

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MERIDIAN ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Projecting student enrollment in northeast Ogle County is an exercise in evaluating forces affecting District 223. The area exhibits population growth that is among the fastest in the Rockford area. New housing permits are being issued at a rapid pace. Some parents seek to “escape” from Rockford’s schools as suburbanization moves outward.

Thus high, but somewhat moderating 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.

Using Census and building permit information, population of the District has grown 27.9% from 7,156 in 2000 to an estimated 9,153 in 2005. Over the same period, District enrollment rose slightly less - 20.1% - since the most rapidly growing cohort was the pre-school group.

Projections are developed in this report by moving current classes forward and adding in 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.

Health Systems Research projects that District 223 will grow from an enrollment of 1,845 in 2005-2006 to 2,110 in 2009-2010, then reaching 2,862 in 2019-2020.

Suburbanization from the Rockford and Chicago areas could fuel even faster growth. A Hispanic influx might also add more to the student population. However, rising interest rates could dampen growth as the building of new homes wanes.

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 Townships – all in Ogle County plus a small area of Rockford Township in Winnebago County.

This fast-growing District was home to an estimated 9,153 persons in 2005, up 27.9% from 7,156 in 2000. 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 and migration and racial/ethnic composition.
2. Housing expansion.
3. Recent enrollment experience.

This report utilizes varying geographies because data availability differs for geographic areas. When possible, school district data is 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 population | C. Projected Enrollment |
| 1. Census Estimates: 2005 | 1. Growth Factors |
| 2. Housing Growth: 2000-2005 | 2. Population Projections to 2020 |
| 3. Births and Natural Increase: 2004 | 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. An accurate 2005 population estimate is 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.

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 of the characteristics. 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.

Table 1
 PROFILE OF MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223 RESIDENTS: 2000 CENSUS

Population	District 223		U.S.
	Number	Percent	Percent
	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.
	Number	Percent	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	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	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

Figure 1
MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

III. POPULATION GROWTH: 2000 - 2005

Census Estimates: July 1, 2005 for Geographic Units

Subcounty 2005 estimates were released by the Census Bureau on June 30, 2006 including 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
FOR MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 223 COMPONENTS
WITH COMPARISONS TO APRIL 1, 2000

Community	April 1, 2000	July 1, 2005	Change	Percent Change
Davis Junction	491	797 ²	+306	+62.3%
Monroe Center	494	504	+10	+2.0%
Stillman Valley Village	1,048	1,097	+49	+4.7%
Township ¹				
Marion Township	3,671	3,938	+267	+6.8%
Monroe Township	1,570	1,651	+81	+4.9%
Pine Rock Township	979	1,051	+72	+6.9%
Scott Township	1,671	2,053	+382	+18.6%
White Rock	709	767	+58	+6.4%

¹Township populations include incorporated areas within them.
District 223 also includes a portion of Rockford Township in Winnebago County.

²Estimated prior to Special Census results.

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

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 shows 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 much 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 1,247.

Housing Growth: 2000 - 2005

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 and Monroe Center.

School district boundaries are irregular and do not follow the boundaries of towns or township. 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, 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.

As Table 5 reveals, housing growth is extremely rapid across the area. 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.

When housing permits are tabulated for the school district, the entire District added 563 housing units in the 2000-2005 period, but 740 when the Census count is used for 2005.

Table 5
 NEW HOUSING UNITS IN THE MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223
 MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS: 2000 - 2005

Year	Davis Junction ²	Monroe Center	Stillman Valley	Marion Township	Monroe Township	Pine Rock Township	Scott Township	White Rock Township	Rockford Township	Total Area
2005	90	0	8	21	7	11	4	3	0	144
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	294	2	29	131	31	39	22	13	2	563

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 - 2005

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
	471	2	29	111	30	10	22	4	2	681

¹Census data used.

Table 8
HOUSING AND POPULATION GROWTH 2000 - 2005
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	2	29	111	30	10	(22)	4	2	659
Total 2005	643	184	446	862	601	85	429	87	199	3,536
Percent Change										
2000-2005	+273.8%	+1.1%	+7.0%	+14.8%	+5.3%	+13.3%	+5.1%	+4.8%	+1.0%	+22.9%
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	2,178	1,120	225	1,156	199	244	7,156
2005	1,849	500	1,188	2,532	1,213	255	1,156	211	249	9,153
Percent Change										
2000-2005	+276.6%	+1.2%	+13.4%	+16.3%	+8.3%	+13.3%	---	+6.0%	+2.0%	+27.9%

¹Census counts shown for Davis Junction.

