



Regional Educational Facilities Alignment



Exploring Options



County Commissioners' Work Session

Presenters

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GIS | Demographics

Background & Comparison...

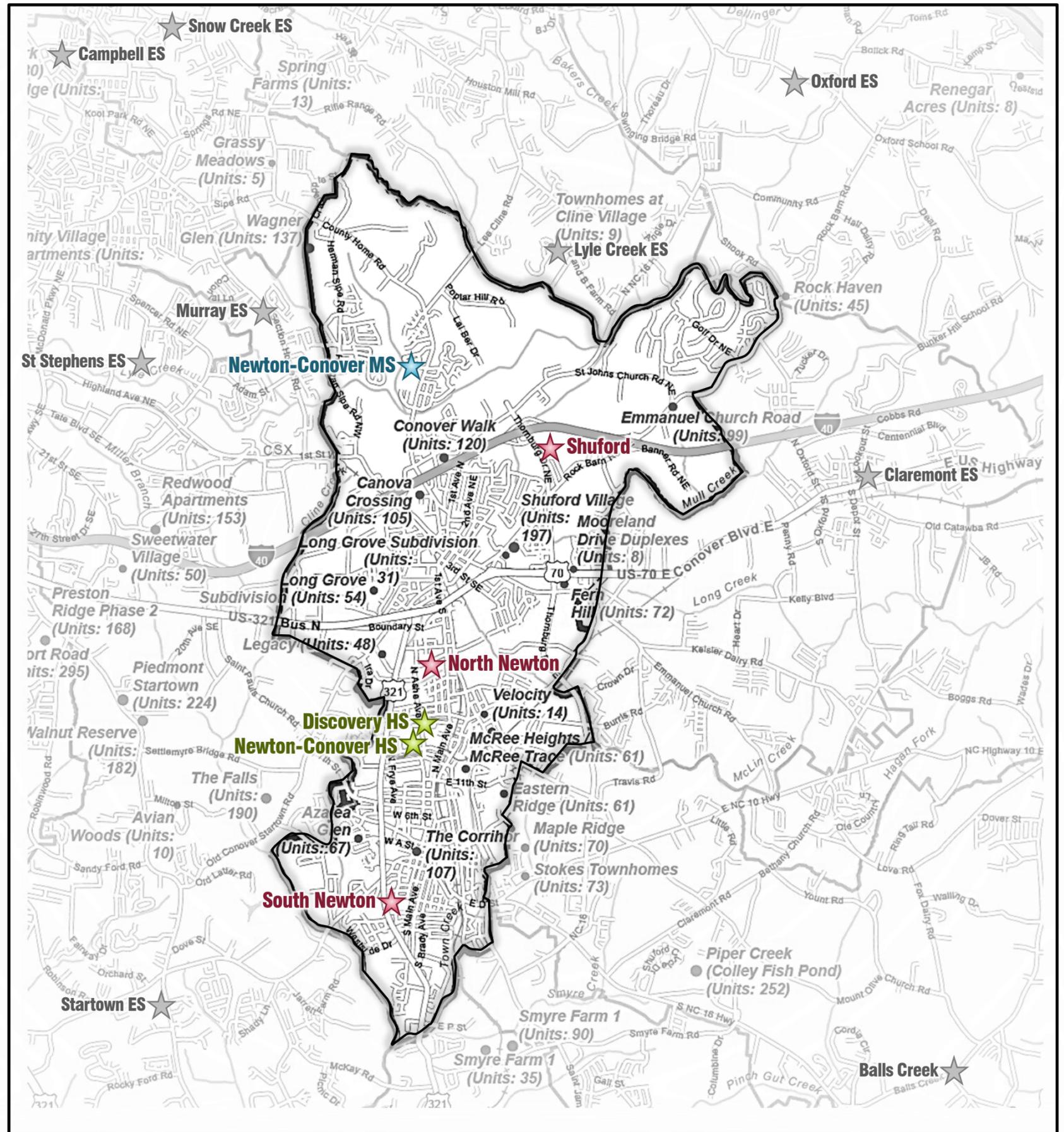
- **School Locations**
- **Enrollment History**
- **School Capacities**
 - By Grade Level
 - Per School
 - Utilization with Current Enrollment
- **Projections & Growth**
 - From Live Births
 - From New Housing Construction
- **Implications of a County-Wide Approach**

Ease Capacity Pressure through Optimized Facility Use

- **How can we optimize our facilities to accommodate existing and planned enrollment growth?**

