

**MERIDIAN CUSD 223
DEMOGRAPHIC AND STUDENT
ENROLLMENT FACTORS WITH
PROJECTIONS TO 2020**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
Meridian Enrollment Projections	iv
I. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	
Introduction	1
II. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223	
2000 Census Profile	3
Small Area (SAIPE) Estimates	3
2010 Census	4
III. POPULATION GROWTH: 2000 - 2007	
Census Estimates: July 1, 2005 - July 1, 2007 for Geographic Units	8
Davis Junction Special Census	9
Housing Growth: 2000 - 2008	10
Birth and Natural Increase	15
Racial and Ethnic Change	15
Enrollment Trends	18
Enrollment in Private Schools	19
Graduation Rates	19
Growth Factors	20
Population Projections to 2020	21
Student Enrollment Projection Results	23

TABLES AND FIGURES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1 Profile Of Meridian District 223 Residents: 2000 Census	6
2 Census Population Estimates: July 1, 2005, 2006, 2007 For Meridian School District 223 Components With Comparisons To April 1, 2000	8
3 Population And Change: 1970 - 2000	9
4 Davis Junction Special Census Counts	9
5 New Housing Units In The Meridian District 223 Minor Civil Divisions: 2000 - 2008 .	12
6 Proportion Of Estimated Population Within Meridian District 223	13

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont'd.)

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
7 Estimated New Housing Units Within Meridian District 223: 2000 - 2008	13
8 Housing And Population Growth 2000 - 2008 Within Meridian District 223	14
9 Births, Deaths And Natural Increase: 2002 - 2006 Meridian School District 223 Minor Civil Divisions	16
10 Population Percent By Race/Ethnicity In The Meridian School District 223 Minor Civil Divisions: 2000	17
11 Meridian School District 223 Racial/Ethnic Student Composition: 1999 - 2000 To 2008 - 2009	17
12 Student Enrollment Compared To Population Growth: 2000 - 2008	18
13 Enrollment: 2001 - 2002 To 2008 - 2009 Numerical and Percentage Change From Prior Years	18
14 Public And Private School Enrollment Marion, Monroe And Scott Townships: 2000	19
15 Stillman Valley High School Graduation Rates: 2000 - 2008	20
16 Year By Year Assumed Population And Rates	22
17 Total Projected Enrollment: 2009 - 2010 To 2019 - 2020 Meridian District 223	23
18 Annual Percentage Change In Enrollment: 2009 - 2010 To 2019 - 2020 Meridian District 223	23
 <u>Figure</u>	
1 Meridian District 223 Boundaries	5
2 Meridian School District Enrollment	24

APPENDICES

Appendix I	Projected Enrollment	25
Appendix II	Historical Enrollment	29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MERIDIAN ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Projecting student enrollment is an exercise in evaluating forces affecting District 223 in northeast Ogle County. The area has exhibited population growth that is among the fastest in the Rockford area. Until recently, new housing permits were being issued at a rapid pace. Some parents seek to “escape” from Rockford’s schools as suburbanization moves outward. However, the current recession and a sharp downturn in housing starts over the past year will mitigate these growth factors over the short run.

Thus, somewhat moderate growth is forecast into the future. These projections, of necessity, must rely on assumptions which could prove right or wrong, but at this time provide the “best guesses” on future population and enrollment.

An unexpectedly high kindergarten enrollment in Fall 2008 will have an impact throughout the projection period, offsetting the current housing slowdown.

Using Census and building permit information, the population of the District grew 22.4% from 7,088 in 2000 to an estimated 8,674 in 2005, but only to an estimated 9,305 in 2008 (7.3% over the last three years). District enrollment rose slightly less than population for both time periods - 20.1% for 2000 to 2005, and 5.4% from 2005 to 2008.

Projections are developed in this report by moving current classes forward, then adding new students moving into the area based on growth assumptions. Kindergarten enrollment is based on births five years earlier plus new movers in the 0 - 5 age group. The preschool population is growing faster than the overall population.

Health Systems Research projects that District 223 will grow from an enrollment of 1,944 in 2008-2009 to 2,187 in 2014 - 15, then reaching 2,398 in 2019 - 2020.

Suburbanization from the Rockford and Chicago areas could fuel even faster growth than projected. A Hispanic influx might also add more to the student population. However, an extended slowdown in housing starts or a long recession could dampen growth further, though area growth could also be renewed in the short run.

I. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This study projects the student enrollment in the Meridian CUSD 223 to the year 2020 based on current knowledge of factors which affect population and enrollment. The District encompasses all of the Villages of Davis Junction, Monroe Center and Stillman Valley. Monroe Center was not incorporated until 2005. Also within the District are most of Marian, Monroe, and Scott Townships and a small portion of Pine Rock Township – all in Ogle County plus a small area of Rockford Township in Winnebago County.

This fast-growing District was home to an estimated 8,674 persons in 2005, up 22.4% from 7,156 in 2000, and 9,305 persons in 2008, up 7.3% from 2005. That population growth, its derivation and the potential impact on enrollment is the central focus of this report.

In order to project enrollment to 2020, the following factors have been considered.

1. Population growth including natural increase especially births, migration and racial/ethnic composition.
2. Rapid housing expansion followed by a drastic slowdown in 2008.
3. Recent enrollment experience.
4. Impact of the current recession.

This report utilizes varying geographies because data availability differs for variables and areas. When possible, school district data are utilized. However, such information is sparse. In some cases, estimates have been made for the school district based on the estimated population proportions of incorporated places and townships that lie within the District. Information is also sometimes presented for the major townships which make up the District.

The format of the study follows the following outline:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| A. Estimating the 2005 - 2008 population | C. Projected Enrollment |
| 1. Census Estimates: 2005 - 2008 | 1. Growth Factors |
| 2. Housing Growth: 2000 - 2008 | 2. Population Projections to 2020 |
| 3. Births and Natural Increase: 2006 | 3. Methodology and Projections |
| B. Factors in Student Growth and Enrollment | |
| 1. Racial and Ethnic Change | |
| 2. Enrollment Trends | |
| 3. Enrollment in Private Schools | |
| 4. Graduation Rates | |

Initially, the discussion explores what has happened to area population since the 2000 Census by analyzing housing, births and deaths, plus looking at recent Census estimates and special censuses. Accurate population estimates are vital to the quality of the projections.

Next, factors are discussed and figures presented for those indicators which affect student enrollment. Lastly, enrollment is projected based on a series of assumptions and presented for possible use in planning future classes, services and facilities by the Meridian District. These projections are highly dependent on the incorporated assumptions.

II. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223:

2000 Census Profile

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) applied District boundaries to the 2000 Census to create a demographic profile for all school districts in the nation including CUSD 223. This profile is shown as Table 1. Comparisons to the nation have been added to help interpretation. These characteristics may affect the District and future enrollment, although the census variables provided by NCES are limited.

In 2000, District 223 contained 7,156 persons, split evenly by gender. Everyone lives in a household because no group quarters (nursing homes, dorms) are located in the District and 92.3% live in a family (two or more related persons living together). The District has far fewer female headed households (15.5%) than is true nationally.

