

Westerly Public Schools

POPULATION AND ENROLLMENT FORECASTS, 2019-20 THROUGH 2028-29

February 2019

**McKibben Demographic Research, LLC
Jerome McKibben, Ph.D.
Rock Hill, SC**

j.mckibben@mckibbendemographics.com

978-501-7069



CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
ASSUMPTIONS	3
Appendix A: Population Forecasts	5
Appendix B: Enrollment Forecast	9

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The resident total fertility rate (TFR) for the Westerly Public Schools district over the life of the forecasts is below replacement level. (1.74vs. the replacement level of 2.1)
2. Most in-migration to the district continues to occur in the 0-to-9 and 30-to-44 year old age groups.
3. The local 18-to-24 year old population continues to leave the district, going to college or moving to other urbanized areas. This population group accounts for the largest segment of the service area's out migration flow.
4. The primary factor causing the district's enrollment to decrease slightly is the low number of indigenous births coupled with in-migration of young households/families that is not quite large enough to compensate for the low number of children in the 0-4 age cohorts.
5. Changes in year-to-year enrollment (at least for the next five years) will primarily be due to smaller cohorts entering and moving through the school system in conjunction with larger cohorts leaving the system.
6. The total elementary enrollment will begin to stabilize after the 2020-2021 school year.
7. The median age of the population will increase from 44.3 in 2010 to 46.5 in 2030.
8. The primary cause in the decline of the high school enrollment after the 2023-24 school year is due to the wave of relatively small grade cohort currently in the elementary and middle school grades.
9. Even if the district continues to have a modest level of annual new home construction, the rate, magnitude and price of existing home sales will become the increasingly dominant factor affecting the amount of population and enrollment change.
10. Total district enrollment is forecasted to decrease by 129 students, or -4.7%, between 2018-19 and 2023-24. Total enrollment will decline by 33 students or -1.3% from 2023-24 to 2028-29.

ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE 2018 SERIES FORECASTS

1. The national, state or regional economy does not go into deep recession at any time during the 10 years of the forecasts; (Deep recession is defined as four consecutive quarters where the GDP contracts greater than 1% per quarter)
2. Interest rates have come off their historic lows and will not fluctuate more than one percentage point in the short term; the interest rate for a 30 year fixed home mortgage stays between 5.0% and 6.0% for the life of the forecasts;

3. The rate of mortgage approval stays at 1999-2003 levels and lenders do not return to “sub-prime” mortgage practices;
4. There are no additional restrictions placed on home mortgage lenders or additional bankruptcies of major credit providers;
5. The rate of housing foreclosures does not exceed 125% of the 2005-2007 average of Washington County for any year in the forecasts;
6. All currently planned, platted, and approved housing developments are built out and completed by 2027. All housing units constructed are occupied by 2028;
7. The unemployment rates for the Washington County and New London County will remain below 5.0% and for the 10 years of the forecasts;
8. The intra-district student transfer policy remains unchanged over the next 10 years;
9. The rate of students transferring out of the Westerly Public Schools will remain at the 2013-14 to 2017-18 average;
10. The inflation rate for gasoline will stay below 5% per year for the 10 years of the forecasts;
11. The state of Rhode Island does not change the current policy on open enrollment or school vouchers anytime in the next 10 years;
12. There will be no building moratorium within the district;
13. Businesses within the district and the Westerly Public Schools area will remain viable;
14. The number of existing home sales in the district that are a result of “distress sales” (homes worth less than the current mortgage value) will not exceed 20% of total homes sales in the district for any given year;
15. Housing turnover rates (sale of existing homes in the district) will remain at their current levels. The majority of existing home sales are made by home owners over the age of 60;
16. Private school and home school attendance rates will remain constant;
17. The rate of foreclosures for commercial property remains at the 2004-2008 average for Washington County;