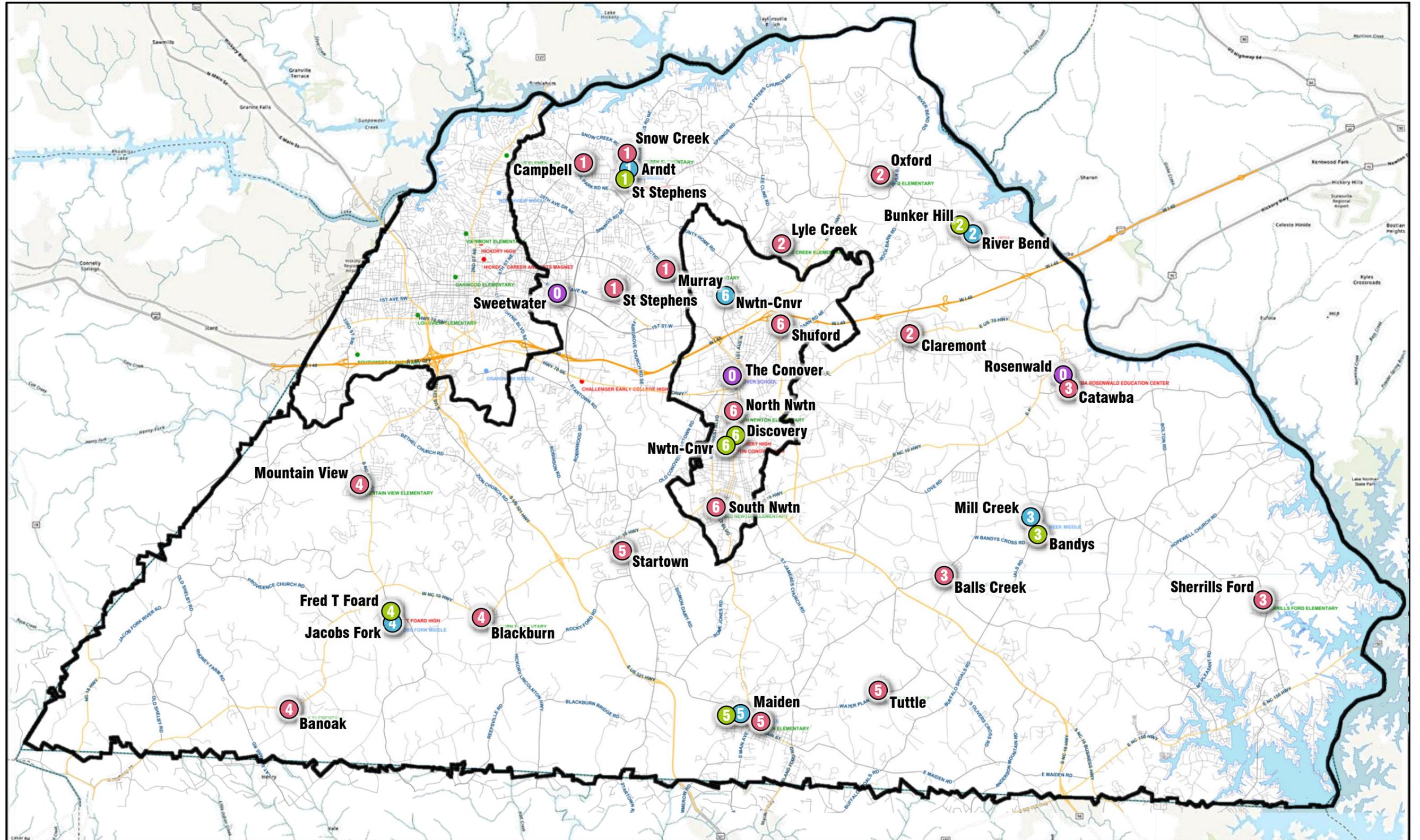
Newton-Conover City Schools

- ★ Elementary Schools
- ★ Middle Schools
- ★ High Schools



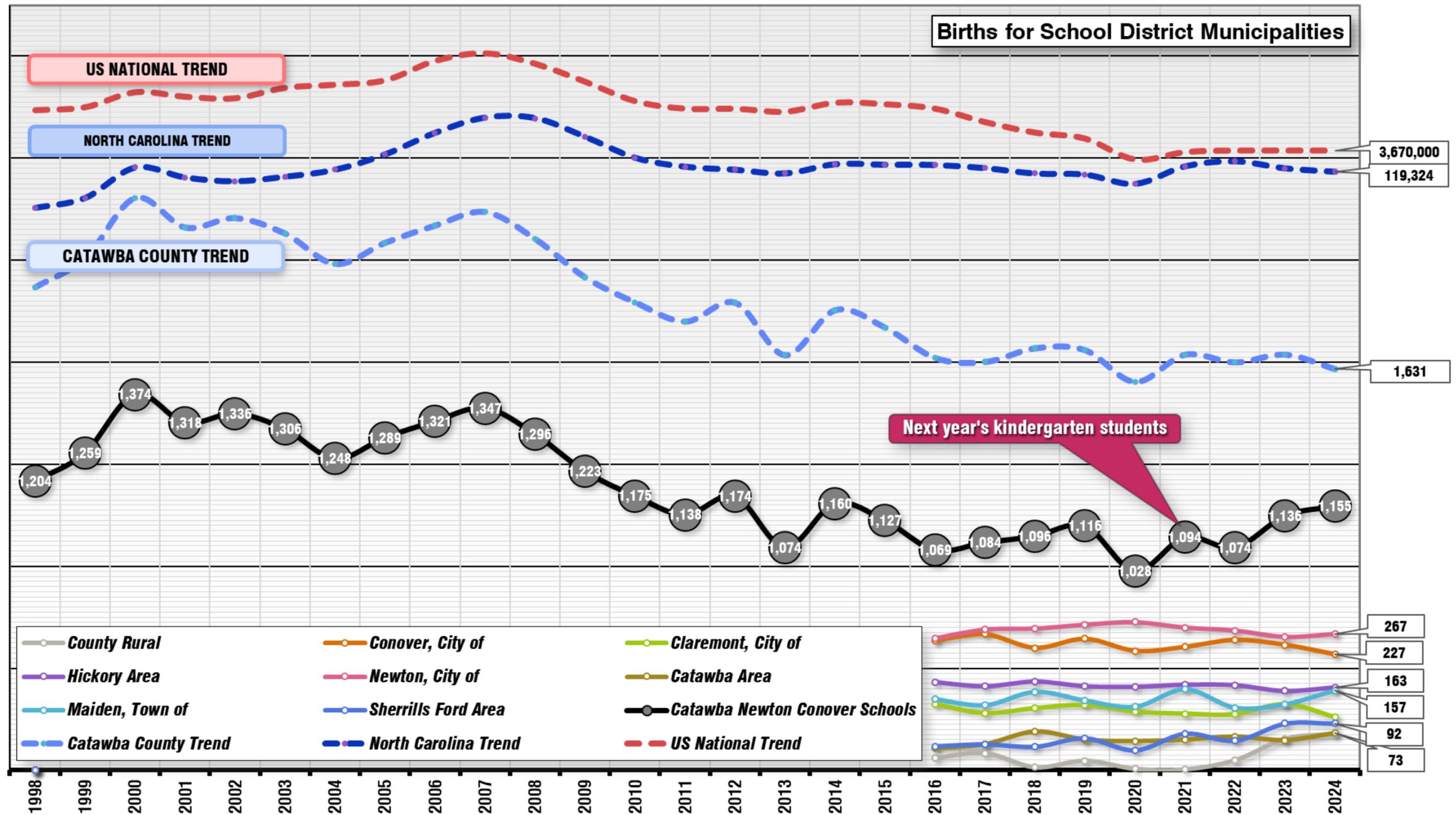
Catawba County Schools & Newton-Conover City Schools

- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Education Centers



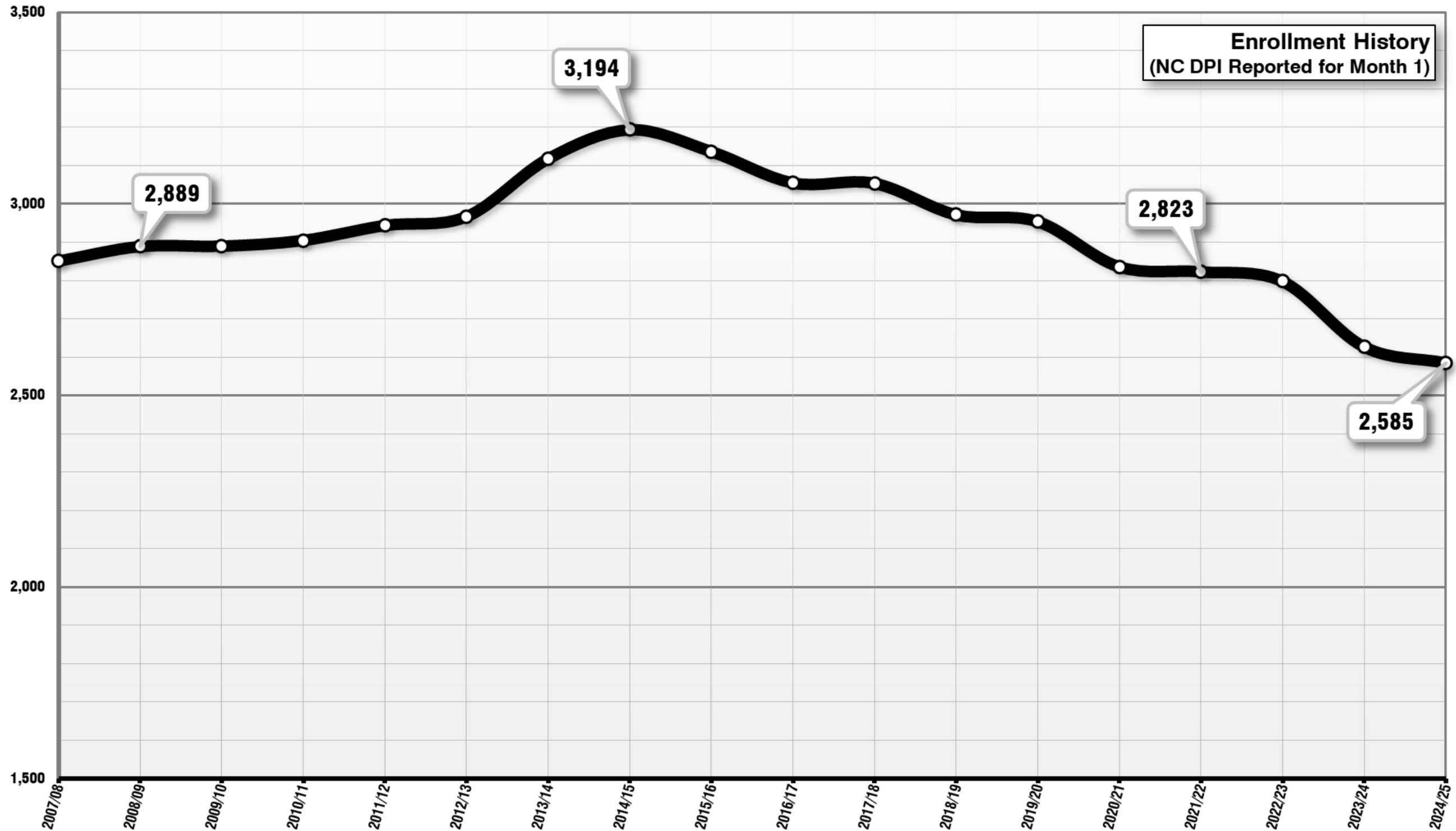
Contributing Municipal Births & Regional Trends