Of the 2,490 occupied housing units which were located within the District in 2000, 86.4% were owner-occupied and 13.6% renter-occupied. The area contains far fewer renters than is true of the nation.

Though the median gross rent of \$544 was below the U.S. median in 2000, the median home value at that time, \$131,700 was higher than the nation.

College graduates, 18.3% of males and 19.2% of females, are slightly under national levels for persons 25+, though typical of the Rockford area.

The per capita income of \$22,603 for 1999 was higher than the nation, while poverty levels were quite low.

The District population is predominately white, non-Hispanic (96.4%) though minority presence was slightly higher for those under 18 than for the entire population living in the District.

Small Area (SAIPE) Estimates

The Census Bureau annually releases school district estimates for population and poverty. Population estimates are based primarily on county estimates.

<u>Year</u>	<u>District 223 Population</u>
2007	7,711
2006	7,691
2005	7,584
2000	7,244

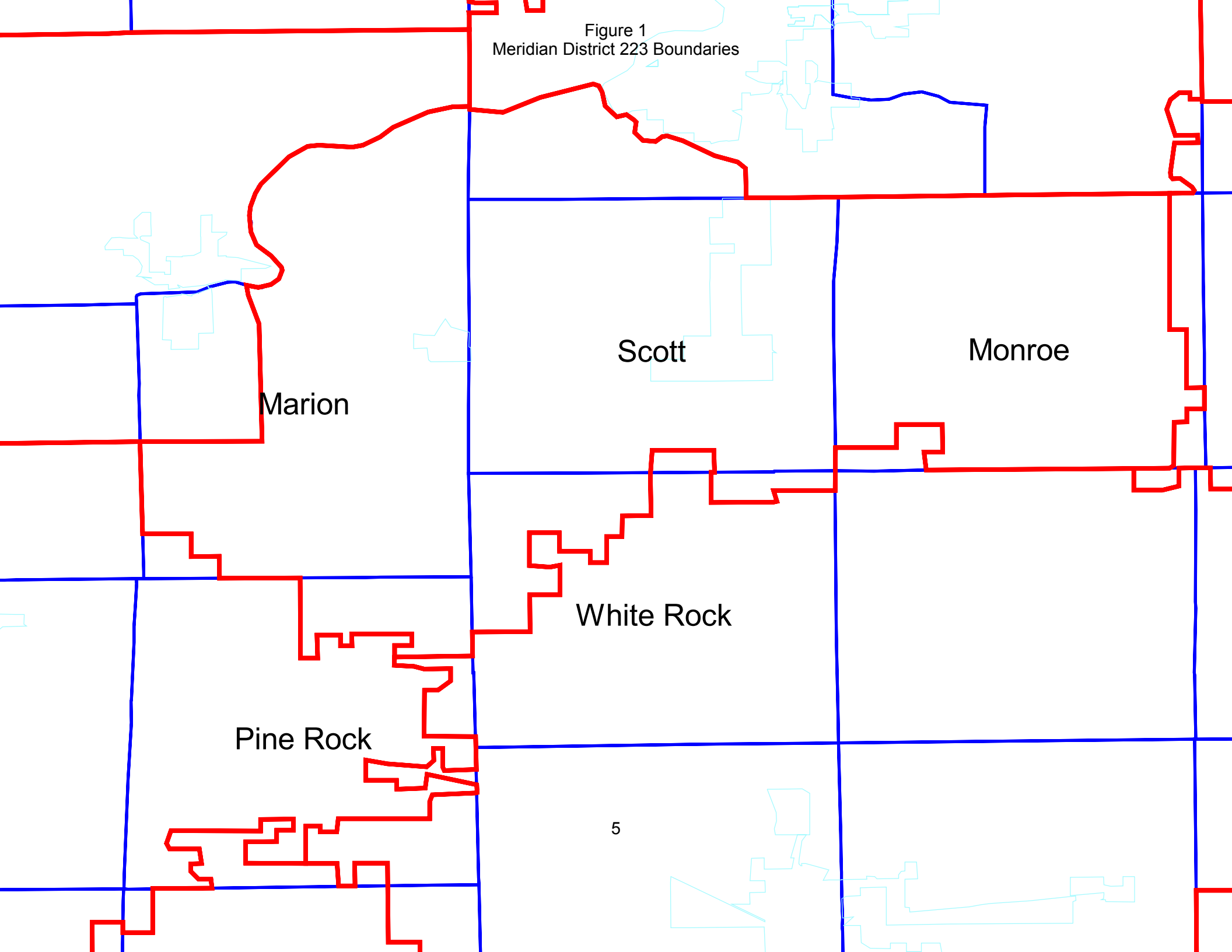
We feel that those estimates are too low and do not fully reflect the area growth. The 6.4% growth for the 2000 - 2007 period is actually lower than the Ogle County estimated growth of 7.8% for 2000 - 2007. Since District 223 has grown rapidly, the SAIPE figures do not appear to accurately reflect the current population.

The 2007 estimate for poverty of children 5 - 17 in District 223 is 6.8%.

2010 Census

On April 10, 2010, the Census Bureau will be taking the decennial Census for the entire nation. Only household basics will be gained using the “short” form for everyone. The former “long form” for detailed socioeconomic information has been replaced by an annual sample survey, the American Community Survey. Though results have been released for areas with 20,000+ population, smaller areas like school districts will receive their first results in 2010, with data covering the 2005 - 2009 period.

Figure 1
Meridian District 223 Boundaries



Marion

Scott

Monroe

White Rock

Pine Rock

5

Table 1
 PROFILE OF MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223 RESIDENTS: 2000 CENSUS

	District 223		U.S. Percent
	Number	Percent	
Population	7,156	100.0%	100.0%
GENDER AND AGE			
Male	3,591	50.2%	49.1%
Under 5 years	244	6.8%	7.1%
5 to 9 years	322	9.0%	7.6%
10 to 14 years	346	9.6%	7.6%
15 to 17 years	193	5.4%	4.5%
18 to 19 years	95	2.6%	3.0%
Female	3,565	49.8%	50.9%
Under 5 years	239	6.7%	6.5%
5 to 9 years	323	9.1%	7.0%
10 to 14 years	357	10.0%	7.0%
15 to 17 years	155	4.3%	4.1%
18 to 19 years	73	2.0%	2.8%
HOUSEHOLD TYPE			
Population in Households	7,156	100.0%	97.2%
In Family Households	6,607	92.3%	80.1%
Householder	2,043	100.0%	100.0%
Male	1,727	84.5%	63.9%
Female	316	15.5%	36.1%
TENURE			
Occupied Housing Units	2,490	100.0%	100.0%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	2,151	86.4%	66.2%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	339	13.6%	33.8%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE			
Average Household Size	2.87		2.59
AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE			
Average Family Size	3.19		3.14
GENDER BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25+			
Total Aged 25+	4,450	100.0%	100.0%
Male	2,185	100.0%	100.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	399	18.3%	26.1%
Female	2,265	100.0%	100.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	434	19.2%	22.8%

PROFILE OF MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223 RESIDENTS: 2000 CENSUS (cont'd.)

