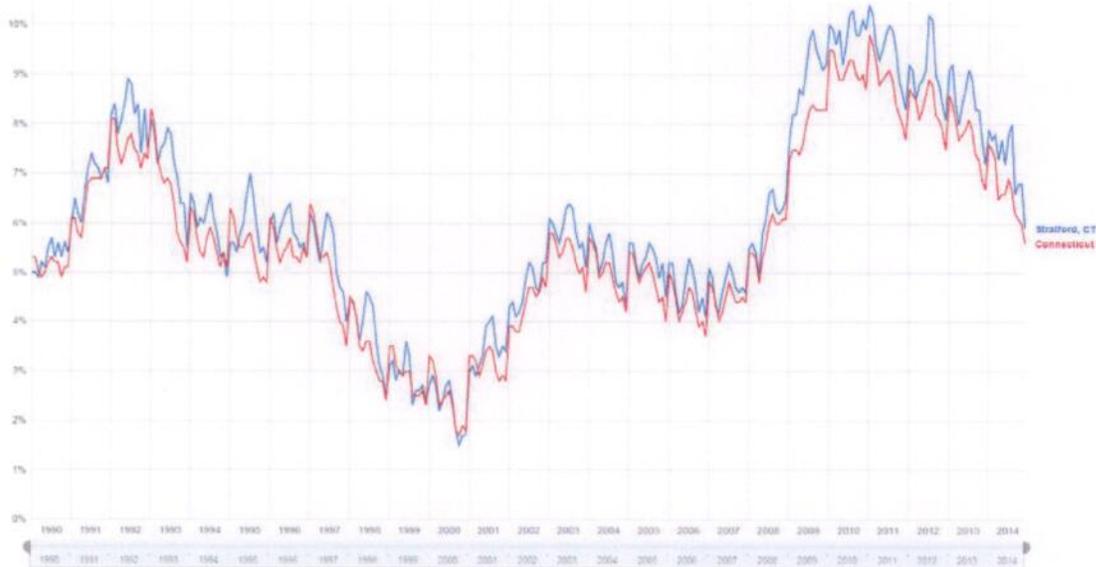


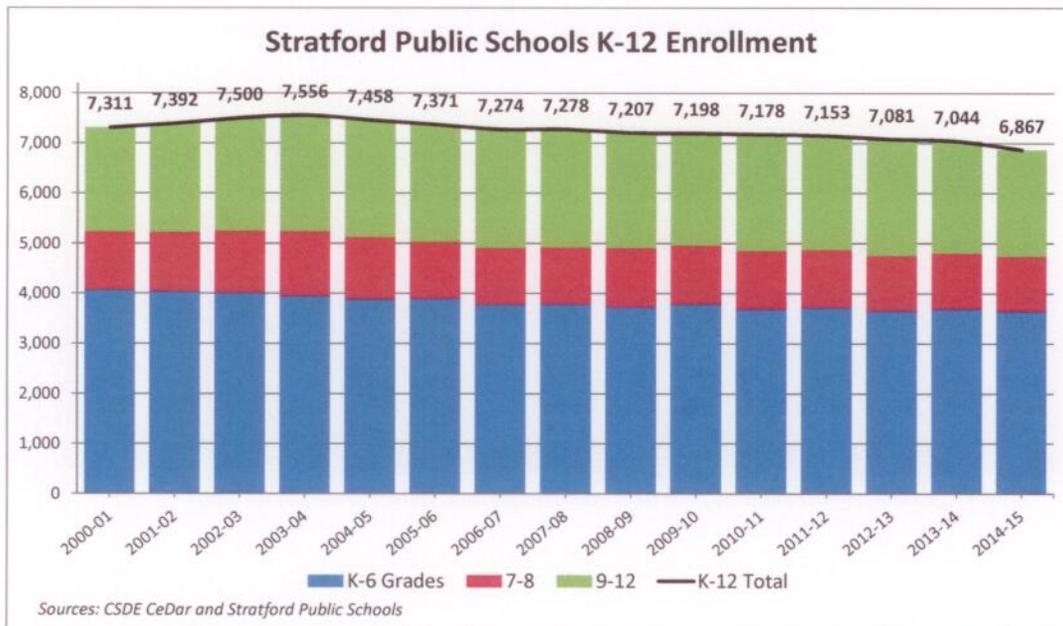
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT



SOURCE: US BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

## ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Stratford Public Schools experienced a peak enrollment of 7,556 K-12 students in 2003-04 over the last 15 years. Enrollments have experienced a couple of notable declines since the peak – the first from 2003-04 to 2006-07 when enrollments decreased 3.7% and again from 2010-11 to 2014-15, when total K-12 enrollments declined 4.3%. The earlier decline from 2003-04 to 2006-07 resulted from declines in the elementary grades, while more recent declines have been felt across grade levels as those smaller incoming grade cohorts of the mid-2000s have matriculated up to middle and high school.