Combined Population



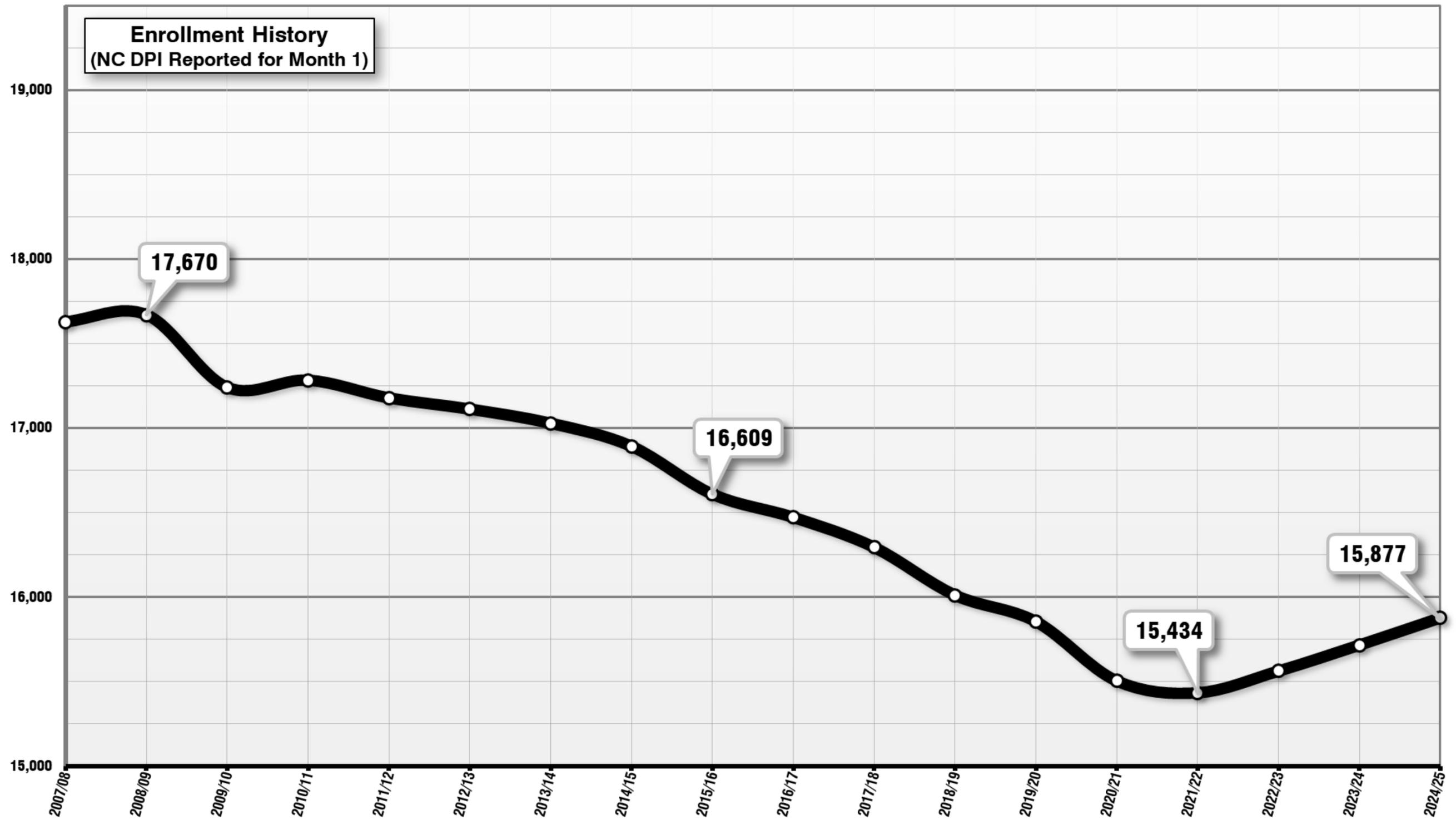
K-12 Enrollment History

Newton-Conover City Schools



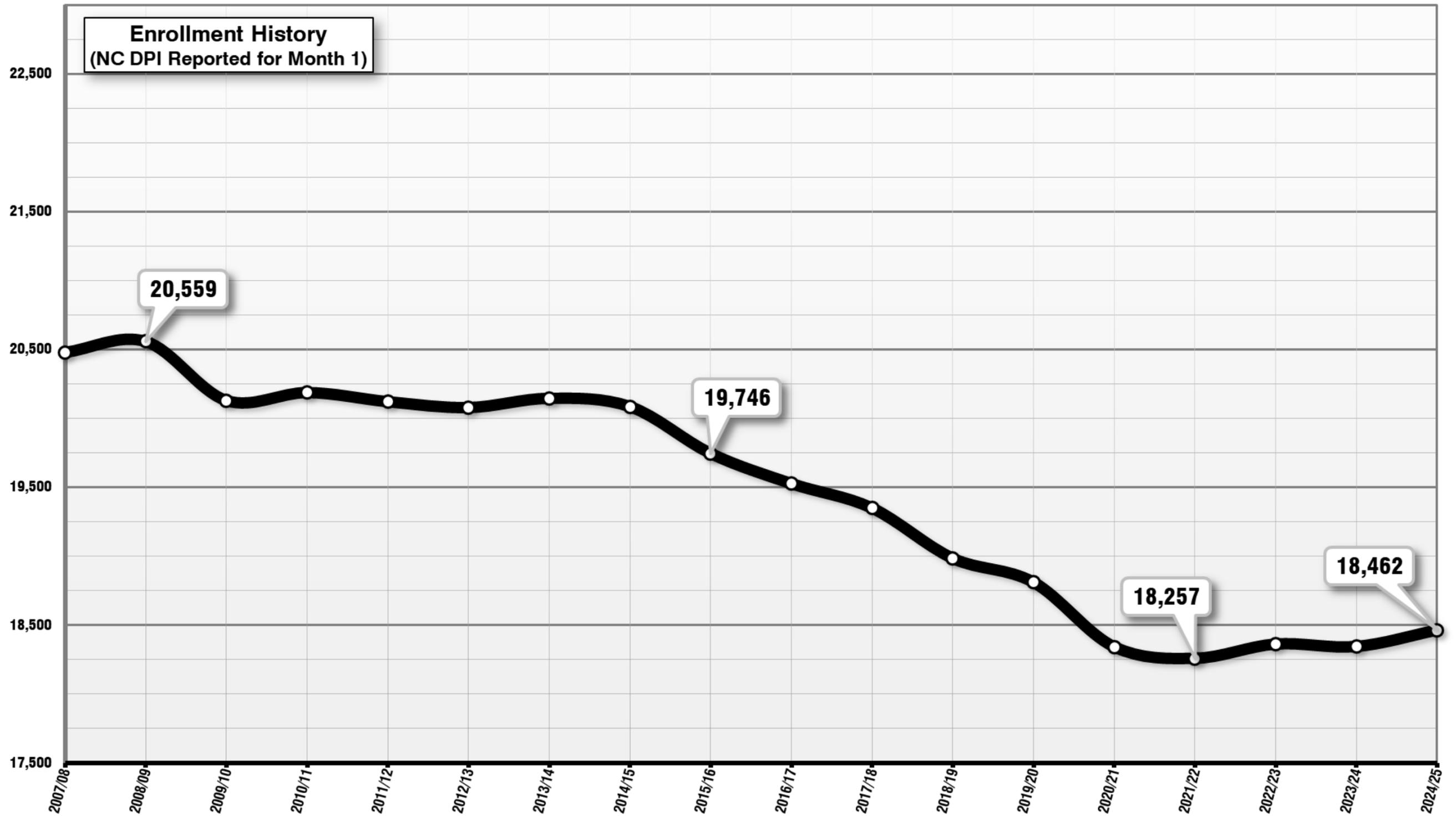
K-12 Enrollment History

Catawba County Schools



K-12 Enrollment History

Combined Population



NC Department of Public Instruction Capacity vs. “Practical Capacity”

DPI Capacity:

is based on simplistic scheduling and class sizes suitable for currently recommended instructional areas & sizes.

Practical Capacity:

is focused on how spaces are or can be used and scheduled effectively.

Practical capacities as we have computed them reflect specifically how the Catawba County Schools and the Newton-Conover City Schools currently use classrooms.

Consistent class size policies and adjustments for the use of smaller classrooms have been applied using the same methods for both districts.

Adjusted Buffer Capacity:

Capacities are computed with a buffer to accommodate for scheduling flexibility and variations between grade enrollments.

Elementary (grades K through 5) 85 %

- **Elementary class scheduling is rigid with strict class size limitations, so 85% is used.**

Secondary (grades 6 through 12) 80 %

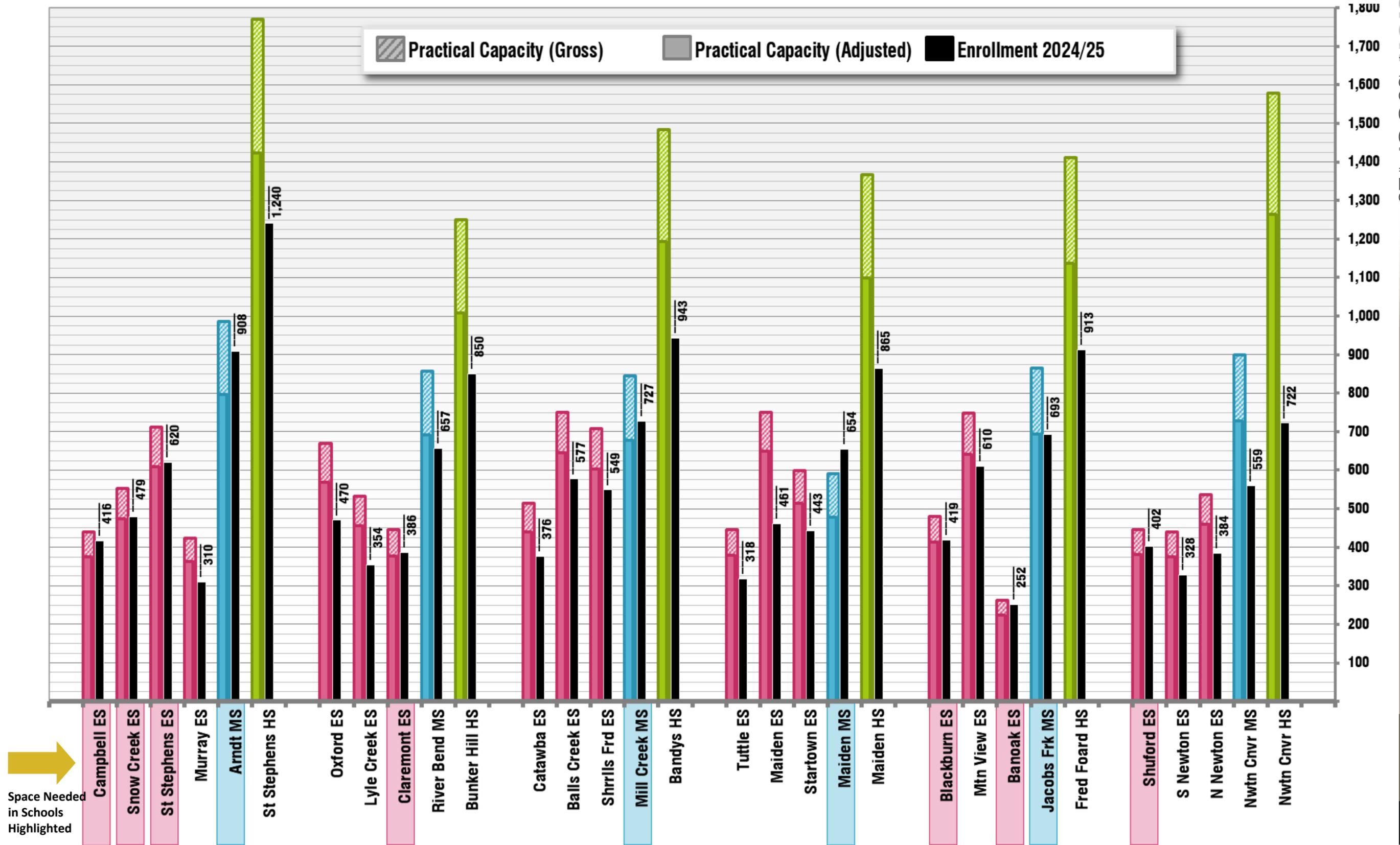
- **80% buffer space is required to accommodate the block scheduling used at the middle and high school levels.**

Gross Capacity 100 %

- **Gross capacity or 100% utilization is shown for reference. This is how many students can be seated in chairs, but not reflective of safe or effective educational procedures or guidelines.**