²New homes assumed to be annexed into Davis Junction.

Births and Natural Increase

Migration is one of the major demographic factors affecting the Meridian District. However, in addition to migration, areas also grow 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.

Table 9
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE: 2002 - 2004
MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 223 MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

Area	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
Marion Township	9	31	-22
Monroe Township	45	26	+19
Pine Rock Township	22	23	-1
Scott Township	18	15	+3
White Rock Township	14	15	-1
Village of Stillman Valley	72	25	+47
Village of Davis Junction	93	22	+71
Total Area	273	157	+116
Estimate District 223	244	124	+120

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health
Monroe Center not incorporated 2002-2004.
Does not include Rockford Township.

Estimates for the District are that 244 births and 124 deaths took place for a three-year natural increase of +120 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. The District is 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 4,158 (7.7%) Hispanics in 2005 according to the Census Bureau. 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. Race/ethnic estimates are not available for 2005 for the population of the District.

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 2005 - 2006

School Year	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Nat. Amer.	Multi. Racial ¹
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 over the five-year period running from 1999-2000 to 2005-2006, with the District reaching a Hispanic level of 4.6% in 2005-2006. In-migration of Hispanic families could be a factor in larger enrollment.

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment trends over the past five years show that growth has been substantial moving from 1,536 in 2000-2001 to 1,845 in 2005-2006, a gain of 20.1% for the five-year period.

Table 12
STUDENT ENROLLMENT COMPARED
TO POPULATION GROWTH: 2000 - 2005

District	Student Enrollment	Population Growth
Meridian District 223	+20.1%	+27.9%

The explanation for the difference would appear to be that the fastest growing cohort is the preschool group which has expanded much faster than other age groups.

Table 13
ENROLLMENT: 2001 - 2002 TO 2005 - 2006
NUMERICAL CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR

Year	Meridian District 223
2005 - 2006	+91
2004 - 2005	+29
2003 - 2004	+76
2002 - 2003	+81
2001 - 2002	+32
Five Year Period	+309
Annual Average	+62

PERCENT CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR

Year	Meridian District 223
2005 - 2006	+5.2%
2004 - 2005	+1.7%
2003 - 2004	+4.6%
2002 - 2003	+5.2%
2001 - 2002	+2.1%
Five Year Period	+18.8%
Annual Average	+4.6%

Enrollment in Private Schools

In analyzing and projecting enrollment for public school districts, the level of private school enrollment must also be considered. The only residentially-based data differentiating public and private enrollment come from 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 area 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 factor 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 has been improving, moving from a low of 86% of 2001 graduates until 100% graduated in 2005.

Table 15
STILLMAN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION RATES: 2000 - 2005

Year	Graduation Rate
2005	100.0%
2004	95.9%
2003	91.3%
2002	89.5%
2001	86.0%
2000	89.9%

Passed and signed in 2004, S.B. 2918 gives parents and schools an added year to try 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, because of the "17" law and 100% graduation rate in 2004-2005 for the Meridian schools, the assumption is made that all Meridian students will enter grade 12.

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 has been low interest rates which ease the home ownership burden for families. More recently, interest rates for mortgages have risen due, in part, to Federal Reserve tightening of the economy. Higher rates could have a dampening effect on growth as new homes become more difficult for families to finance.

Population Projections to 2020

To project growth, population estimates have been developed for the 2000-2005 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. Growth usually takes place in a logistic (S) curve as the population base becomes larger. Thus, while the second half of the current decade is expected to experience growth at 4.5% annually, similar compared to the 2000-2005 rate of 4.8%, in succeeding five-year increments, population growth is expected to decline to about 3.8% in 2010-2015, then 2015-2020 will take place at 3.1%.

These assumptions are shown in Table 16 on the next page.

Annual population growth has been projected to 2019-2020.

Starting with the actual 2005-2006 classes based on data provided by the District, migration has been added annually based on the assumed rates shown in Table 16.

