

## What facts do we know about declining enrollment in Minneapolis Public Schools?

- **Overall enrollment has steadily declined in Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) for almost a decade.**  
Between 2001 to 2006 there was a 23% decline (10,807 students) in student enrollment (Reinhardt 2006). MPS's enrollment started to drop sharply after 2000. Recent reports indicate MPS enrollment is down 24.9% since 2000 while Minnesota's public school enrollment is down 1.9% for the same period.
- **Enrollment levels have declined unevenly across the city and unevenly across age groups.**

<b>TRENDS IN MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS</b>						
Based on Oct. 1 enrollment counts from the Minnesota Department of Education						
School	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	Overall Change
Edison HS	1258	1167	1196	1266	1425	-11.7 percent
Henry HS	1284	1286	1419	1564	1532	-16.2 percent
North HS	968	1086	1134	1201	1287	-24.8 percent
Roosevelt HS	1257	1314	1345	1446	1513	-19.6 percent
South HS	1950	1902	1837	1906	2037	-4.3 percent
Southwest HS	1661	1620	1618	1611	1646	+0.9 percent
Washburn HS	1217	1292	1276	1333	1385	-12.1 percent
All High Schools	9,595	9,667	9,825	10,327	10,875	-11.2 percent
(Total enrollment loss over five years – 1,280 students – or one high school the current size of Edison, Henry, Roosevelt or Washburn)						
District totals	38,120	39,299	41,259	44,197	46,891	-18.7 percent
(Total enrollment loss over five years – 8,771 students)						

### **Relative rates of decline over five years:**

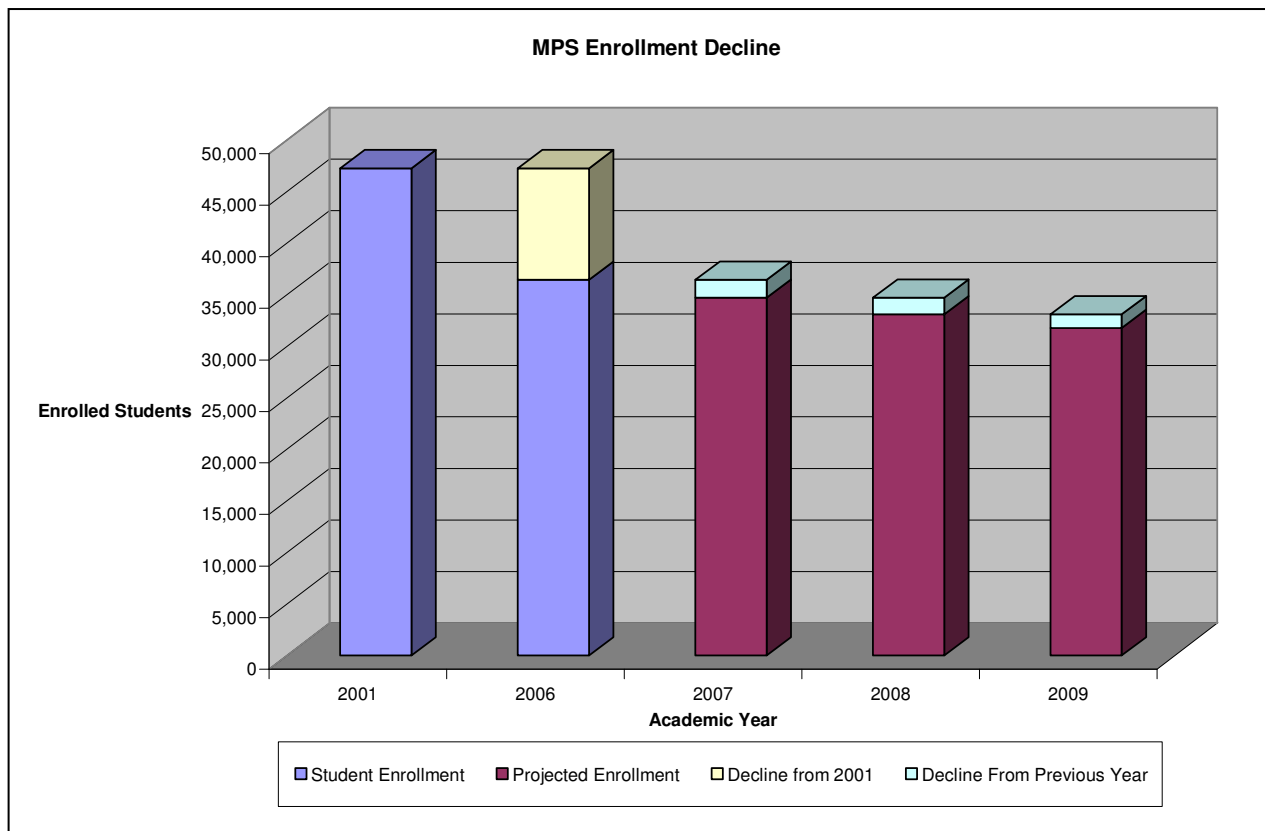
District as a whole	18.7 percent
Comprehensive (traditional) high schools	11.2 percent
District other than comprehensive high schools (e.g. elementary; middle)	20.8 percent