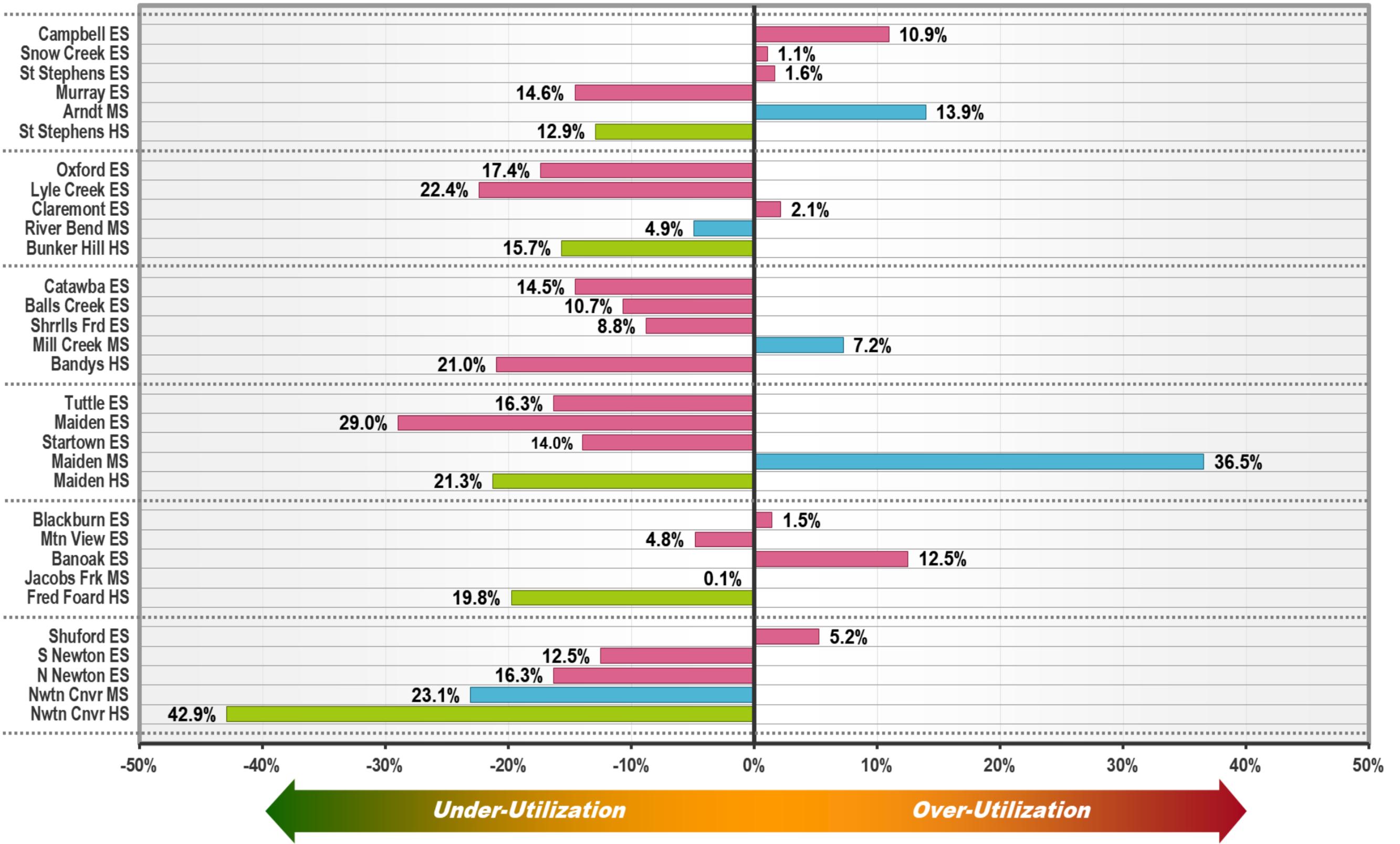
Existing Capacity and Enrollment Comparison

Combined Population



Utilization for Enrollment @ Buffered Capacity

Combined Population



Anticipating Students from Migration Growth

New Housing Units

- Based on visits with Municipality and County Planners collecting information about:
 - Type of housing unit and quantity to be constructed
 - Likelihood of development being completed (planning stage, developer history)
 - Timeframe for construction (construction start date and time to finish)

Total New Households

- Determined based on vacancy rate and type of unit

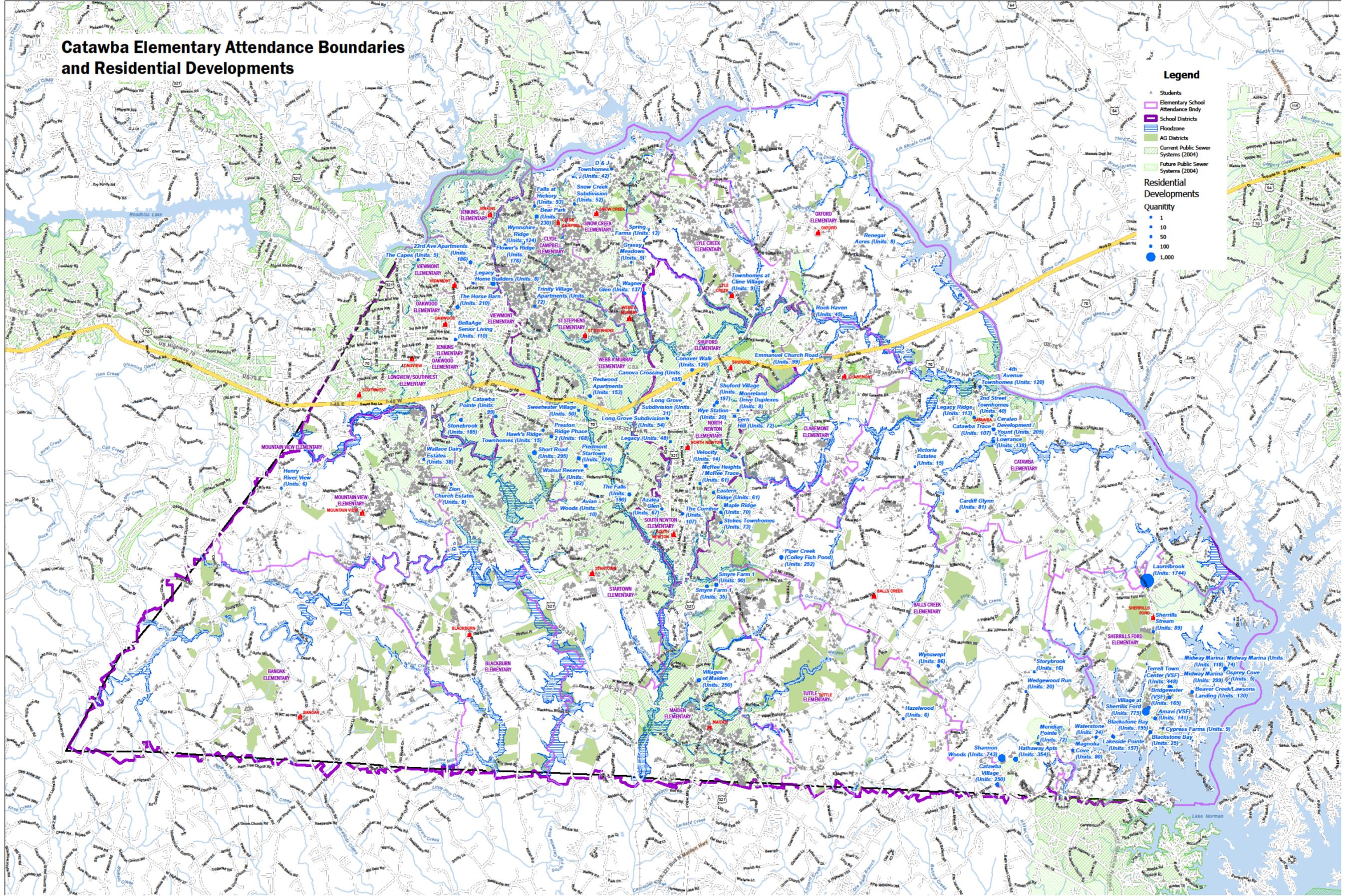
Households Likely to have Kids < 18

- Based on housing type and census tract statistics from 2020 with updates from 2022

Potential Students in Catawba County Schools

- Assumption that current private/public school pattern will continue with 10% private (religion-based, largely Lutheran)
- Assumption that the distribution of kids < 18 is likely to be weighted toward elementary age

Catawba Elementary Attendance Boundaries and Residential Developments



Legend

- Students
- Elementary School Attendance Body
- School Districts
- Floodzone
- AG Districts
- Current Public Sewer Systems (2004)
- Future Public Sewer Systems (2004)