MEDIAN GROSS RENT (DOLLARS)	District 223		U.S. Percent
	Number	Percent	
Median Gross Rent	\$544		\$602
MEDIAN VALUE (DOLLARS) FOR ALL OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS			
Median Value	\$131,700		\$119,600
PER CAPITA INCOME IN 1999 (DOLLARS)			
Per Capita Income in 1999	\$22,603		\$21,587
POVERTY STATUS IN 1999 OF FAMILIES			
Total Families	1,995	100.0%	100.0%
Income in 1999 below poverty level	60	3.0%	9.2%
POVERTY STATUS IN 1999 OF HOUSEHOLDS			
Total households	2,480	100.0%	100.0%
Income in 1999 below poverty level	115	4.6%	11.8%
RACE			
Total	7,156	100.0%	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino	156	2.2%	12.5%
White alone	6,897	96.4%	79.0%
Black or African American alone	26	0.4%	13.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	18	0.3%	0.8%
Asian alone	20	0.3%	4.1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone	4	0.1%	0.1%
Other Race	0	0.0%	0.2%
Two or more races	35	0.5%	1.9%
RACE – POPULATION UNDER 18			
Population under 18	2,179	100.0%	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino	70	3.2%	17.1%
White alone	2,062	94.6%	60.9%
Black or African American alone	11	0.5%	14.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	7	0.3%	0.9%
Asian alone	6	0.3%	3.3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone	2	0.1%	0.2%
Other Race	0	0.0%	0.3%
Two or more races	21	1.0%	2.6%

Source: Census Bureau
National Center for Educational Statistics

III. POPULATION GROWTH: 2000 - 2007

Census Estimates: July 1, 2005 - July 1, 2007 for Geographic Units

Subcounty estimates are released annually by the Census Bureau and include estimates for all Ogle County incorporated places and minor civil divisions (townships in Illinois). These are shown below in Table 2 along with population change since the 2000 Census. Though Monroe Center was not incorporated in 2000, the Census Bureau has estimated the population for that year as well as 2005.

Table 2
CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATES: JULY 1, 2005, 2006, 2007
FOR MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 223 COMPONENTS
WITH COMPARISONS TO APRIL 1, 2000

Community	April 1, 2000	July 1, 2005 ¹	2000-2005 Change	Percent Change 00 - 05	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2007	2005 - 2007 Change	Percent Change 05 - 07
Davis Junction	491	1,849	+1,358	+276.6%	1,988	2,130	+281	+15.2%
Monroe Center	494	497	+3	+0.6%	501	500	+3	+0.6%
Stillman Valley Village	1,048	1,083	+35	+3.3%	1,081	1,106	+23	+2.1%
Township ²								
Marion	3,671	3,919	+248	+6.8%	3,937	3,976	+57	+1.5%
Monroe	1,570	1,636	+66	+4.2%	1,646	1,650	+14	+0.9%
Pine Rock	979	1,038	+59	+6.0%	1,044	1,049	+11	+1.1%
Scott	1,671	2,392	+721	+43.1%	2,788	2,935	+543	+22.7%
White Rock	709	757	+48	+6.8%	763	767	+10	1.3%

¹2005 Data for Davis Junction are from 2005 Special Census, other estimates are from U.S. Census Population Estimates.

²Township populations include incorporated areas within them.

District 223 also includes a portion of Rockford Township in Winnebago County.

Also shown in Table 3 on the following page are historical counts for each Census 1970 - 2000.

Subcounty Census estimates are based primarily on residential construction reports. When not reported, the number of permits are estimated by the Bureau based on county and state activity. Census place data show that reports are not currently received for Davis Junction, Monroe Center or Stillman Valley, so that Census estimates rely on other factors, especially county trends, which underestimate in most cases, but also may overestimate in "slow growth" areas. Ogle County does report to the Census Bureau for the unincorporated areas that they cover.

Without a basis for the level of new housing construction, the accuracy of Census estimates is very much in question since they rely primarily on countywide patterns. In the following section, Health

Systems Research estimates current populations for the area which are higher than the Census Bureau subcounty estimates. A major factor is the population of Davis Junction, shown by a Special Census to be much higher than the Census estimate. That Special Census population for Davis Junction had yet to be considered by the Census Bureau when July 1, 2005 estimates were released.

Based on Decennial Census data, the area grew from 1970 to 1980, lost 4.1% from 1980 to 1990, then began the substantial growth pattern during the decade of the 1990s.

Table 3
POPULATION AND CHANGE: 1970 - 2000¹

Place	April 1, 2000	April 1, 1990	April 1, 1980	April 1, 1970
Marion Township	3,671	2,740	2,793	2,144
Monroe Township	1,570	1,378	1,355	1,152
Pine Rock Township	979	883	1,002	937
Scott Township	1,671	1,418	1,414	936
White Rock Township	709	717	769	843
Village of Stillman Valley	1,048	848	961	871
Village of Davis Junction	491	246	289	---
Total	10,139	8,230	8,583	6,883

¹Monroe Center was not incorporated until 2005.

Source: Census Bureau Decennial Census

Davis Junction Special Census

A Special Census was taken of the Village of Davis Junction as of August 31, 2005 with the counts issued in March 2006. Special Census counts were very different from prior census figures, revealing large gains in the Village.

Table 4
DAVIS JUNCTION
SPECIAL CENSUS COUNTS

Indicator	Population	Housing Units
August 31, 2005	1,849	643
April 1, 2000 boundaries population 8/31/2005	1,347	447
Annexed areas population 8/31/2005	502	196
April 1, 2000 boundaries		
Count on April 1, 2000	491	172
Growth - "old areas" 2000 - 2005	+856	+471

The Special Census revealed a population count of 1,849. Of that number, 1,347 were living in the “old village” in 2000 while 502 resided in new areas annexed between 2000 and 2005. The “old village” grew by 856 between 2000 and 2005, moving from 491 to 1,347.

Housing Growth: 2000 - 2008

Since the Census is only taken decennially, estimates are needed in intercensal years by which to evaluate current population trends affecting school enrollment since Census Bureau estimates are not precise enough. Housing growth can be such a primary indicator of growth. Actual census counts are available for 2005 in Davis Junction which had a special census and in Monroe Center which incorporated.

School district boundaries are irregular and do not follow the boundaries of towns or townships. Health Systems Research has estimated the portion of each township population which lies within District 223 using maps and reconciling the 2000 District population from the Census to the estimates.

Health Systems Research worked with the incorporated villages and the Ogle County Department of Planning and Zoning to compile data on housing permits in the area since the 2000 Census, with information shown as Table 5.

Some cautions are necessary, however, in the use of housing permit data. Demolitions and conversions are not considered, although they are relatively rare in high growth areas like northeastern Ogle County. On occasion, permits are not carried out through the building and sales phases due to a variety of factors. Lastly, units must be translated into population through assumptions about the number of occupants. In this study, average family size is adopted since virtually all new construction is for single family homes.