Appendix A: Population Forecasts

Westerly School District Total Population

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
0-4	1,216	1,120	1,100	1,070	1,030
5-9	1,283	1,230	1,160	1,130	1,100
10-14	1,392	1,280	1,230	1,160	1,140
15-19	1,315	1,330	1,210	1,170	1,090
20-24	1,088	1,100	1,120	980	920
25-29	1,312	1,340	1,340	1,340	1,220
30-34	1,117	1,340	1,360	1,390	1,360
35-39	1,305	1,160	1,380	1,410	1,430
40-44	1,576	1,340	1,160	1,390	1,410
45-49	1,905	1,580	1,330	1,190	1,400
50-54	1,872	1,890	1,560	1,310	1,180
55-59	1,646	1,830	1,840	1,540	1,300
60-64	1,519	1,570	1,750	1,750	1,470
65-69	1,167	1,410	1,470	1,630	1,640
70-74	868	1,070	1,290	1,340	1,480
75-79	750	780	940	1,140	1,180
80-84	651	590	610	760	920
85+	805	860	860	880	970
Total	22,787	22,820	22,710	22,580	22,240
Median Age	44.3	45.5	46.1	46.1	46.5
Births	1,010	1,000	970	930	
Deaths	1,170	1,230	1,290	1,400	
Natural Increase	-160	-230	-320	-470	
Net Migration	170	160	160	170	
Change	10	-70	-160	-300	

Differences between period Totals may not equal Change due to rounding.

Dunn’s Corner Elementary Total Population

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
0-4	414	410	390	370	360
5-9	486	420	430	400	380
10-14	542	490	420	430	410
15-19	515	530	470	400	410
20-24	354	360	370	290	200
25-29	337	380	380	410	310
30-34	324	390	420	440	460
35-39	476	370	430	480	500
40-44	599	510	390	450	500
45-49	797	610	510	420	480
50-54	788	790	610	500	420
55-59	711	770	770	600	490
60-64	728	690	750	750	580
65-69	537	690	650	700	700
70-74	396	500	640	610	650
75-79	333	350	440	570	530
80-84	245	260	280	360	460
85+	283	310	330	360	420
Total	8,863	8,830	8,680	8,540	8,260
Median Age	47.4	49.5	51.1	51.8	51.4
Births	380	370	340	330	
Deaths	480	520	560	620	
Natural Increase	-100	-150	-220	-290	
Net Migration	40	40	50	50	
Change	-60	-110	-170	-240	

Differences between period Totals may not equal Change due to rounding.

Springbrook Elementary Total Population

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
0-4	383	350	350	350	340
5-9	363	390	360	360	360
10-14	381	360	390	360	360
15-19	389	350	330	370	330
20-24	324	340	310	290	330
25-29	396	400	410	370	360
30-34	349	420	430	440	400
35-39	362	360	440	440	450
40-44	413	360	360	440	430
45-49	503	410	350	360	430
50-54	458	500	400	350	350
55-59	340	450	490	400	350
60-64	279	310	420	450	370
65-69	222	250	290	390	420
70-74	175	200	220	250	340
75-79	144	160	170	190	220
80-84	138	110	120	140	150
85+	114	150	160	170	180
Total	5,733	5,870	6,000	6,120	6,170
Median Age	38.9	39.5	39.8	40.9	41.8
Births	290	290	290	280	
Deaths	220	240	260	280	
Natural Increase	70	50	30	0	
Net Migration	80	70	70	70	
Change	150	120	100	70	

Differences between period Totals may not equal Change due to rounding.

State Street Elementary Total Population

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
0-4	419	360	360	350	330
5-9	434	420	370	370	360
10-14	469	430	420	370	370
15-19	411	450	410	400	350
20-24	410	400	440	400	390
25-29	579	560	550	560	550
30-34	444	530	510	510	500
35-39	467	430	510	490	480
40-44	564	470	410	500	480
45-49	605	560	470	410	490
50-54	626	600	550	460	410
55-59	595	610	580	540	460
60-64	512	570	580	550	520
65-69	408	470	530	540	520
70-74	297	370	430	480	490
75-79	273	270	330	380	430
80-84	268	220	210	260	310
85+	409	400	370	350	370
Total	8,191	8,120	8,030	7,920	7,810
Median Age	44.1	45.1	45.4	45.1	46.0
Births	340	340	340	320	
Deaths	470	470	470	500	
Natural Increase	-130	-130	-130	-180	
Net Migration	50	50	40	50	
Change	-80	-80	-90	-130	

Differences between period Totals may not equal Change due to rounding.