Residential Developments

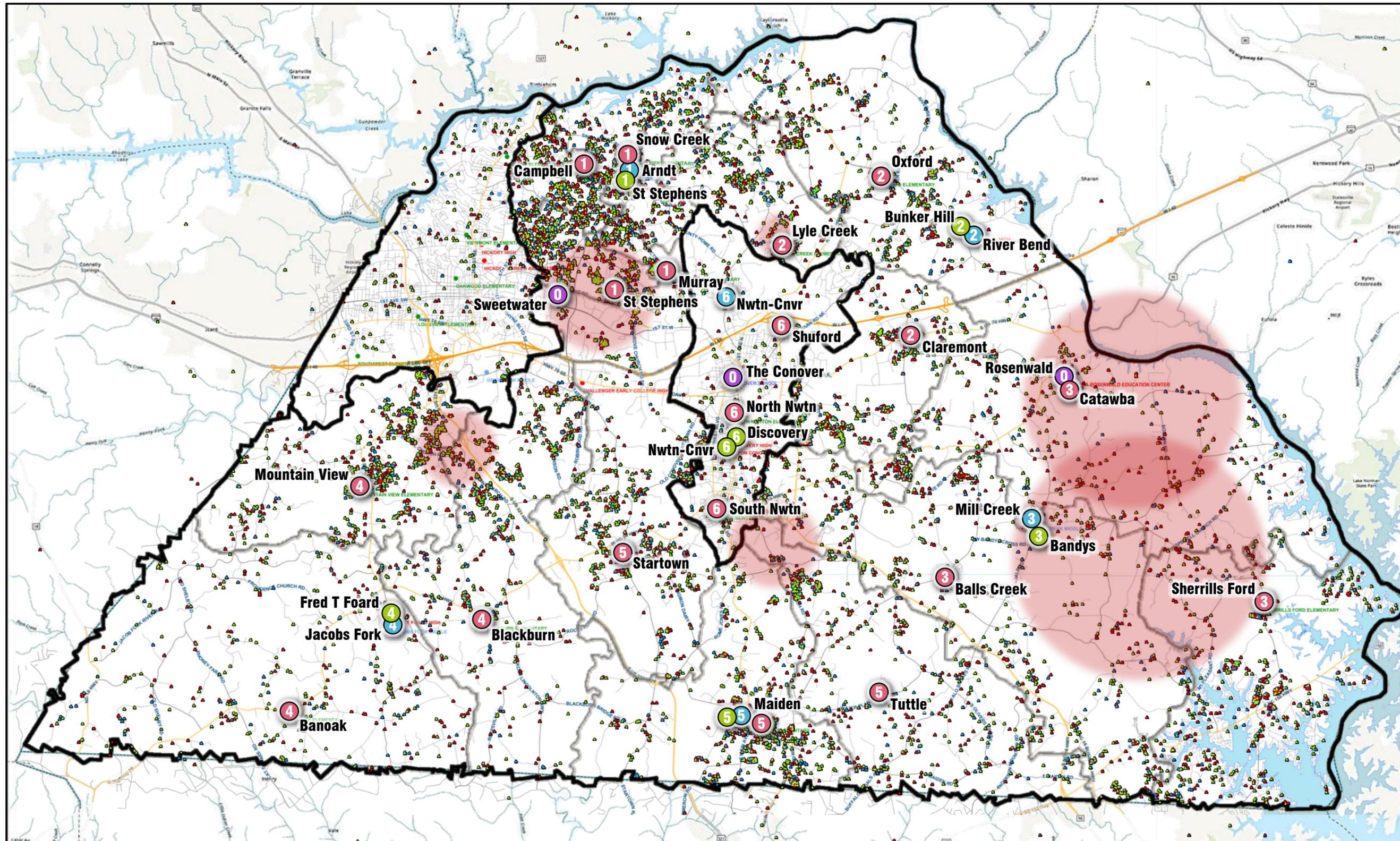
Quantity

- 1
- 10
- 50
- 100
- 1,000

Catawba County Schools

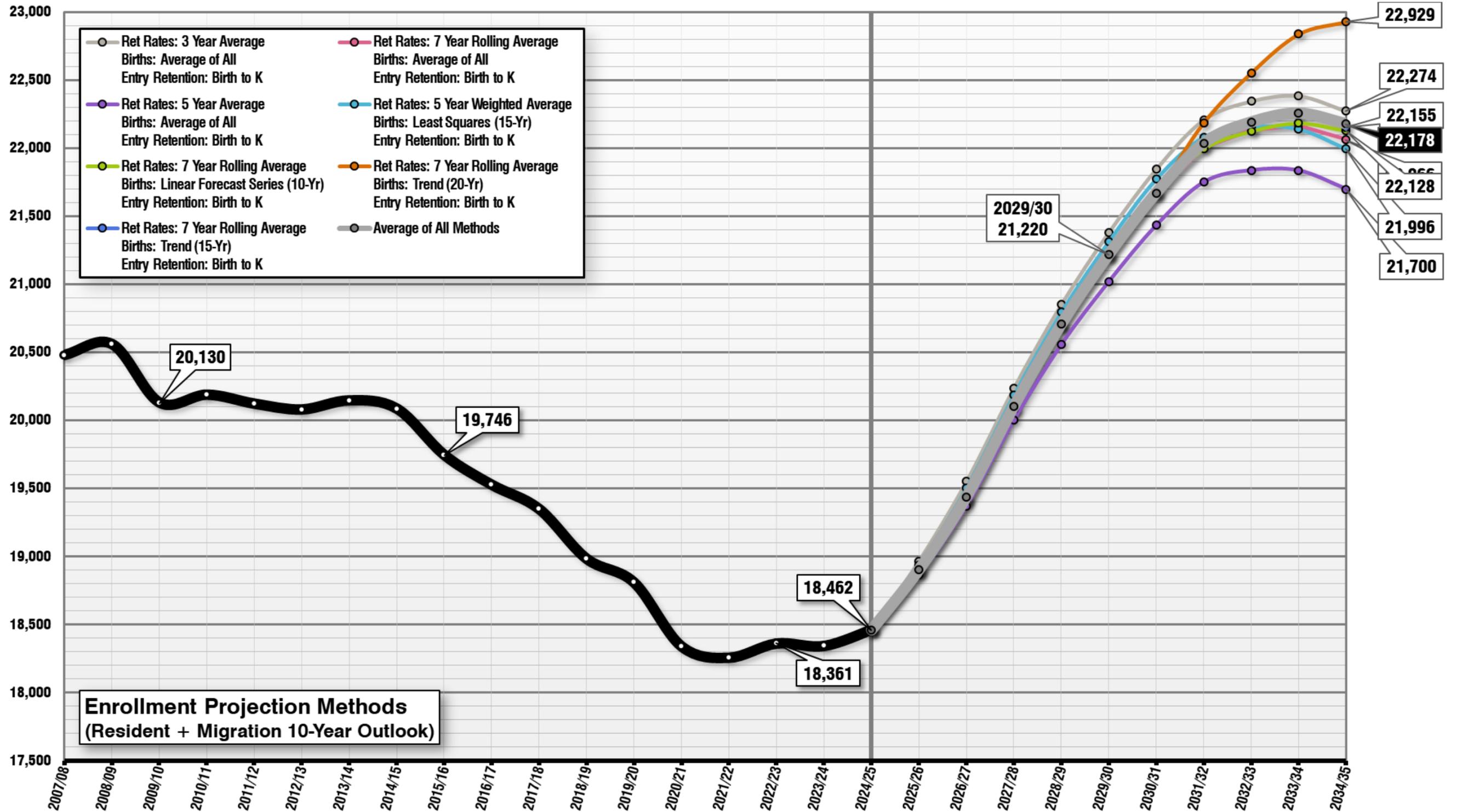
Schools, Students, Boundaries

- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Education Centers



Enrollment History & 7 Method Projection Average Resident + Migration Growth (10-Year Outlook)

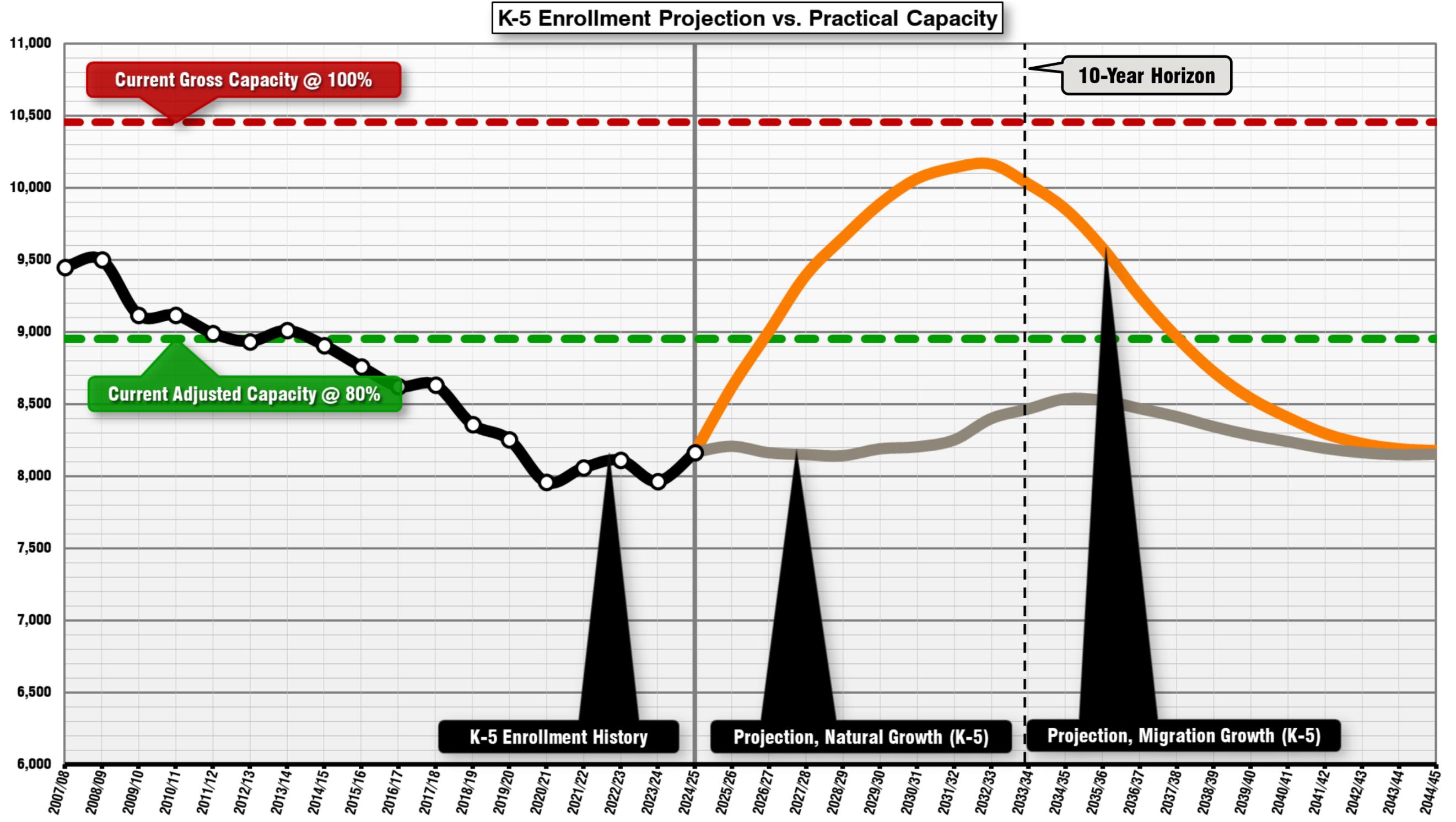
Combined Population



K-5 Projection vs. Capacity

Combined Population

This represents the move of 6th grade into the middle schools for Catawba County Schools