Another potentially confounding factor can be a delay in building or sales well past when the permit is obtained. However, an off-setting factor is that permits issued earlier may only now be constructed and occupied. According to the Census Bureau, the average lag time from permit to construction is six months and the proportion of units which are never built after a permit is issued is only two percent.

In the case of Davis Junction, this report has chosen to use Census counts in 2000 and 2005 to establish new housing rather than the counts given by the Village. Units built in Scott Township have been assumed to be annexed into Davis Junction based on conversations with Ogle County Planning and Census data for the annexed area. The Census shows more new housing units from 2000 to 2005 than indicated by permits. The difference may be the result of new mobile homes which did not require a building permit.

Housing growth was extremely rapid across the area early in the decade, slowing greatly in the last year. For the 2000 - 2005 period, the fastest growing geographic unit was Davis Junction which added 471 new housing units, translating into an additional population of about 1,358 new residents. Next was Marion Township with 131 new housing units. For the 2006 - 2008 period, Davis Junction remains first in new housing units, but with just 124 units, greatly reduced from the prior period, with only seven new building permits issued in 2008.

When housing permits are tabulated for all the minor civil divisions of the school district, the entire area added 565 housing units in the 2000 - 2005 period, but 742 when the special Census count is used for 2005. For the 2006 - 2008 period permits issued dropped to 222 with only 29 permits issued in 2008.

Table 5
 NEW HOUSING UNITS IN THE MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223
 MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS: 2000 - 2008

Year	Davis Junction ²	Monroe Center	Stillman Valley	Marion Township	Monroe Township	Pine Rock Township	Scott Township	White Rock Township	Rockford Township	Total Area
2008	7	1	3	9	1	5	3	0	0	29
2007	50	0	3	16	5	2	1	4	1	82
2006	67	0	9	16	2	6	8	1	2	111
2005	90	2	8	21	7	11	4	3	0	146
2004	58	0	7	21	7	11	4	3	0	111
2003	53	1	4	14	5	5	9	1	1	93
2002	45	0	3	16	6	5	3	2	0	80
2001	27	1	4	33	2	3	1	2	1	74
2000 ¹	21	0	3	26	4	4	1	2	0	61
Total 2000 - 2005	294	4	29	131	31	39	22	13	2	565
Total 2006 - 2008	124	1	15	41	8	13	12	5	3	222
Total 2000 - 2008	418	5	44	172	39	52	34	18	5	787

¹Three-quarters of 2000 building permits applied because Census was 4/1/2000.

²Building permits as reported by Davis Junction.

Table 6
PROPORTION OF ESTIMATED POPULATION WITHIN MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

	Davis Junction	Monroe Center	Stillman Valley	Marion Township	Monroe Township	Pine Rock Township	Scott Township	White Rock Township	Rockford Township
Percent in District	100%	100%	100%	84%	97%	24%	98%	28%	1%

Table 7
ESTIMATED NEW HOUSING UNITS WITHIN MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223: 2000 - 2008

Estimated within District 223	Davis Junction ¹	Monroe Center	Stillman Valley	Marion Township	Monroe Township	Pine Rock Township	Scott Township	White Rock Township	Rockford Township	Total
2000 - 2005	471	4	29	110	29	9	22	4	2	680
2006 - 2008	124	1	15	34	8	3	12	1	3	201
Total	595	5	44	144	37	12	34	5	5	881

¹Census data used.

Table 8
HOUSING AND POPULATION GROWTH 2000 - 2008
WITHIN MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

Indicator	Davis Junction ¹	Monroe Center	Stillman Valley	Marion Township	Monroe Township	Pine Rock Township	Scott Township ²	White Rock Township	Rockford Township	Total Area
Housing Units										
2000 Census	172	182	417	751	571	75	429	83	197	2,877
New 2000 - 2005	471	4	29	110	29	9	(-110)	4	2	548
Total 2005	643	186	446	861	600	84	319	87	199	3,425
New 2006 - 2008	124	1	15	34	8	3	12	1	3	201
Total 2008	767	187	461	895	608	87	331	88	202	3,626
Percent Change										
2000 - 2005	+273.8%	+2.2%	+7.0%	+14.6%	+5.1%	+12.0%	-25.6%	+4.8%	+1.0%	+19.0%
2005 - 2008	+19.3%	+0.5%	+3.4%	+3.9%	+1.3%	+3.6%	+3.8%	+1.1%	+1.5%	+5.9%
Average Family Size	3.14	2.68	3.14	3.19	3.10	3.01	3.26	3.08	2.63	
Population										
2000	491	494	1,048	2,182	1,044	235	1,151	199	244	7,088
2005	1,849	505	1,139	2,533	1,134	262	792	211	249	8,674
2008	2,238	508	1,186	2,641	1,159	271	831	214	257	9,305
Percent Change										
2000 - 2005	+276.6%	+2.2%	+13.4%	+16.3%	+8.6%	+11.5%	-31.2%	+6.0%	+2.0%	22.4%
2006 - 2008	+21.0%	+0.6%	+4.1%	+1.3%	+2.2%	+3.4%	+4.9%	+1.4%	+3.2%	+7.3%

¹Census counts shown for Davis Junction.

²New 2002 - 2005 housing units adjust to annexations to Davis Junction.

Births and Natural Increase

Migration is one of the major demographic factors affecting the Meridian District. However, in addition to migration, growth also takes place through natural increase, the difference between births and deaths. In areas of rapid suburbanization, births would usually be expected to be a major growth contributor, while deaths would be fewer, because the population is relatively young. Vital statistics information is only available through 2006.

Estimates for the District are that 244 births and 123 deaths took place between 2002 and 2004 for a three-year natural increase of +121 and an annual natural increase of 40. With an estimated 2003 population of 8,353, the 244 births yield a birth rate of just 9.7 compared to 10.8 for Ogle County. However, birth rates in Davis Junction (26.5) and Stillman Valley (21.5) are very high, while the remaining rural area is an exceptionally low 4.2.

For the more recent 2005 - 2006 period, an estimated 187 births took place in the District. With an estimated 2006 population of 8,884 the 187 births yield a birth rate of 10.5. Birth rates in Davis Junction (26.3) and Stillman Valley (32.0) remain high. The District appears to continue to be a combination of high growth areas with elevated birth rates and older, rural, farming areas with few births.

Racial and Ethnic Change

The Hispanic population throughout northern Illinois is growing very rapidly and northeast Ogle County is sharing, to some extent, in this growth. An influx of Hispanic families is important demographically because the families are usually larger and younger due to higher fertility among Hispanic women, which can result in more school children than for the same number of non-Hispanic families.

The Hispanic population of Ogle County grew rapidly from 1,379 (3.0%) in the 1990 Census to 3,066 (6.0%) in the 2000 Census and to an estimated 4,473 (8.2%) Hispanics in 2005 - 2007 according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Many reside in the Rochelle area. Some of this growth was evident in 2000 for the area as compared to 1990 as revealed in Table 10. Current race/ethnic estimates are not available for the population of the District but will be in 2010.