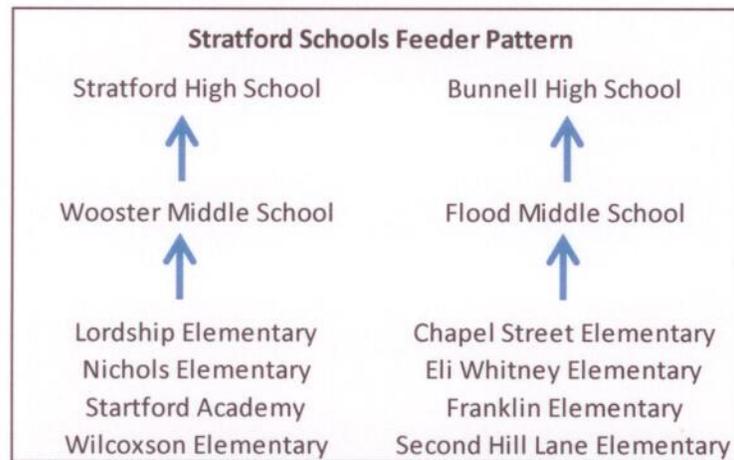
Sources: CSDE CeDar and Stratford Public Schools

The actual by grade enrollment data is shown below.

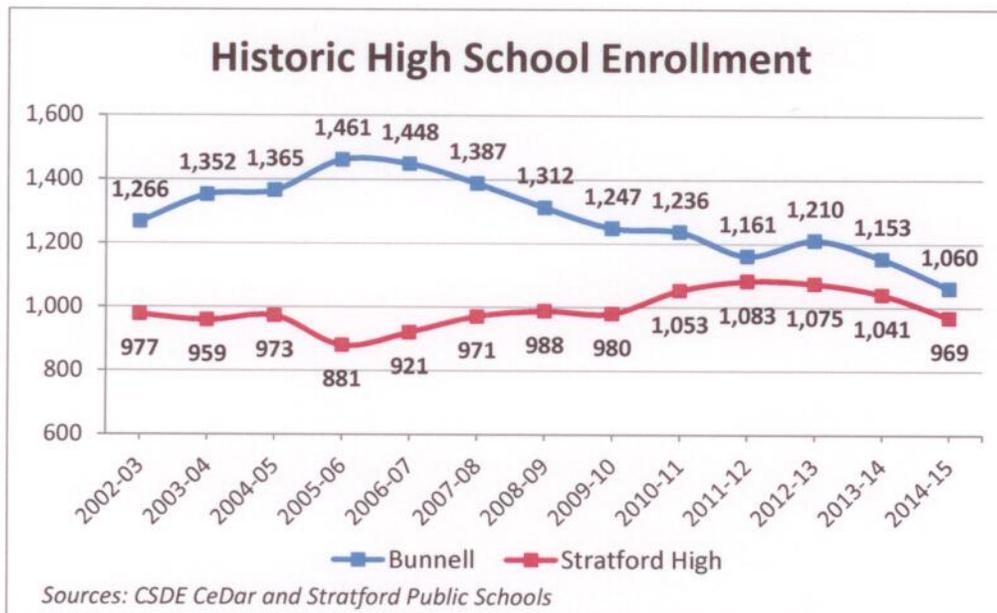
Stratford Enrollment																				
School Year	Birth Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PreK	K-6 Grades	7-8	9-12	K-12 Total
2000-01	1995	544	526	566	546	581	628	616	595	571	599	609	544	502	428	75	4,058	1,170	2,083	7,311
2001-02	1996	585	583	512	563	542	581	630	617	614	578	593	580	516	483	61	4,028	1,192	2,172	7,392
2002-03	1997	577	532	585	528	580	557	593	624	642	607	638	557	566	491	93	3,999	1,249	2,252	7,500
2003-04	1998	591	559	534	588	527	572	564	592	660	647	616	588	555	554	109	3,936	1,307	2,313	7,556
2004-05	1999	610	556	560	511	578	547	573	545	591	659	649	568	575	546	110	3,870	1,250	2,338	7,458
2005-06	2000	520	533	537	566	519	610	553	568	554	588	637	612	555	539	108	3,886	1,142	2,343	7,371
2006-07	2001	552	516	500	523	556	510	602	559	575	558	603	606	624	542	98	3,766	1,133	2,375	7,274
2007-08	2002	572	518	504	504	525	577	536	609	565	574	579	584	608	595	105	3,773	1,139	2,366	7,278
2008-09	2003	576	548	525	498	500	525	585	536	625	554	595	531	591	594	92	3,717	1,179	2,311	7,207
2009-10	2004	520	545	564	518	509	515	527	599	548	629	570	569	543	562	128	3,777	1,177	2,244	7,198
2010-11	2005	545	495	533	563	510	510	525	542	598	570	659	547	579	547	160	3,678	1,168	2,332	7,178
2011-12	2006	604	542	497	534	556	526	519	533	550	604	569	636	548	539	147	3,707	1,154	2,292	7,153
2012-13	2007	558	490	539	497	520	553	525	525	544	553	610	536	633	556	158	3,649	1,097	2,335	7,081
2013-14	2008	564	495	508	552	495	538	564	534	546	562	513	598	510	629	172	3,686	1,108	2,250	7,044
2014-15	2009	516	456	503	516	549	514	538	564	547	545	530	521	564	520	193	3,640	1,092	2,135	6,867