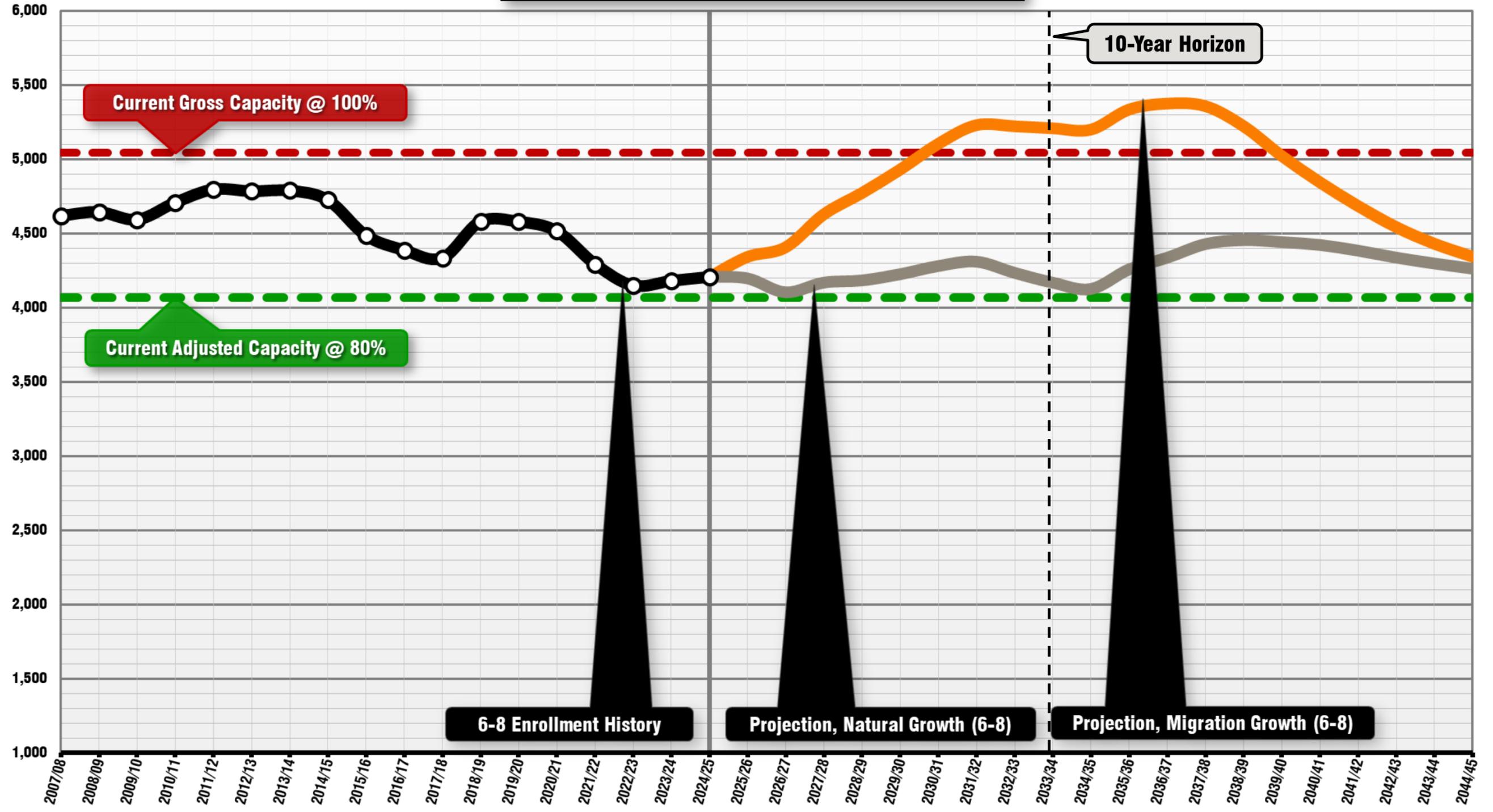


6-8 Projection vs. Capacity

Combined Population

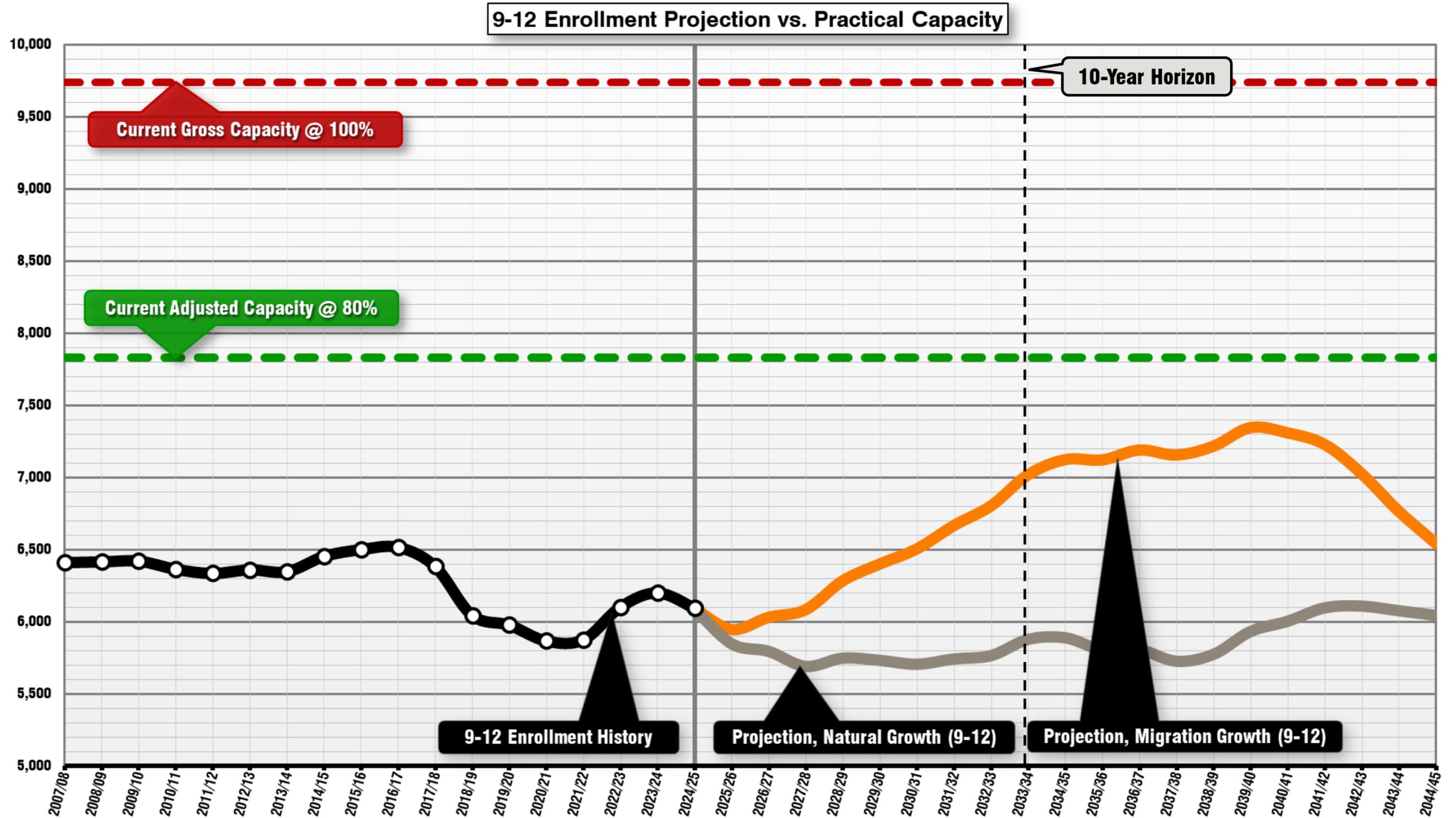
This represents the move of 6th grade into the middle schools for Catawba County Schools