Table 9
 BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE: 2002 - 2006
 MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 223 MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

Area	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
Marion Township			
2006	1	14	-13
2005	5	16	-11
2002 - 2004	9	31	-22
Monroe Township			
2006	2	8	-6
2005	4	9	-5
2002 - 2004	45	26	+19
Pine Rock Township			
2006	11	6	+5
2005	7	11	-4
2002 - 2004	22	23	-1
Scott Township			
2006	4	3	+1
2005	3	8	-5
2002 - 2004	18	15	+3
White Rock Township			
2006	4	5	-1
2005	5	3	+2
2002 - 2004	14	15	-1
Village of Stillman Valley			
2006	37	14	+23
2005	26	11	+15
2002 - 2004	72	25	+47
Village of Davis Junction			
2006	52	7	+45
2005	37	10	+27
2002 - 2004	93	22	+71
Monroe Center*			
2006	10	2	+8
Total Area			
2002 - 2004	273	157	+116
2005 - 2006	208	127	+81
Estimate District 223			
2002 - 2004	244	123	+121
2005 - 2006	187	102	+85

*Became incorporated in 2006

Table 10
POPULATION PERCENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY
IN THE MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 223 MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS: 2000

Race/Ethnic		Davis Junction	Stillman Valley	Marion Township	Monroe Township	Pine Rock Township	Scott Township	White Rock Township
White	2000	483	1,019	3,600	1,554	962	1,586	692
	1990	245	843	2,724	1,373	883	1,407	715
Hispanic	2000	8	15	32	18	8	27	15
	1990	3	1	9	11	5	26	4
Total	2000	491	1,034	3,632	1,572	970	1,613	707
	1990	248	844	2,733	1,384	888	1,433	719

While northeast Ogle County historically has contained a small minority presence, some growth has been observed and Hispanic growth is inevitable given current demographic patterns including rapid expansion in nearby Rockford. Considerable Hispanic increase was seen from 1990 to 2000 along with some growth in the black population.

Differences in household size between Hispanic and non-Hispanic households is substantial. In Ogle County (2000), white, non-Hispanic households averaged 2.59 persons compared to 3.62 for Hispanic. In addition, Hispanic fertility is approximately double the white population.

Table 11
MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 223
RACIAL/ETHNIC STUDENT COMPOSITION: 1999 - 2000 TO 2008 - 2009

School Year	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Nat. Amer.	Multi. Racial ¹
2008 - 2009	89.8%	1.7%	6.2%	0.6%	0.2%	1.5%
2007 - 2008	90.8%	1.4%	5.4%	0.5%	0.3%	1.5%
2006 - 2007	91.6%	1.2%	5.4%	0.4%	0.2%	1.3%
2005 - 2006	92.5%	1.4%	4.6%	0.5%	0.2%	0.8%
2004 - 2005	94.1%	1.1%	3.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%
2003 - 2004	95.3%	1.0%	2.8%	0.7%	0.1%	
2002 - 2003	95.8%	1.0%	2.4%	0.7%	0.1%	
2001 - 2002	97.0%	0.6%	1.8%	0.3%	0.3%	
2000 - 2001	97.5%	0.6%	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	
1999 - 2000	97.4%	0.3%	1.8%	0.3%	0.3%	

¹Category added in 2004 - 2005.

Table 11 reveals that some racial/ethnic change is already evident in the Meridian school population from 1999 - 2000 to 2008 - 2009, with the District reaching a Hispanic enrollment of 4.6% in 2005 - 2006 and 6.2% in 2008 - 2009. In-migration of Hispanic families could be a factor in larger enrollment.

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment trends over the five years from 2000 to 2005 show that growth was substantial, moving from 1,536 in 2000 - 2001 to 1,845 in 2005 - 2006, a gain of 20.1% for the five-year period in the earlier enrollment projection report. However growth over the past three years has now slowed to 5.4%, averaging 12.7% over the most recent five years.

Table 12
STUDENT ENROLLMENT COMPARED
TO POPULATION GROWTH: 2000 - 2008

Years	Student Enrollment	Population Growth
2000 - 2005	+20.1%	+22.4%
2005 - 2008	+5.4%	+7.3%

The explanation for the difference between population and enrollment growth would appear to be that the preschool cohort is expanding faster than other age groups. This may mean that enrollment could continue to grow even when housing growth slows down. The large kindergarten entry in 2008 may be such a result.

Table 13
ENROLLMENT: 2001 - 2002 TO 2008 - 2009
NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEARS

Year	Meridian District 223	
	Numerical Change from Prior Years	Percent Change from Prior Years
2008 - 2009	+46	+2.4%
2007 - 2008	-3	-0.2%
2006 - 2007	+56	+3.0%
2005 - 2006	+91	+5.2%
2004 - 2005	+29	+1.7%
2003 - 2004	+76	+4.6%
2002 - 2003	+81	+5.2%
2001 - 2002	+32	+2.1%
Five Year Period	+309	+18.8%
Annual Average	+62	+3.8%
Eight Year Period	+408	+24.0%
Annual Average	+51	+3.0%

Enrollment in Private Schools

In analyzing and projecting enrollment for public school districts, the level of private school enrollment should also be considered. The only residentially-based data differentiating public and private enrollment come from 2000 Census sample data. Information on public vs. private enrollment for the three major Meridian townships for 2000 is shown below in Table 14.

Table 14
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
MARION, MONROE AND SCOTT TOWNSHIPS: 2000

Grade(s)	Public	Private	Total	Percent Public
Kindergarten	105	9	114	92.1%
1 - 4	593	13	606	97.9%
5 - 8	492	10	502	98.0%
9 - 12	440	2	442	99.5%
Total	1,630	34	1,664	98.0%

Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing

Census data reveal that very few students in the three township areas attend a private school. Residents and movers into the area appear to desire to attend Meridian schools, such that private schools are hardly a factor to be considered in enrollment projections.

Graduation Rates

Another variable to be factored into high school enrollment is dropouts. Until recently, students were required by state law to stay in school only until their 16th birthday.

At Meridian, the graduation rate was improving, moving from a low of 86% for 2001 graduates until 100% graduated in 2005, but the rate has since dropped to 90.3% in 2008, with a nine year average of 92% and a five year average of 95%.

Passed and signed in 2004, S.B. 2918 gives parents and schools an added year to keep students in the classroom by raising the legally required attendance age to 17. At this time, the impact of the new law is not known. In this report the average 92% graduation rate has been used to calculate the enrollment loss for a given cohort and the loss has been split between the 11th and 12th entries. Increased minority enrollment may have some effect on graduation rates. For FY 2008, the overall rate for Meridian was 90.3%; for white students: 91.0%; black: 66.7%, Hispanic: 75.7%, Asian: 100%; Native American: 100%.

Table 15
 STILLMAN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
 GRADUATION RATES: 2000 - 2008

Year	Graduation Rate
2008	90.3%
2007	91.7%
2006	96.9%
2005	100.0%
2004	95.9%
2003	91.3%
2002	89.5%
2001	86.0%
2000	89.9%

Growth Factors

Projecting population into the future is guesswork based on known factors, historical information and future trends using the best possible knowledge.

