overall, BHRSD is more diverse (79% White) than SBRSD (85% White).
- Several enrollment trends by grade suggest that enrollment in PK is lower in BHRSD than in SBRSD; there is a dropoff between K and Grade 1 in BHRSD, with higher K to Grade 1 retention in SBRSD; BHRSD enrollment rises in Grades 7,8,9 due to choice and tuition; both districts appear to have relatively strong retention of cohorts with a few questionable spots, such as Grade 4 & 5 in SBRSD.
- Overall, between 70-73% of students who resident in the eight towns attend their resident home public school. This is in contrast to about 80% of all students in the Berkshires who attend their resident public school district.
- By towns, the highest percentage of resident students attending their resident schools occurs in the three BHRSD towns, and Sheffield and New Marlborough in SBRSD. In contrast, only 22% of [South] Egremont and just over half of Monterey and Egremont students attend their resident public schools.
- In BHRSD, students opting out tend to attend private/parochial (17%) or choice out (8%) versus in SBRSD where those leaving tend to do so via choice (15%) and private/parochial (11%).
- Both SBRSD and BHRSD have experienced increasing levels of students who are low income/economically disadvantaged, high needs, and English Language Learners.
- The total number of resident students in SBRSD has remained relatively flat over the last five years, while it has decreased by 14% in BHRSD. BHRSD has replaced these resident students with a growing number of school choice students. In contrast, SBRSD has experienced a rising number of students choicing out and fewer choicing in.
- In 2021, the BHRSD enrollment was composed of 72% resident students and 28% who arrived through choice-in and tuition-in pathways. In contrast, SBRSD enrollment is composed of 86% resident students and about 13% arrive through school choice-in or tuition-in pathways.
- More students choiced out from SBRSD (114 in 2020) to BHRSD than from BHRSD (47 in 2020) to SBRSD.
- The number of tuition-in students to BHRSD has declined, possibly a function of decreasing enrollments in the sending districts[1] , although there are likely other factors.
- BHRSD students come from 22 towns, while SBRSD includes students from 16.
- Applying two different projection methodologies, New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), enrollment in both SBRSD and BHRSD is expected to continue to decline into 2030. To illustrate the change, the combined enrollment of both SBRSD and BHRSD will be equivalent to the 2006 BHRSD-only enrollment in somewhere between 2025 and 2030.
- In the 2021-2022 school year, initial enrollments suggest an increase in the BHRSD enrollment (+41 students, +3.6% increase) and a decline in the SBRSD enrollment (-17 students, -2.8%

decrease). Most of the BHRSD gains appear in grades 5-9, grades that tend to reflect natural jumping on/off points for tuition and school choice. A school sending report later this year will likely shed additional light on this phenomenon to better understand if this data reflects any increase in resident students and in-migration due to the pandemic.

General Enrollment Implications:

Population decline is one the most, if not the most, pressing issues the Berkshires faces. School enrollment stands as foundational to the BCETF and RSDPB effort, recognizing that enrollment has been and will likely continue to decline. This will create significant implications for public school districts, such as:

- **School funding.** Enrollment is linked to and significantly influences school finances. While Hold Harmless (discussed further in the finance section) may temper reductions, these funds are not guaranteed into the future and do not fully close the gap of dollars lost due to declining enrollment.
- **Educational programs, supports, and experiences.** Declining enrollment has and will lead to a reduction in educational programming due to smaller numbers of students available to populate particular courses/programs (such as electives), increased pressure to reduce staff directly or through attrition, and elimination of programs and services that can't be funded.
- **Reduction in Quality.** If quality is defined by both access to opportunities and student outcomes, any reduction in staff and or educational programs will lower educational quality, increase inability to meet the unique needs of a varied student population (reduced student supports), and compromise the production of college-career ready students. This is of particular concern given the rising needs of our student body.
- **Staffing.** As enrollment declines and school faculty follow, the challenges associated with supporting faculty/staff needs (professional development and growth, curriculum development, assessment, pedagogical practice) in small schools, where teachers may be working in isolation by grade or content area, will grow.
- **Choice.** Current choice patterns (discussed in detail) are increasing inequities across the region as students (with familial support systems and means) choice from less wealthy to more wealthy districts. This will only widen the economic and educational opportunity disparities across the region.
- **Inefficiencies:** Shrinking enrollment has resulted in inefficiencies such as courses and classrooms that are less than full. Therefore, staff may not be fully utilized within a single district (or school). The option to organize *across* districts/schools (both students and staff), could result in higher efficiencies that lead to expanded programming, opportunities, and outcomes.
- **Collaboration/Consolidation:** There will be ongoing (likely increasing) demand for consolidation and regionalization (services and incentives), new ways to configure school districts (including county-wide arrangements), and legislative reform pertaining to funding and school organization. The challenge may be that enrollment decline on a year-to-year basis (about 1.5%) may not be enough to move communities to action. Over time, however, this compounded decline should be of great concern.
- **Diversity:** Both districts are growing (albeit slowly) more diverse. This will demand additional supports for both students and staff to support English Language Learners, cultural competencies, targeted supports.
- **Economics**: The percentages of students who are economically disadvantaged has and is increasing in both districts. This will create demands for additional support recognizing that the

history and research indicates that students attainment is highly correlated with economic indicators. The need for staff training, tiered systems of intervention, targeted supports and interventions, and high-quality curriculum will be critical to addressing barriers to success.