- **MPS enrollment statistics broken down by race/ethnicity, poverty levels, and English Language Learners.**

Statistics available online at: [http://destinationexcellence.mpls.k12.mn.us/sites/9d205091-4c59-4d57-8c8b-1448ab9b702c/uploads/BOE\\_Present\\_Demograp2-20-07.pdf](http://destinationexcellence.mpls.k12.mn.us/sites/9d205091-4c59-4d57-8c8b-1448ab9b702c/uploads/BOE_Present_Demograp2-20-07.pdf)

➤ **Projections indicate that enrollment will continue to decline.**

Optimistic enrollment projections indicate that in 2011, enrollment will be down 14% since 2006. Most likely projections indicate that there will be a 19% decline over the next five years (Reinhardt 2006). According to Minneapolis Board of Education meeting minutes from January 23, 2007, MPS Finance and Budget Department financial predictions assume a 4.8% enrollment decline in the 2007-2008 school year; 4.0% decline in 2009-2010. A 4.8% enrollment decline roughly translates to a loss of 1600 students, or 60 teachers. The predications indicate budget shortfalls of \$20.4 million in 2008-2009 and \$28.1 million in 09/10 due to enrollment decline and compensation increases of 4% (Board of Education 2007). The following is a graphic presentation of these projections.



## Where are the students are going?

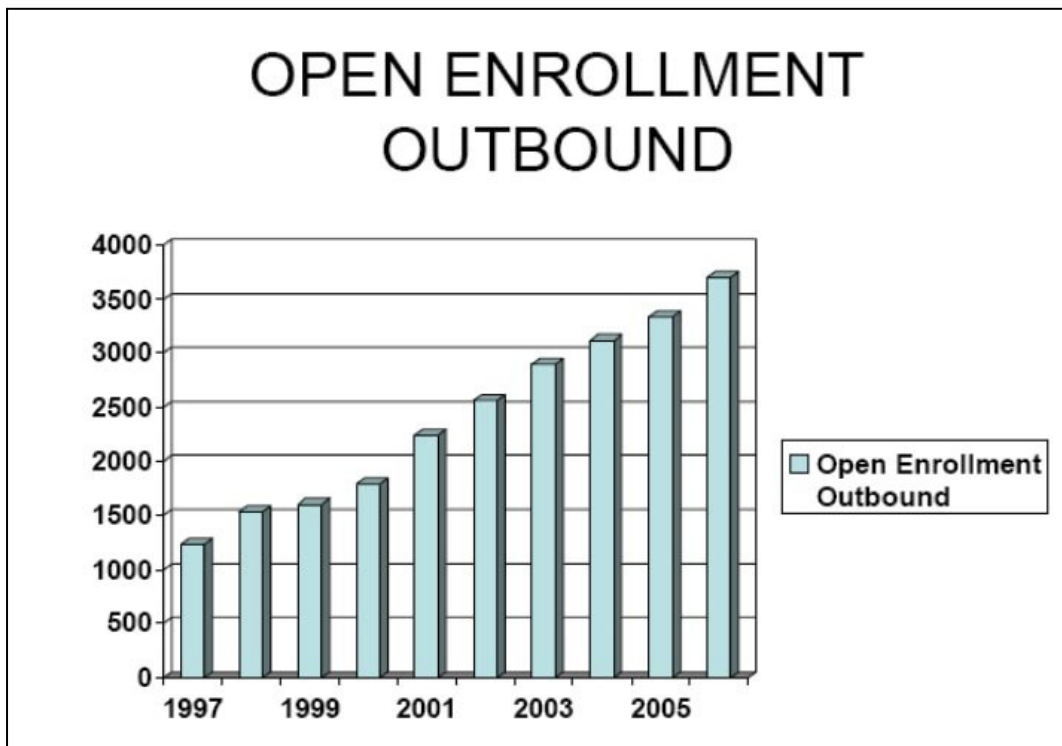
➤ **More resident students move out of the district than move into the district (Reinhardt 2006).**

- Minneapolis resident K-8 enrollment (any school) decreased from 2001 to 2006. Yet, the kindergarten class was always larger than the previous year's Grade 8. Enrollment decreased because more resident students moved out of the district than moved into the district (Reinhardt 2006).