Appendix B: Enrollment Forecast

Westerly School District: Total Enrollment

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
PK	92	97	90	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107
K	190	191	185	172	175	175	175	175	176	176	175	174	173	176
1	216	182	179	179	178	175	175	176	176	177	177	176	174	173
2	212	212	181	173	177	176	176	176	177	177	178	180	179	177
3	226	212	211	182	175	179	179	179	179	180	180	181	183	182
4	217	208	210	214	180	174	179	179	179	179	180	181	182	184
Total: PK-4	1153	1102	1056	1027	992	986	991	992	994	996	997	999	998	999
5	213	223	212	210	218	184	179	184	184	184	184	187	188	189
6	232	214	219	206	208	216	186	181	186	186	186	188	191	192
7	208	232	206	211	204	206	218	188	183	188	188	190	192	195
8	214	209	233	209	213	206	210	222	192	187	192	194	196	198
Total: 5-8	867	878	870	836	843	812	793	775	745	745	750	759	767	774
9	226	223	201	210	207	211	208	212	224	194	189	196	198	200
10	201	212	202	192	197	195	198	196	199	211	182	178	184	186
11	203	191	211	199	186	191	189	192	190	193	205	177	173	178
12	218	198	184	205	195	182	187	185	188	186	189	201	173	170
Total: 9-12	848	824	798	806	785	779	782	785	801	784	765	752	728	734
Classification 190	39	60	66	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
Total: PK-12	2907	2864	2790	2736	2687	2644	2633	2619	2607	2592	2579	2577	2560	2574
Total: PK-12	2907	2864	2790	2736	2687	2644	2633	2619	2607	2592	2579	2577	2560	2574
Change		-43	-74	-54	-49	-43	-11	-14	-12	-15	-13	-2	-17	14
%-Change		-1.5%	-2.6%	-1.9%	-1.8%	-1.6%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-0.1%	-0.7%	0.5%
Total: PK-4	1153	1102	1056	1027	992	986	991	992	994	996	997	999	998	999
Change		-51	-46	-29	-35	-6	5	1	2	2	1	2	-1	1
%-Change		-4.4%	-4.2%	-2.7%	-3.4%	-0.6%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.1%
Total: 5-8	867	878	870	836	843	812	793	775	745	745	750	759	767	774
Change		11	-8	-34	7	-31	-19	-18	-30	0	5	9	8	7
%-Change		1.3%	-0.9%	-3.9%	0.8%	-3.7%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-3.9%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%
Total: 9-12	848	824	798	806	785	779	782	785	801	784	765	752	728	734
Change		-24	-26	8	-21	-6	3	3	16	-17	-19	-13	-24	6
%-Change		-2.8%	-3.2%	1.0%	-2.6%	-0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	2.0%	-2.1%	-2.4%	-1.7%	-3.2%	0.8%

Blue cells are historical data; Red numbers are current enrollment; orange cells are forecasted enrollment.

State Street Elementary: Total Enrollment

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
K	68	72	59	64	63	64	64	65	65	66	65	63	62	63
1	68	61	66	56	60	59	60	60	61	61	62	61	60	59
2	77	63	55	62	54	58	58	59	59	60	60	63	62	61
3	76	75	63	57	61	53	59	59	60	60	61	61	64	63
4	67	73	70	65	56	60	52	58	58	59	59	62	62	65
Total K-4	356	344	313	304	294	294	293	301	303	306	307	310	310	311
Total K-4	356	344	313	304	294	294	293	301	303	306	307	310	310	311
Change		-12	-31	-9	-10	0	-1	8	2	3	1	3	0	1
% Change		-3.4%	-9.0%	-2.9%	-3.3%	0.0%	-0.3%	2.7%	0.7%	1.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.0%	0.3%

Blue cells are historical data; Red numbers are current enrollment; orange cells are forecasted enrollment.