Kindergarten classes are brought into the analysis based on births (births x population estimate). They too are increased by in-migration, but at a higher rate. That rate is based on 2005-2006 Kindergarten enrollment compared to births five years earlier. 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 level.

Table 16
YEAR BY YEAR ASSUMED POPULATION AND RATES

Year	Births	Birth Rate	Population	0-5 Growth	Population Growth
2000-2001	71	9.9	7,156	12.0%	4.8%
2001	75	9.9	7,555	12.0%	4.8%
2002	79	9.9	7,954	12.0%	4.8%
2003	87	10.4	8,353	12.0%	4.8%
2004-2005	96	11.0	8,752	10.5%	4.8%
2005	103	11.3	9,153	9.0%	4.5%
2006	110	11.5	9,565	9.0%	4.5%
2007	118	11.8	9,995	9.0%	4.5%
2008	127	12.2	10,444	9.0%	4.5%
2009-2010	135	12.4	10,913	7.5%	4.5%
2010	141	12.4	11,328	6.0%	3.8%
2011	146	12.4	11,758	6.0%	3.8%
2012	152	12.4	12,205	6.0%	3.8%
2013	163	12.9	12,669	6.0%	3.8%
2014-2015			13,150	6.0%	3.8%
2015			13,558	6.0%	3.1%
2016			13,978	5.0%	3.1%
2017			14,411	5.0%	3.1%
2018			14,858	5.0%	3.1%
2019-2020			15,319	5.0%	3.1%

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 2009-2010 and then in five year increments thereafter. Pre-K is not considered.

Table 17
TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 2005 - 2006 TO 2019 - 2020
MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

Year	Enrollment
2005 - 2006	1,845
2006 - 2007	1,921
2007 - 2008	1,977
2008 - 2009	2,045
2009 - 2010	2,110
2014 - 2015	2,452
2019 - 2020	2,862

Table 18
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT: 2006 - 2007 TO 2019 - 2020
MERIDIAN DISTRICT 223

Year	Enrollment
2006 - 2007	4.1%
2007 - 2008	2.9%
2008 - 2009	3.4%
2009 - 2010	3.2%
2014 - 2015	3.9%
2019 - 2020	3.3%

Over the next five years, the District is projected to grow by 17.4%, just slightly lower than the last five years.

APPENDIX I

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

Enrollment figures do not include pre-K students.

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2005-2006	129	123	143	119	134	139	161	156	147	155	151	155	133	1,845
2006-2007	132	135	129	149	124	140	145	168	163	154	162	158	162	1,921
2007-2008	139	138	141	134	156	130	146	152	176	170	161	169	165	1,977
2008-2009	151	145	144	147	140	163	136	153	159	184	178	168	177	2,045
2009-2010	158	158	152	151	154	147	171	142	160	166	192	186	175	2,110
2010-2011	158	164	164	158	156	160	152	177	147	166	172	199	193	2,166
2011-2012	170	164	170	170	164	162	166	158	184	153	172	179	207	2,218
2012-2013	183	176	170	177	176	170	168	172	164	191	159	179	185	2,271
2013-2014	195	190	183	177	183	183	176	175	179	170	198	165	186	2,360
2014-2015	195	202	197	190	183	190	190	183	182	185	177	205	171	2,452
2015-2016	188	201	209	203	196	189	196	196	189	187	191	182	212	2,539
2016-2017	195	194	207	215	210	202	195	202	202	194	193	197	188	2,595
2017-2018	204	201	200	214	222	216	208	201	209	208	200	199	203	2,685
2018-2019	210	210	207	206	220	229	223	215	207	215	215	207	205	2,769
2019-2020	218	217	217	214	212	227	236	230	221	214	222	221	213	2,862