- There is a decline in percent of resident kindergarten students (any school) compared to resident births (kindergarten pool) five years earlier (Reinhardt 2006).
- Lower births after 1990 resulted in declining enrollment in the majority of Minnesota school districts. Minnesota enrollment declines caused by lower births will end after 2009. In 2008, Minnesota will graduate its largest high school class since 1978 (Reinhardt 2006).
- The population continues to age. While there are rapid increases in middle aged and elderly, there is very little projected growth (+23,000) in the number of 20-34 year-olds in the 11-county TC Metro Area—2010-2020. This age group is critical for household formation and K-5 students (Reinhardt 2006).

➤ **Residents of Minneapolis are increasingly electing to attend non-MPS public schools.**

- Of all K-12 students *residing in Minneapolis and attending publicly funded schools* MPS enrolled (Reinhardt 2006):
  - 1997—95%
  - 2001—89%
  - 2006—77%
- Since 2001, The Choice is Yours (<http://www.wmep.k12.mn.us/wmepchoice.html>), a school choice program for families qualifying for free or reduced-priced lunches who live in the City of Minneapolis, has made open enrollment possible for many families by offering free transportation and increased education about the program (West Metro Education Program).
- In 1997 just over 1,000 MPS students opted for open enrollment in other school districts. In 2005 the number had just about tripled. On the flip side, incoming open enrollment only increased by a little more than 500 (Reinhardt 2006). The following graph is from Reinhardt’s work.



- Since the year 2004, there have been significant enrollment gains in some existing chartered schools located in Minneapolis. Two new chartered schools opened in Minneapolis as well (Jon Schroeder, Education|Evolving, 2007).

<b>Minneapolis District and Charter Enrollments</b>				
<b>Source: Minnesota Department of Education October 1 enrollment counts, posted on a school-by-school basis</b>				
<b>School Year</b>	<b>Charter</b>	<b>Dist/Alternative</b>	<b>All Public</b>	<b>% Charters</b>
2004-05	4,763	41,259	46,022	10.3
2005-06	5,439	39,299	44,738	12.2
2006-07	6,427	38,120	44,547	14.4
(18.2% increase of enrollments in Minneapolis charters since 2005-2006 school year.)				

- Students also elect to attend chartered schools that are outside Minneapolis borders. Some students choose to attend chartered schools in St. Paul, for example, and there are four chartered schools known to serve Minneapolis residents located in Golden Valley, Columbia Heights, Richfield, and Inver Grove Heights (Tarek ibn Ziyad Academy). (Jon Schroeder, Education|Evolving, 2007).
- **A small portion of students leave MPS for “other” reasons.**
- It’s possible that these students have chosen to attend nonpublic schools (home, independent, private) or that they have dropped out altogether.

## Sources

Minneapolis Board of Education. Special Discussion Meeting Minutes. January 23, 2007.

Minnesota Department of Education October 1 enrollment counts, posted on a school-by-school basis at:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Data/index.html>

Finance and Budget Department, Minneapolis Public Schools. "2007/08 Budget Projections." January 23, 2007.

[http://financeandbudget.mpls.k12.mn.us/sites/0c4653c4-7862-400a-bc36-f985a23a68fa/uploads/Budget\\_Projections.pdf](http://financeandbudget.mpls.k12.mn.us/sites/0c4653c4-7862-400a-bc36-f985a23a68fa/uploads/Budget_Projections.pdf)

Hazel Reinhardt, "Demographic and K-12 Enrollment Report." Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Services for MPS.

February 2006. Available on MPS Web site: [http://destinationexcellence.mpls.k12.mn.us/sites/9d205091-4c59-4d57-8c8b-1448ab9b702c/uploads/BOE\\_Present\\_Demograp2-20-07.pdf](http://destinationexcellence.mpls.k12.mn.us/sites/9d205091-4c59-4d57-8c8b-1448ab9b702c/uploads/BOE_Present_Demograp2-20-07.pdf)

Jon Schroeder. Email to Kim Farris-Berg. November 7, 2006.

## Links related to MPS enrollment decline

A visit to Minneapolis North High School. 4/23/07.

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2007/04/11/mplsnorth>

The Outsiders: A new generation of Hmong makes its own exodus. 6/20/07.

<http://www.citypages.com/databank/28/1385/article15576.asp>