6-8 Enrollment Projection vs. Practical Capacity



9-12 Projection vs. Capacity

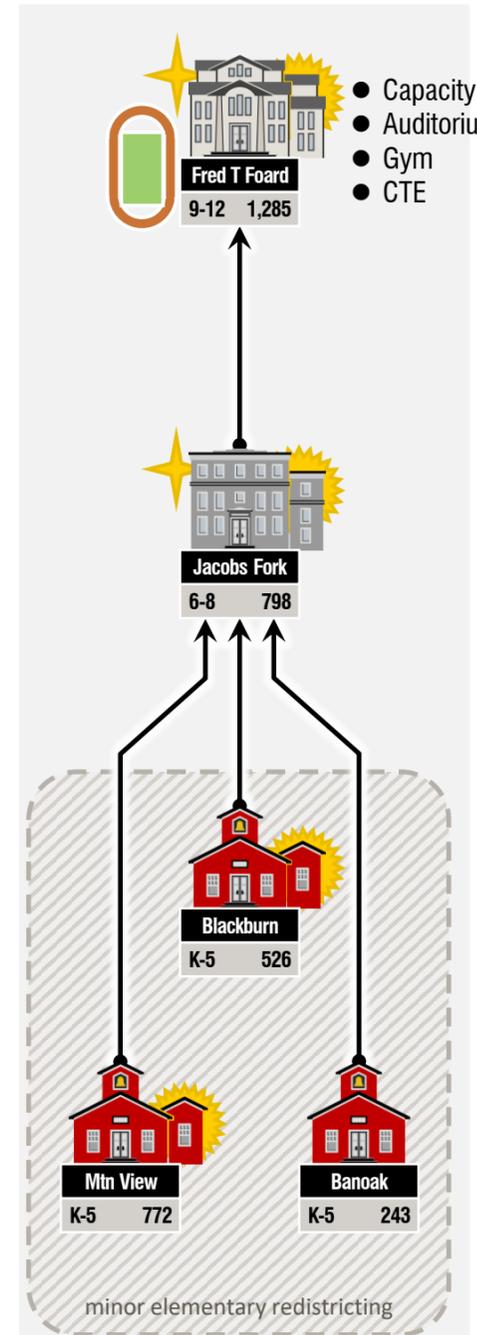
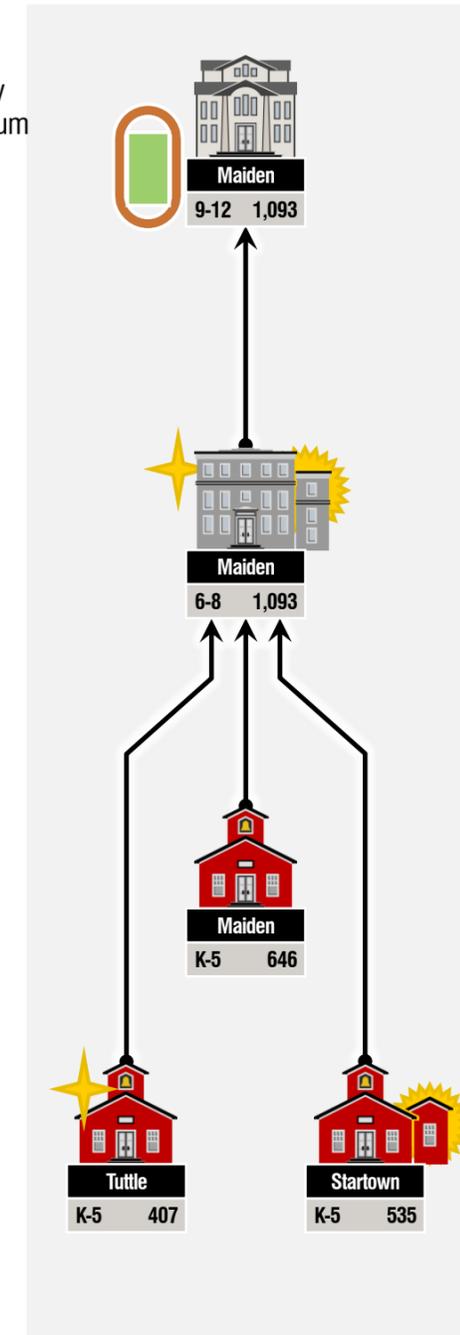
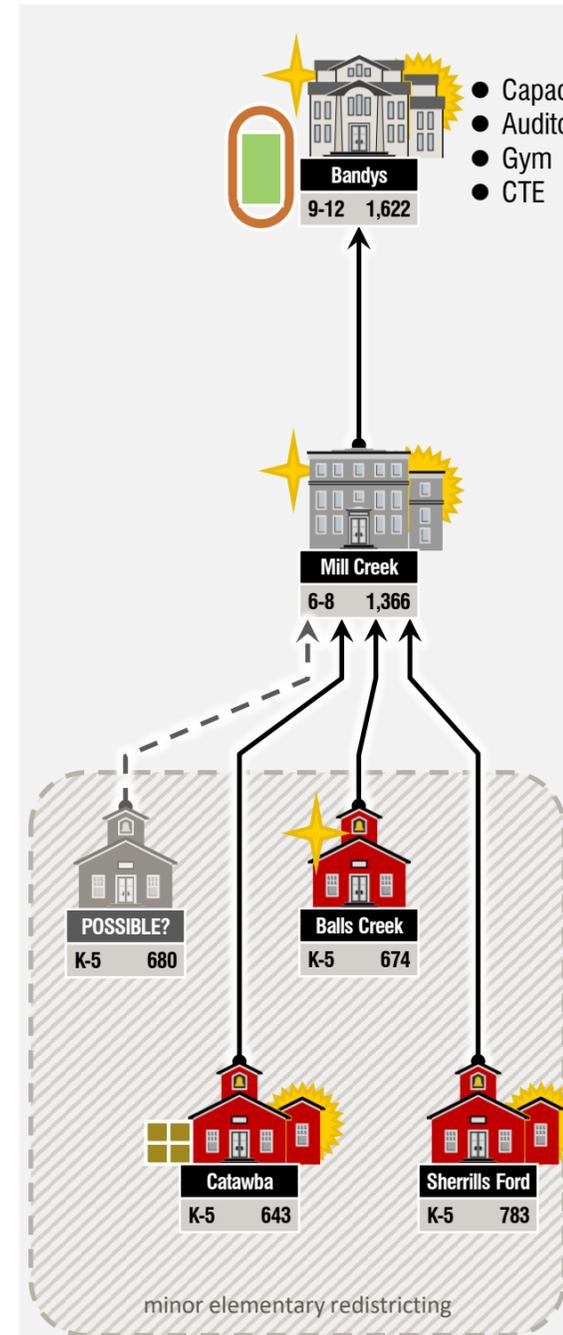
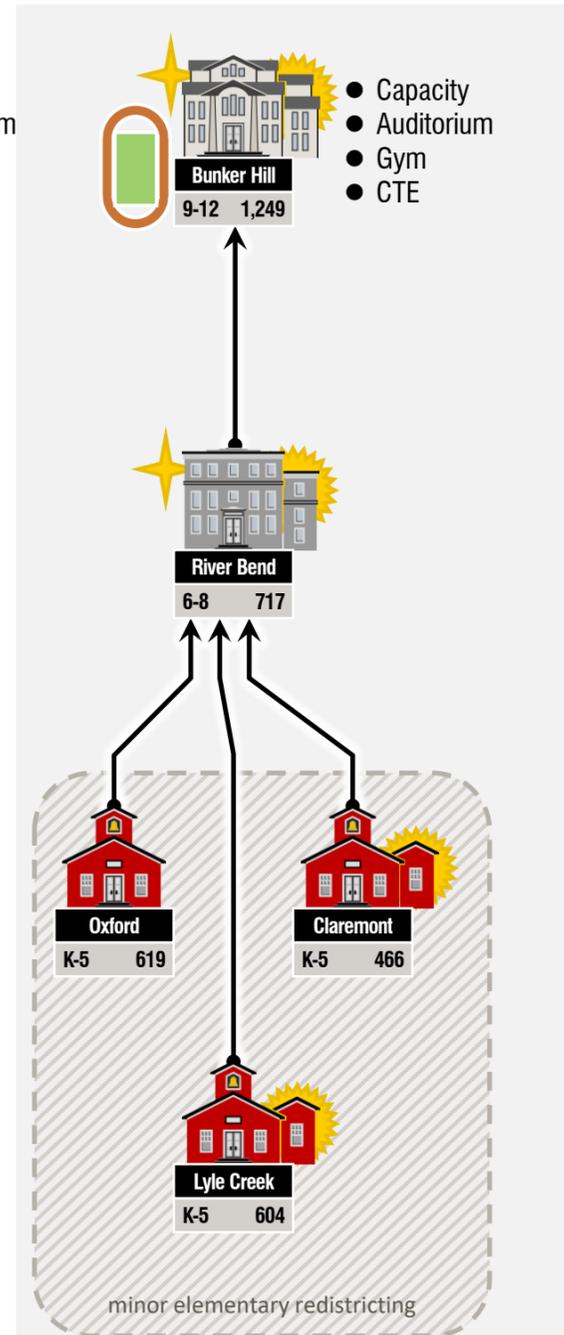
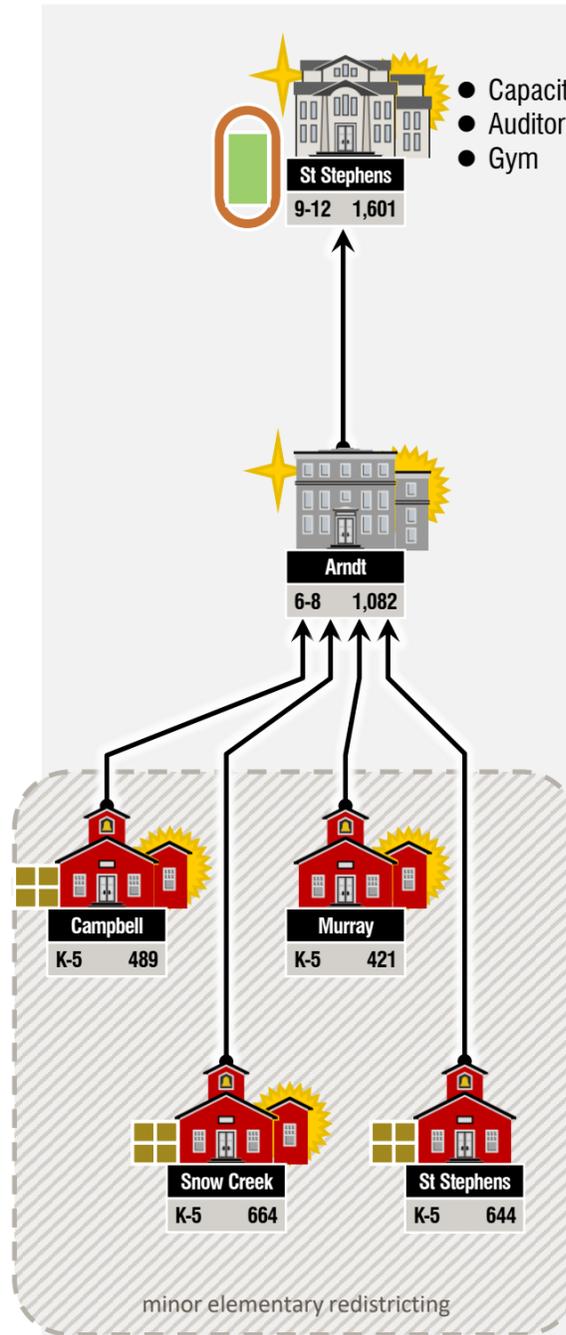
Combined Population