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT - NUMERIC CHANGE BY GRADE

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2006-2007	3	12	-14	30	-10	1	-16	12	16	-1	11	3	29	76
2007-2008	7	3	12	-15	32	-10	1	-16	13	17	-1	11	3	56
2008-2009	12	7	3	13	-16	33	-11	1	-17	13	17	-2	12	68
2009-2010	7	13	8	3	13	-17	35	-11	1	-18	14	18	-2	65
2010-2011	0	6	12	7	3	13	-18	35	-12	0	-20	13	18	56
2011-2012	12	0	6	12	7	3	13	-19	36	-13	0	-21	14	52
2012-2013	13	12	0	7	13	7	3	14	-20	38	-13	0	-21	53
2013-2014	12	13	13	0	7	13	8	3	15	-20	39	-14	0	89
2014-2015	0	12	14	13	0	7	14	8	3	15	-21	41	-15	92
2015-2016	-7	-1	12	13	13	-1	6	13	7	2	14	-23	41	88
2016-2017	7	-7	-1	12	14	13	-1	6	14	7	2	15	-24	55
2017-2018	9	7	-7	-1	12	14	13	-1	7	14	8	2	15	91
2018-2019	6	9	7	-8	-1	13	14	14	-1	7	14	8	2	84
2019-2020	8	6	10	8	-8	-2	13	15	14	-1	7	15	8	92

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT - PERCENT CHANGE BY GRADE

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2006-2007	2.3%	9.6%	-10.1%	25.6%	-7.2%	0.7%	-9.8%	7.8%	10.9%	-0.9%	7.3%	1.8%	21.8%	4.1%
2007-2008	5.3%	2.3%	9.6%	-10.1%	25.6%	-7.2%	0.7%	-9.8%	7.8%	10.9%	-0.9%	7.3%	1.8%	2.9%
2008-2009	8.6%	5.3%	2.3%	9.6%	-10.1%	25.6%	-7.2%	0.7%	-9.8%	7.8%	10.9%	-0.9%	7.3%	3.4%
2009-2010	4.6%	8.6%	5.3%	2.3%	9.6%	-10.1%	25.6%	-7.2%	0.7%	-9.8%	7.8%	10.9%	-0.9%	3.2%
2010-2011	0.0%	3.9%	7.9%	4.6%	1.6%	8.9%	-10.7%	24.7%	-7.8%	0.1%	-10.4%	7.1%	10.2%	2.7%
2011-2012	7.6%	0.0%	3.9%	7.9%	4.6%	1.6%	8.9%	-10.7%	24.7%	-7.8%	0.1%	-10.4%	7.1%	2.4%
2012-2013	7.6%	7.6%	0.0%	3.9%	7.9%	4.6%	1.6%	8.9%	-10.7%	24.7%	-7.8%	0.1%	-10.4%	2.4%
2013-2014	6.6%	7.6%	7.6%	0.0%	3.9%	7.9%	4.6%	1.6%	8.9%	-10.7%	24.7%	-7.8%	0.1%	3.9%
2014-2015	0.0%	6.6%	7.6%	7.6%	0.0%	3.9%	7.9%	4.6%	1.6%	8.9%	-10.7%	24.7%	-7.8%	3.9%
2015-2016	-3.6%	-0.7%	5.8%	6.9%	6.9%	-0.7%	3.2%	7.2%	3.9%	1.0%	8.1%	-11.3%	23.9%	3.6%
2016-2017	3.7%	-3.6%	-0.7%	5.8%	6.9%	6.9%	-0.7%	3.2%	7.2%	3.9%	1.0%	8.1%	-11.3%	2.2%
2017-2018	4.6%	3.7%	-3.6%	-0.7%	5.8%	6.9%	6.9%	-0.7%	3.2%	7.2%	3.9%	1.0%	8.1%	3.5%
2018-2019	2.9%	4.6%	3.7%	-3.6%	-0.7%	5.8%	6.9%	6.9%	-0.7%	3.2%	7.2%	3.9%	1.0%	3.1%
2019-2020	3.8%	2.9%	4.6%	3.7%	-3.6%	-0.7%	5.8%	6.9%	6.9%	-0.7%	3.2%	7.2%	3.9%	3.3%

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
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
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
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
2005-2006						+11	+12	+8	+6	+1	+1	+4	-6
2004-2005					+4	+11	+13	+3	+7	+4	-1	-2	-8
2003-2004				+5	+5	+10	+8	+6	+2	+6	+3	+1	+5
2002-2003			+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
2005-2006						+8.6%	+8.1%	+5.4%	+4.3%	+0.6%	+0.7%	+2.6%	-4.3%
2004-2005					+3.2%	+8.0%	+9.6%	+2.2%	+4.8%	+2.7%	-0.7%	-1.4%	-6.4%
2003-2004				+4.2%	+3.8%	+8.0%	+6.2%	+4.3%	+1.4%	+4.1%	+2.2%	+0.8%	+4.1%
2002-2003			+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%