Population tends to move in waves. Currently, and for the past two decades, the population in the area has been moving outward from Rockford in all directions. Not only is the suburbanization of the area fueled by the pattern of growth outward from Rockford, but strengthened by at least two other factors.

One factor is concern of parents about the Rockford Schools. For more than a decade, District 205 has grappled with integration issues and declining test scores. A federal court order, which ended in 2002, raised property taxes to near the nation's highest in order to fund remedies. Though court controls have ended, funding and performance issues remain. To seek relief, some parents look to areas beyond District 205. With good test scores and an attractive socioeconomic profile, the Meridian District has become one choice for those looking for an alternative educational experience for their child or children.

Another growth force is the movement outward from Chicago including expansion of the northwest suburbs. A significant housing price gradient exists from the northwest suburbs to Rockford, meaning that families may choose to locate in the Rockford area and seek employment locally or commute to Chicago or other nearby areas via the interstates.

One element thought to be fueling growth until recently has been low interest rates which ease the home ownership burden for families. However, more recently, although interest rates remain low, tighter credit, a recession and a resultant downturn in housing starts have all made considering a new home more difficult for families.

Monroe Center could emerge as a growth node much like has occurred with Davis Junction recently. Located in a strategic spot just off I-39 and literally minutes from Rockford, the area may become attractive to developers. Incorporation may better prepare the Village for growth.

Population Projections to 2020

To project growth, population estimates have been developed for the 2000 - 2008 period relying primarily on housing permits within each district with population growth estimated based on household size in the 2000 Census. The Davis Junction 2005 Special Census has also been taken into consideration.

Projections for 2010, 2015 and 2020 reflect expected slower growth through the period due to both expected and extraordinary circumstances. Growth usually takes place in a logistic (S) curve as the population base becomes larger. Thus, while the second half of the current decade and the next decade were expected to experience slower growth going from 4.5% to 3.1% over the period, new estimates include the unexpected drop in housing starts as a result of the recession to lower short term growth estimates to 1.7% for 2009 - 2010, rising slowly from 2.4% from 2010 - 2015 to 3.0% for 2017 - 2020. These assumptions are shown in the population growth rates in Table 16 on the next page. Annual population growth has been projected to 2019 - 2020.

Starting with the actual 2008 - 2009 classes based on data provided by the District, migration has been added annually based on the assumed population growth rates shown in Table 16.

Kindergarten classes are brought into the analysis based on actual births or estimated births calculated from projected birth rates. Kindergarten class sizes are also increased by in-migration, but at a higher rate than the overall population rate. Like the overall population growth, the 0 - 5 growth rate is projected to decline, though the birth rate is slated to increase slowly from the very low current overall District level.

Table 16
YEAR BY YEAR ASSUMED POPULATION AND RATES

Year	Births	Birth Rate	Population	0 - 5 Growth	Population Growth
2000 - 2001	75	10.6	7,088	12.0%	4.5%
2001	81	10.9	7,405	12.0%	4.5%
2002	87	11.3	7,722	12.0%	4.5%
2003	79	9.8	8,039	12.0%	4.5%
2004 - 2005	78	9.3	8,356	10.5%	4.5%
2005	77	8.9	8,674	9.0%	4.5%
2006	110	12.2	8,993	9.0%	3.7%
2007	118	12.8	9,229	9.0%	2.6%
2008	127	13.6	9,305	9.0%	0.8%
2009 - 2010	117	12.4	9,463	7.5%	1.7%
2010	116	12.0	9,690	5.0%	2.4%
2011	119	12.0	9,923	5.0%	2.4%
2012	122	12.0	10,161	5.0%	2.4%
2013	125	12.0	10,405	5.0%	2.4%
2014 - 2015	128	12.0	10,655	5.0%	2.4%
2015	131	12.0	10,953	4.5%	2.8%
2016			11,260	4.5%	2.8%
2017			11,598	4.5%	3.0%
2018			11,946	4.5%	3.0%
2019 - 2020			12,304	4.5%	3.0%

Student Enrollment Projection Results

Appendix I contains enrollment projections based on the assumptions discussed which have been developed using the best available demographic data. Total enrollment is shown below for the District by individual year through 2014 - 2015 and in five year increments thereafter. Pre-K is not considered. Given the extraordinary economic uncertainties occurring at this time, projections further into the future are not warranted.

Table 17
TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 2008 - 2009 TO 2019 - 2020
MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

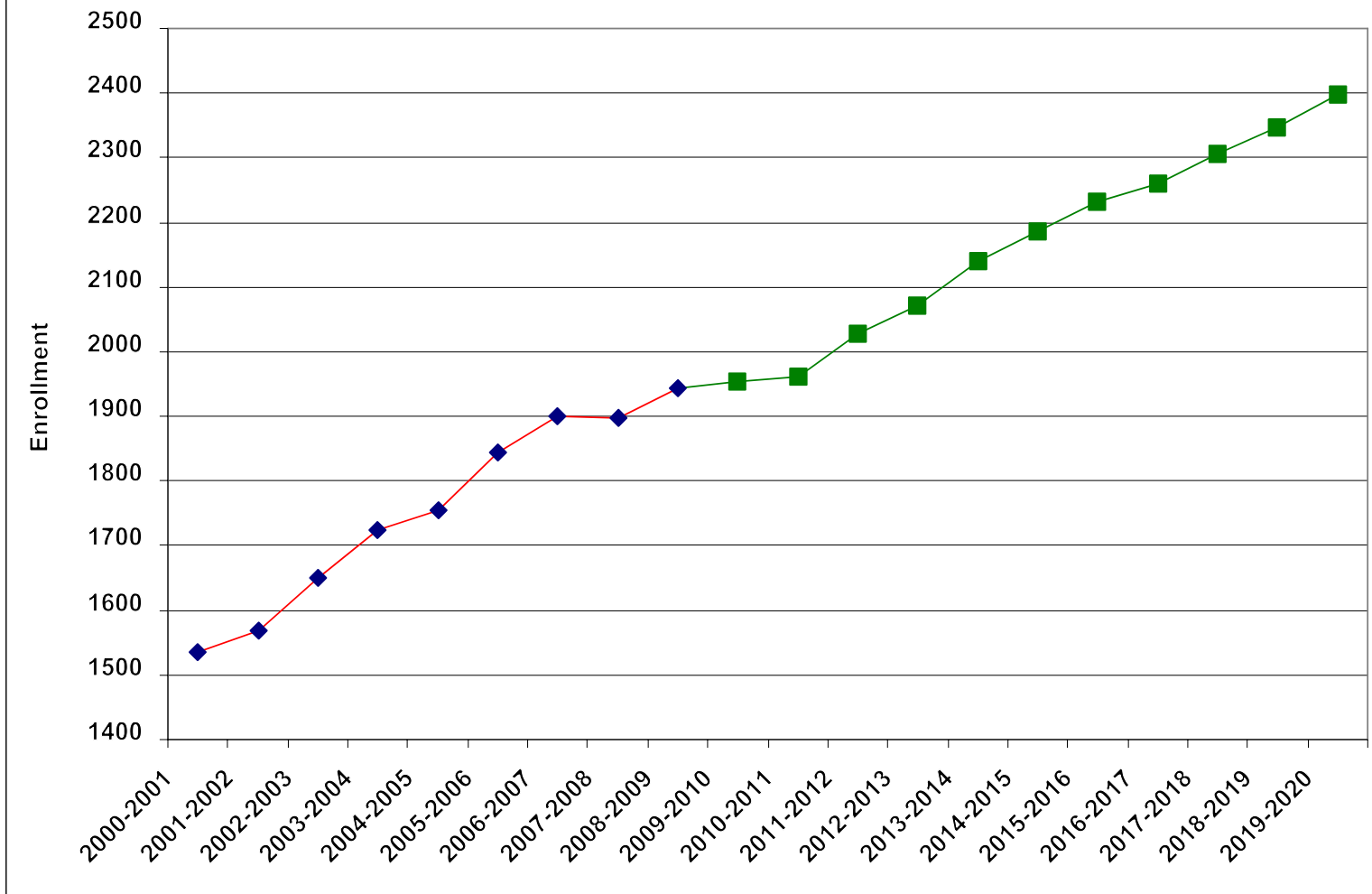
Year	Enrollment
2008 - 2009	1,944
2009 - 2010	1,955
2010 - 2011	1,962
2011 - 2012	2,028
2012 - 2013	2,072
2013 - 2014	2,141
2014 - 2015	2,187
2019 - 2020	2,398