Dunn’s Corner Elementary: Total Enrollment

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
K	50	52	56	52	57	56	56	55	55	54	53	52	51	53
1	56	47	61	58	59	58	57	57	56	56	55	54	53	52
2	53	60	63	64	59	60	59	58	58	57	57	56	55	54
3	64	55	75	61	66	61	61	60	59	59	58	58	57	56
4	59	56	71	80	63	68	63	63	62	61	61	60	60	59
Total K-4	282	270	326	315	304	303	296	293	290	287	284	280	276	274
Total K-4	282	270	326	315	304	303	296	293	290	287	284	280	276	274
Change		-12	56	-11	-11	-1	-7	-3	-3	-3	-3	-4	-4	-2
%-Change		-4.3%	20.7%	-3.4%	-3.5%	-0.3%	-2.3%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.4%	-1.4%	-0.7%

Blue cells are historical data; Red numbers are current enrollment; orange cells are forecasted enrollment.

Springbrook Elementary: Total Enrollment

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
K	53	55	70	56	55	55	55	55	56	56	57	59	60	60
1	74	60	52	65	59	58	58	59	59	60	60	61	61	62
2	64	71	63	47	64	58	59	59	60	60	61	61	62	62
3	72	67	73	64	48	65	59	60	60	61	61	62	62	63
4	75	65	69	69	61	46	64	58	59	59	60	59	60	60
Total K-4	338	318	327	301	287	282	295	291	294	296	299	302	305	307
Total K-4	338	318	327	301	287	282	295	291	294	296	299	302	305	307
Change		-20	9	-26	-14	-5	13	-4	3	2	3	3	3	2
%-Change		-5.9%	2.8%	-8.0%	-4.7%	-1.7%	4.6%	-1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.7%

Blue cells are historical data; Red numbers are current enrollment; orange cells are forecasted enrollment.

Westerly Middle School: Total Enrollment

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
5	213	223	212	210	218	184	179	184	184	184	184	187	188	189
6	232	214	219	206	208	216	186	181	186	186	186	188	191	192
7	208	232	206	211	204	206	218	188	183	188	188	190	192	195
8	214	209	233	209	213	206	210	222	192	187	192	194	196	198
Total: 5-8	867	878	870	836	843	812	793	775	745	745	750	759	767	774
Total: 5-8	867	878	870	836	843	812	793	775	745	745	750	759	767	774
Change		11	-8	-34	7	-31	-19	-18	-30	0	5	9	8	7
% Change		1.3%	-0.9%	-3.9%	0.8%	-3.7%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-3.9%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%

Blue cells are historical data; Red numbers are current enrollment; orange cells are forecasted enrollment

Westerly High School: Total Enrollment

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
9	226	223	201	210	207	211	208	212	224	194	189	196	198	200
10	201	212	202	192	197	195	198	196	199	211	182	178	184	186
11	203	191	211	199	186	191	189	192	190	193	205	177	173	178
12	218	198	184	205	195	182	187	185	188	186	189	201	173	170
Total 9-12	848	824	798	806	785	779	782	785	801	784	765	752	728	734
Total 9-12	848	824	798	806	785	779	782	785	801	784	765	752	728	734
Change		-24	-26	8	-21	-6	3	3	16	-17	-19	-13	-24	6
%-Change		-2.8%	-3.2%	1.0%	-2.6%	-0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	2.0%	-2.1%	-2.4%	-1.7%	-3.2%	0.8%

Blue cells are historical data; Red numbers are current enrollment; orange cells are forecasted enrollment