Tentative Strategy for Catawba County Schools

K-5/6-8 with HS Equity

Grade Level	Schools	Seats	Buffer	Capacity	Renov SF	New SF	Cost
Elementary Schools	K-5	16	10,756 @ 85%	9,136	TBD	TBD	\$ TBD
Middle Schools	6-8	5	5,944 @ 80%	4,755	TBD	TBD	\$ TBD
High Schools	9-12	5	8,566 @ 80%	6,850	TBD	TBD	\$ TBD
Total		26	25,268	20,741	TBD	TBD	\$ TBD

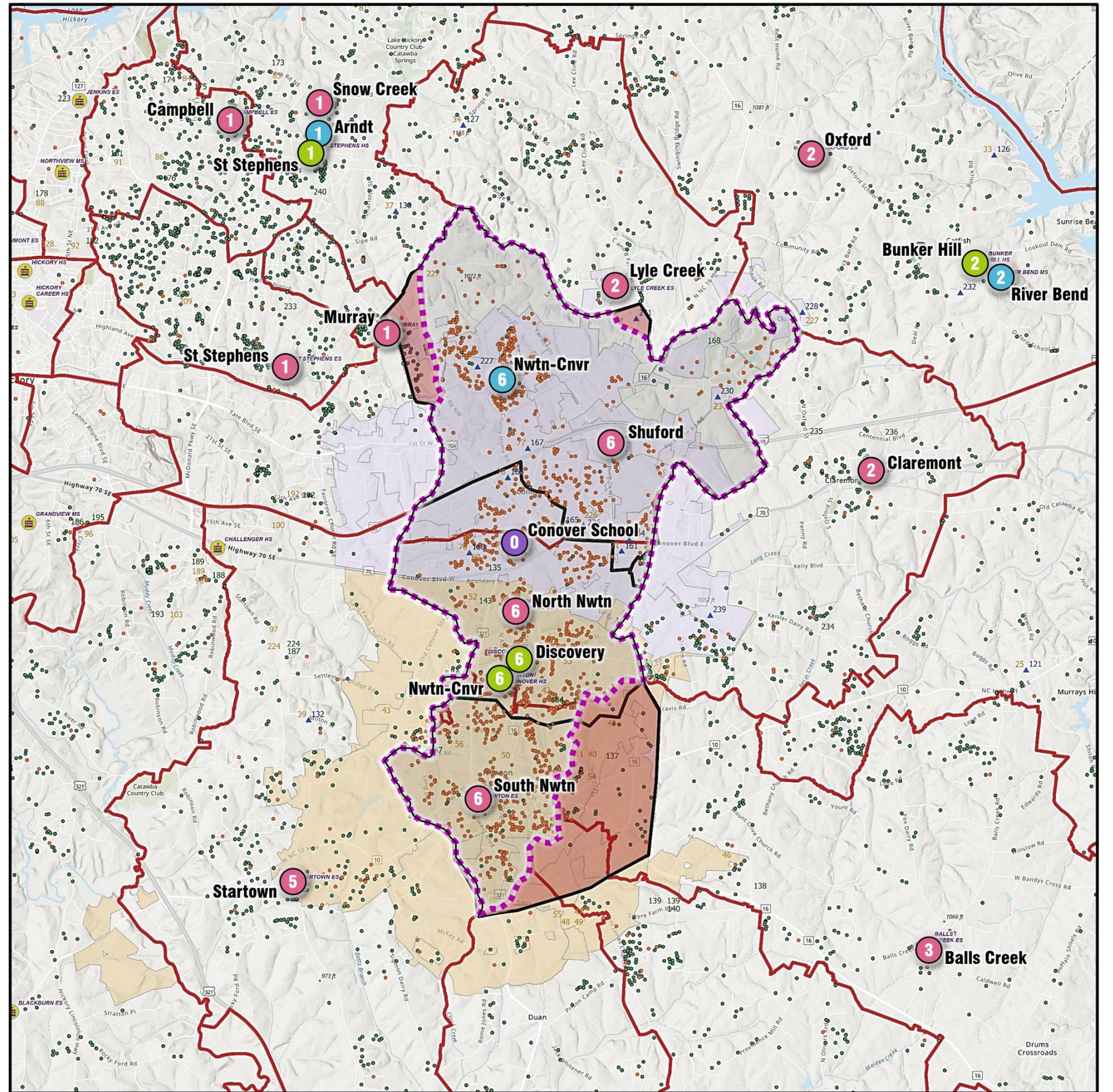


Newton-Conover City Schools Capacity & Utilization

NCCS Facility		Capacity			Utilization	Enrollment 2024/25
		Gross	Buffer	Adjusted		
Newton Conover	Shuford ES	446	85 %	382	90.13%	402
Newton Conover	South Newton ES	439	85 %	375	71.30%	313
Newton Conover	North Newton ES	536	85 %	459	71.64%	384
Newton Conover	Newton Conover MS	900	80 %	727	62.11%	559
Newton Conover	Newton Conover HS	1,579	80 %	1,265	45.73%	722
Newton Conover		3,900		3,208	61.03%	2,380
		<i>Excludes Discovery/Conover</i>			<i>Excludes Discovery/Conover</i>	

Ease Capacity Pressure through Optimized Facility Use:

-  Conover City Extents
-  Newton City Extents
-  Existing Boundary for Newton-Conover City Schools
-  Extended Boundary for Newton-Conover City Schools
-  Additional Area for Newton-Conover City Schools
-  Elementary Schools
-  Middle Schools
-  High Schools
-  Special Education Center



Ease Capacity Pressure through Optimized Facility Use: Changes to Utilization

NCCS Facility		Existing Students Disrupted		After Transfers		Students from New Developments (Year 10)				Enrollment	
		Option Change		Enrollment		Option Changes	Original	Total	Enrollment		
		Out	In	Utilization	w/Transfers	Out	In	Still In	Change	Utilization	w/New Devs
		In from other NCCS	In from CCS	Utilization	w/Transfers	Shifting within NCCS	In from CCS	Not Shifting within NCCS	Total Change	Utilization	w/New Devs
Newton Conover	Shuford ES	- 56	80	95.52%	426	- 10	35	53	78	113.00%	504
Newton Conover	South Newton ES	- 18	95	88.84%	390	- 7	57	17	67	104.10%	457
Newton Conover	North Newton ES	74	35	91.98%	493	17	21	27	65	104.10%	558
Newton Conover	Newton Conover MS		107	74.00%	666		90	96	186	94.67%	852
Newton Conover	Newton Conover HS		138	54.46%	860		108	108	216	68.14%	1,076
Newton Conover			455	72.69%	2,835		311	301	612	88.38%	3,447
		149	NCCS students moved within NCCS			17	NCCS students in different ES			w/o Option	2,395

Net increase of redirected students is 766

**Ease Capacity Pressure through Optimized Facility Use:
Capital Cost Offsets**

CCS Students Served by Newton-Conover Schools		(SF per Pupil x 1.58 circulation)			Immediate
● Elementary	210 students	@ 58 sf/pp	22,562 SF	@ \$ 450 / SF	\$ 10,152,900
● Middle	107 students	@ 68 sf/pp	11,496 SF	@ \$ 450 / SF	\$ 5,173,200
● High School	138 students	@ 78 sf/pp	17,007 SF	@ \$ 450 / SF	\$ 7,653,150
● Project Costs				@ 15%	3,446,888
➔ TOTAL	455 students		51,065 SF		\$ 26,426,138

Future CCS Growth Served by Newton-Conover Schools		(SF per Pupil x 1.58 circulation)			10-Year Growth
● Elementary	113 students	@ 58 sf/pp	10,355 SF	@ \$ 450 / SF	\$ 4,659,750
● Middle	90 students	@ 68 sf/pp	9,670 SF	@ \$ 450 / SF	\$ 4,351,500
● High School	108 students	@ 78 sf/pp	13,309 SF	@ \$ 450 / SF	\$ 5,989,050
● Project Costs				@ 15%	\$ 2,250,045
➔ TOTAL	311 students		33,334 SF		\$ 17,247,345

Avoided Capital Costs from the Utilization of Existing Capacity	766 Students	\$ 43,673,483
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Ease Capacity Pressure through Optimized Facility Use:**Advantages**

- **Space available immediately to accommodate Catawba County Schools growth; allows more planning time and flattens spending curve**
- **Catawba County Schools capital improvement costs partially avoided through using existing capacity in Newton Conover City Schools**
- **Fixed facility operations & maintenance costs offset by increased enrollment – lower cost per student county-wide**
- **School budgets for staffing positively impacted by student enrollment growth; programming can be restored in sciences, STEM, etc.**
- **Staffing stability and recruitment improves (recruiting teachers for districts with declining enrollment is challenging)**

Challenges

- **Shift in elementary attendance areas required to accommodate Shuford growth, balance students from Murray or St Stephens Elementaries**
- **Newton-Conover High school remains under-utilized**
- **Current Newton-Conover City Schools facilities may return to larger class sizes as a result of optimization**
- **Possible loss of autonomy for Newton-Conover Schools under mantle of combined management**



Regional Educational Facilities Alignment



Exploring Options



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