

# State Notes

## TOPICS OF LEGISLATIVE INTEREST

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### Public School Enrollment – A Geographical Representation By Debra Hollon, Fiscal Analyst

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Overall, enrollment in Michigan's public schools has been falling continuously for several years. For fiscal year (FY) 2009-10, total statewide enrollment is projected to fall by over 29,000 pupils (1.8%) from the FY 2008-09 estimates. When compared with just five years ago, the FY 2009-10 estimate is a decrease of almost 107,000 pupils (6.3%) statewide. Because State School Aid payments are calculated based upon enrollment (a per-pupil allowance), school district and charter school budgets are being increasingly affected by this trend. For example, Detroit Public Schools are projected to have an FY 2009-10 enrollment of 86,315 pupils, which would be a decrease of 9,613 pupils from the current year. With an FY 2008-09 foundation allowance of \$7,660, that enrollment decrease would equate to the loss of \$73.6 million in State funding (assuming no change in the foundation allowance).

There are multiple factors involved in the decrease in public school enrollment. One of these is the decline in birth rates over the past 15 to 20 years. There are simply fewer children being born in Michigan than there were in the past. Smaller kindergarten classes are entering the system while larger senior classes are exiting, resulting in lower enrollment. Table 1 reflects the actual Michigan birth rates from 1988 through 2007.

**Table 1**

<b>Michigan Birth Rates</b>	
<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Michigan Births</b>
1988	139,635
1989	148,164
1990	153,080
1991	149,478
1992	143,827
1993	139,560
1994	137,844
1995	134,169
1996	133,231
1997	133,549
1998	133,649
1999	133,429
2000	136,048
2001	133,247
2002	129,518
2003	130,850
2004	129,710
2005	127,518
2006	127,537
2007	123,383

**Source:** Michigan Department of Community Health

Another factor involves the net migration of the State's population. Net migration is the difference between the number of individuals moving into the State and the number moving out.



For the period from August 2007 through July 2008, net migration estimates by the Michigan State Demographer indicate a loss of over 92,600 residents. For the five-year period from August 2003 through July 2008, the loss totals over 288,500. While these statistics do not include the age of the individuals involved, it is reasonable to assume there are families leaving the State with school-age or younger children. Table 2 outlines the migration patterns for this five-year period.

**Table 2**

<b>Michigan Migration</b>			
<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Net International Migration</b>	<b>Net U.S. Migration</b>	<b>Net Total Michigan Migration</b>
August 2003-July 2004	17,598	(39,853)	(22,255)
August 2004-July 2005	18,279	(57,267)	(38,988)
August 2005-July 2006	18,527	(73,991)	(55,464)
August 2006-July 2007	16,627	(95,787)	(79,160)
August 2007-July 2008	16,621	(109,257)	(92,636)

**Source:** Michigan State Demographer, Library of Michigan

### School District Data

A look at data strictly for school districts reveals a trend similar to the State's migration pattern. The FY 2008-09 estimated school district enrollment dropped by almost 35,000 pupils (2.2%) from FY 2007-08. Tables 3 and 4 below outline the five districts with the greatest reduction in enrollment from FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09 in terms of percentage and absolute numbers. Tables 5 and 6 list those districts with the greatest increase in enrollment (both percentage and absolute numbers) over the same time period. Proportionally large shifts in enrollment are not limited to either large or small districts; both large and small school districts are affected.

**Table 3**

<b>School Districts with Greatest Percentage Enrollment Decrease</b>				
<b>School District</b>	<b>FY 2007-08 Enrollment</b>	<b>FY 2008-09 Enrollment</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Bloomfield Township	7.1	4.8	(2.3)	(32.9)%
Free Soil	99.1	72.3	(26.8)	(27.1)
Oneida Township	18.0	14.6	(3.4)	(19.0)
Highland Park	3,419.0	2,783.3	(635.7)	(18.6)
Bois Blanc Pines	2.8	2.3	(0.4)	(15.3)

**Source:** Michigan Department of Education

**Table 4**

<b>School Districts with Greatest Absolute Enrollment Decrease</b>				
<b>School District</b>	<b>FY 2007-08 Enrollment</b>	<b>FY 2008-09 Enrollment</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Detroit	106,485.4	95,927.5	(10,557.8)	(9.9)%
Flint	15,486.7	14,044.0	(1,442.7)	(9.3)
Pontiac	8,245.1	7,435.2	(810.0)	(9.8)
Grand Rapids	20,077.6	19,370.1	(707.5)	(3.5)
Highland Park	3,419.0	2,783.3	(635.7)	(18.6)

**Source:** Michigan Department of Education



**Table 5**

<b>School Districts with Greatest Percentage Enrollment Increase</b>				
<b>School District</b>	<b>FY 2007-08 Enrollment</b>	<b>FY 2008-09 Enrollment</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Grant Township	2.7	4.0	1.3	49.3%
Inkster	2,228.0	2,942.6	714.6	32.1
Ionia	8.0	10.0	2.0	25.0
Easton Township	27.2	32.0	4.8	17.7
Palo	42.0	46.0	4.0	9.5

**Source:** Michigan Department of Education

**Table 6**

<b>School Districts with Greatest Absolute Enrollment Increase</b>				
<b>School District</b>	<b>FY 2007-08 Enrollment</b>	<b>FY 2008-09 Enrollment</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Inkster	2,228.0	2,942.6	714.6	32.1%
Hazel Park	4,662.0	4,981.0	319.0	6.8
Kalamazoo	11,283.7	11,561.6	277.8	2.5
Chippewa Valley	15,344.6	15,568.0	223.4	1.5
L'Anse Creuse	11,727.1	11,945.7	218.6	1.9

**Source:** Michigan Department of Education

Because a listing of enrollment changes for the 542 school districts in Michigan can make regional and statewide comparisons difficult, the attached map represents these data geographically. The color for each school district represents the percentage change in enrollment from school year 2007-2008 to 2008-2009. The varying shades of green indicate an increase in enrollment; the yellows and reds indicate a decrease in enrollment.

More detailed maps can be found on the School Aid page of the Senate Fiscal Agency website. Under the "Other Budget Information" category (under "Education", under the "State Budget" heading) is a link entitled, "Declining Enrollment Statewide Map". That link (also noted below) will lead to the statewide map attached. Clicking on an area of that map will display a map of that specific region with the individual school districts labeled.

[http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/Departments/DataCharts/DCk12\\_EnrollmentComparisonMap.pdf](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/Departments/DataCharts/DCk12_EnrollmentComparisonMap.pdf)

# Enrollment Comparison

2007-08 School Year - 2008-09 School Year