Table 18
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT: 2009 - 2010 TO 2019 - 2020
MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

Year	Enrollment
2009 - 2010	0.6%
2010 - 2011	0.4%
2011 - 2012	3.4%
2012 -2013	2.2%
2013 - 2014	3.3%
2014 - 2015	2.1%
2019 - 2020	2.2%

Over the next five years (2008 - 2013), the District is projected to grow by 10.1%, slightly lower than the last five year (2003 - 2008) rate of 12.7%, but still substantial.

Figure 2
Meridian School District Enrollment



APPENDIX I
PROJECTED ENROLLMENT
Enrollment figures do not include pre-K students.

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2008 - 2009	176	135	141	145	142	158	136	152	158	174	138	153	136	1,944
2009 - 2010	129	179	137	143	147	144	161	138	155	161	177	134	150	1,955
2010 - 2011	118	132	183	141	147	151	148	165	142	158	165	174	138	1,962
2011 - 2012	169	121	135	188	144	150	155	151	168	145	162	161	179	2,028
2012 - 2013	182	173	124	139	192	147	154	158	155	173	149	159	167	2,072
2013 - 2014	195	186	177	127	142	197	151	158	162	159	177	146	164	2,141
2014 - 2015	168	200	191	181	130	145	202	155	161	166	163	174	151	2,187
2015 - 2016	148	173	205	196	187	133	149	207	159	166	171	160	179	2,233
2016 - 2017	152	152	178	211	202	192	137	153	213	163	171	168	168	2,260
2017 - 2018	156	157	157	183	217	208	198	141	158	219	168	169	175	2,306
2018 - 2019	160	161	161	161	188	224	214	203	145	163	226	166	175	2,347
2019 - 2020	163	165	166	166	166	194	231	220	210	150	168	224	173	2,398

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT - NUMERIC CHANGE BY GRADE

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2009 - 2010	-47	44	-4	-2	5	-14	25	-14	-3	-13	39	-19	14	11
2010 - 2011	-11	-47	46	-2	0	7	-13	27	-13	-3	-12	40	-12	7
2011 - 2012	51	-11	-48	47	-3	-1	7	-14	26	-13	-3	-13	41	66
2012 - 2013	13	52	-11	-49	48	-3	-1	7	-13	28	-13	-2	-12	44
2013 - 2014	13	13	53	-12	-50	50	-3	0	7	-14	28	-13	-3	69
2014 - 2015	-27	14	14	54	-12	-52	51	-3	-1	7	-14	28	-13	46
2015 - 2016	-20	-27	14	15	57	-12	-53	52	-2	0	8	-14	28	46
2016 - 2017	4	-21	-27	15	15	59	-12	-54	54	-3	0	8	-11	27
2017 - 2018	4	5	-21	-28	15	16	61	-12	-55	56	-3	1	7	46
2018 - 2019	4	4	4	-22	-29	16	16	62	-13	-56	58	-3	0	41
2019 - 2020	3	4	5	5	-22	-30	17	17	65	-13	-58	58	-2	51

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT - PERCENT CHANGE BY GRADE

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2009 - 2010	-26.7%	32.6%	-2.8%	-1.4%	3.5%	-8.9%	18.4%	-9.2%	-1.9%	-7.5%	28.3%	-12.4%	10.3%	0.6%
2010 - 2011	-8.5%	-26.3%	33.6%	-1.4%	0.0%	4.9%	-8.1%	19.6%	-8.4%	-1.9%	-6.8%	29.9%	-8.0%	0.4%
2011 - 2012	43.2%	-8.3%	-26.2%	33.3%	-2.0%	-0.7%	4.7%	-8.5%	18.3%	-8.2%	-1.8%	-7.5%	29.7%	3.4%
2012 - 2013	7.7%	43.0%	-8.1%	-26.1%	33.3%	-2.0%	-0.6%	4.6%	-7.7%	19.3%	-8.0%	-1.2%	-6.7%	2.2%
2013 - 2014	7.1%	7.5%	42.7%	-8.6%	-26.0%	34.0%	-1.9%	0.0%	4.5%	-8.1%	18.8%	-8.2%	-1.8%	3.3%
2014 - 2015	-13.8%	7.5%	7.9%	42.5%	-8.5%	-26.4%	33.8%	-1.9%	-0.6%	4.4%	-7.9%	19.2%	-7.9%	2.1%
2015 - 2016	-11.9%	-13.5%	7.3%	8.3%	43.8%	-8.3%	-26.2%	33.5%	-1.2%	0.0%	4.9%	-8.0%	18.5%	2.1%
2016 - 2017	2.7%	-12.1%	-13.2%	7.7%	8.0%	44.4%	-8.1%	-26.1%	34.0%	-1.8%	0.0%	5.0%	-6.1%	1.2%
2017 - 2018	2.6%	3.3%	-11.8%	-13.3%	7.4%	8.3%	44.5%	-7.8%	-25.8%	34.4%	-1.8%	0.6%	4.2%	2.0%
2018 - 2019	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	-12.0%	-13.4%	7.7%	8.1%	44.0%	-8.2%	-25.6%	34.5%	-1.8%	0.0%	1.8%
2019 - 2020	1.9%	2.5%	3.1%	3.1%	-11.7%	-13.4%	7.9%	8.4%	44.8%	-8.0%	-25.7%	34.9%	-1.1%	2.2%

APPENDIX II
HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT
NUMERICAL CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT

Meridian District 223	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2008 - 2009	176	135	141	145	142	158	136	152	158	174	138	153	136	1,944
2007 - 2008	132	138	139	139	158	129	142	154	168	150	153	145	151	1,898
2006 - 2007	127	140	129	151	124	145	150	171	149	156	162	158	139	1,901
2005 - 2006	129	123	143	119	134	139	161	156	147	155	151	155	133	1,845
2004 - 2005	108	131	109	129	128	149	148	141	154	150	151	139	117	1,754
2003 - 2004	125	98	130	124	138	135	138	147	146	152	141	125	126	1,725
2002 - 2003	94	129	119	133	125	130	141	144	146	138	124	121	105	1,649
2001 - 2002	110	110	122	114	120	128	139	141	124	124	126	107	103	1,568
2000 - 2001	106	119	108	121	137	129	146	123	127	125	107	108	80	1,536
1999 - 2000	115	104	129	135	130	135	126	125	123	112	115	77	108	1,534

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT
YEAR TO YEAR ENROLLMENT CHANGE BY GRADE

Meridian District 223	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2008 - 2009	+44	-3	+2	+6	-16	+29	-6	-2	-10	+24	-15	+8	-15	+46
2007 - 2008	+5	-2	+10	-12	+34	-16	-8	-17	+19	-6	-9	-13	+12	-3
2006 - 2007	-2	+17	-14	+32	-10	+6	-11	+15	+2	+1	+11	+3	+6	+56
2005 - 2006	+21	-8	+34	-10	+6	-10	+13	+15	-7	+5	---	+16	+16	+91
2004 - 2005	-17	+33	-21	+5	-10	+14	+10	-6	+8	-2	+10	+14	-9	+29
2003 - 2004	+31	-31	+11	-9	+13	+5	-3	+3	---	+14	+17	+4	+21	+76
2002 - 2003	-16	+19	-3	+19	+5	+2	+2	+3	+22	+14	-2	+14	+2	+81
2001 - 2002	+4	-19	+14	-7	-17	-1	-7	+18	-3	-1	+19	-1	+23	+32
2000 - 2001	-9	+15	-21	-14	+7	-6	+20	-2	+4	+13	-8	+31	-28	+2

**HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT
YEAR TO YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT**

Meridian District 223	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2008 - 2009	+33.3%	-2.2%	+1.4%	+4.3%	10.1%	+22.5%	-4.2%	-1.3%	-6.0%	+16.0%	+9.8%	+5.5%	-9.9%	+2.4%
2007 - 2008	+3.9%	-1.4%	+7.8%	-7.9%	+27.4%	-11.0%	-5.3%	-9.9%	+12.8%	-3.8%	-5.6%	-8.2%	+8.6%	-0.2%
2006 - 2007	-1.6%	+13.8%	-9.8%	+26.9%	+7.5%	+4.3%	-6.8%	+9.6%	+1.4%	+0.6%	+7.3%	+1.9%	+4.5%	+3.0%
2005 - 2006	+19.4%	-6.1%	+31.2%	-7.8%	+4.7%	-6.7%	+8.8%	+10.6%	-4.5%	+3.3%	---	+11.5%	+13.7%	+5.2%
2004 - 2005	-13.6%	+33.7%	-16.2%	+4.0%	-7.2%	+10.4%	+7.2%	-4.1%	+5.5%	-1.3%	+7.1%	+11.2%	-7.1%	+1.7%
2003 - 2004	+33.0%	-24.0%	+9.2%	-6.8%	+10.4%	+3.8%	-2.1%	+2.1%	---	+10.1%	+13.7%	+3.3%	+20.0%	+4.6%
2002 - 2003	-14.5%	+17.3%	-2.5%	+16.7%	+4.2%	+1.6%	+1.4%	+2.1%	+17.7%	+11.3%	-1.6%	+13.1%	+1.9%	+5.2%
2001 - 2002	+3.8%	-16.0%	+13.0%	-5.8%	-12.4%	-0.8%	-4.8%	+14.6%	-2.4%	-0.8%	+17.8%	-0.9%	+28.8%	+2.1%
2000 - 2001	-7.8%	+14.4%	-16.3%	-10.4%	+5.4%	-4.4%	+15.9%	-1.6%	+3.3%	+11.6%	-7.0%	+40.3%	-25.9%	+0.1

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT
YEAR TO YEAR NUMERIC CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT – SAME COHORT

Meridian District 232	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2008 - 2009				+6	+3	---	+7	+10	+4	+6	-12	---	-9
2007 - 2008			-1	+10	+7	+5	-3	+4	-3	+1	-3	-17	-7
2006 - 2007		+11	+6	+8	+5	+11	+11	+10	-7	+9	+7	+7	-16
2005 - 2006		+15	+12	+10	+5	+11	+12	+8	+6	+1	+1	+4	-6
2004 - 2005		+6	+11	-1	+4	+11	+13	+3	+7	+4	-1	-2	-8
2003 - 2004		+4	+1	+5	+5	+10	+8	+6	+2	+6	+3	+1	+5
2002 - 2003		+19	+9	+11	+11	+10	+13	+5	+5	+14	---	-5	-2
2001 - 2002		+4	+3	+6	-1	-9	+10	-5	+1	-3	+1	---	-5
2000 - 2001		+4	+4	-8	+2	-1	+11	-3	+2	+2	-5	-7	+3

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT
YEAR TO YEAR PERCENT CHANGE – SAME COHORT

Meridian District 232	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2008 - 2009					+2.2%	---	+5.4%	+7.0%	+2.6%	+3.6%	-8.0%	---	-6.2%
2007 - 2008				+7.8%	+4.6%	+4.0%	-2.1%	+2.7%	-1.8%	+0.7%	-1.9%	-10.5%	-4.4%
2006 - 2007			+4.9%	+5.6%	+4.2%	+8.2%	+7.9%	+6.2%	-4.5%	+6.1%	+4.5%	+4.6%	-10.3%
2005 - 2006		+13.9%	+9.2%	+9.2%	+3.9%	+8.6%	+8.1%	+5.4%	+4.3%	+0.6%	+0.7%	+2.6%	-4.3%
2004 - 2005		+4.8%	+11.2%	-0.8%	+3.2%	+8.0%	+9.6%	+2.2%	+4.8%	+2.7%	-0.7%	-1.4%	-6.4%
2003 - 2004		+4.3%	+0.8	+4.2%	+3.8%	+8.0%	+6.2%	+4.3%	+1.4%	+4.1%	+2.2%	+0.8%	+4.1%
2002 - 2003		+17.3%	+8.2%	+9.0%	+9.6%	+8.3%	+10.2%	+3.6%	+3.5%	+11.3%	---	-4.0%	-1.9%
2001 - 2002		+3.8%	+2.5%	+5.6%	-0.8%	-6.6%	+7.8%	-3.4%	+0.8%	-2.4%	+0.8%	---	-4.6%
2000 - 2001		+3.5%	+3.8%	-6.2%	+1.5%	-0.8%	+8.1%	-2.4%	+1.6%	+1.6%	-4.5%	-6.1%	+3.9%