Sources: CSDE CeDar, Stratford Public Schools and CT DPH

Students matriculate to Stratford's two high schools based on the following feeder pattern; however, due to some honors and music programming at the middle school level in recent years, approximately 45 students who would normally have attended Flood Middle School, were allowed to attend Wooster Middle School. Those students then shifted back to Bunnell at high school. The same programming is now offered in both middle schools; therefore, these enrollment shifts no longer occur. The by-school persistency ratios used in these projections were corrected to account for this temporary disruption to the normal historic feeder pattern.



The following chart shows enrollment trends for Stratford's two high schools. Over the last four years, Bunnell and Stratford High School enrollment trends have been relatively consistent, both declining about 9-10% since 2011-12.



While high school enrollments have been in decline, it is important to note some sizeable grade cohorts currently in the elementary and middle schools (including this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be progressing through the high schools during the projection horizon.

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTION ASSUMPTIONS

Milone & MacBroom uses the cohort-survival method of projecting enrollment, which is a standard method, and is accepted by the State Department of Education for School Construction Projects (*Connecticut General Statutes* §10-283). The cohort-survival methodology relies on observed data from the recent past in order to predict the near future. The methodology works well for stable populations, including communities that are growing or declining at a steady rate. Facility construction and programmatic changes in the district and region all have a bearing on enrollment.

### Persistency ratios

Using known October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment data as the starting point, persistency ratios are calculated to determine growth or loss in a class as it progresses through the school system. These persistency ratios account for the various external factors affecting enrollments, such as housing characteristics, residential development, economic conditions, student transfers in and out of system, and student mobility. A persistency ratio of 1.0 means class size remains the same; 1.05 means the class size increases by 5%, or a class of 100 grows to 105 the following year.

### Projection Building Blocks

Accurate birth and enrollment data used in projections are critical to overall accuracy, as each year builds upon the last. Students in the system are progressed forward based on a chosen persistency ratio. Births reported to the Connecticut Department of Health, attributed to residents of Stratford form the basis for the kindergarten class five years in the future, again based on the Birth to K persistency ratio. More than the others, this ratio is effected by and reflective of factors external to the school district, because families tend to move less after their children have started school.

### Limitations and Error

Projections for smaller areas are mathematically subject to larger percentage errors than larger area projections. A difference of relatively few students in any school in a given year has a larger impact, percentage-wise, than on the entire district. Practices of grade retention and outplacement from normal attendance areas can also vary from year to year and among different schools in a system, affecting enrollment projections.

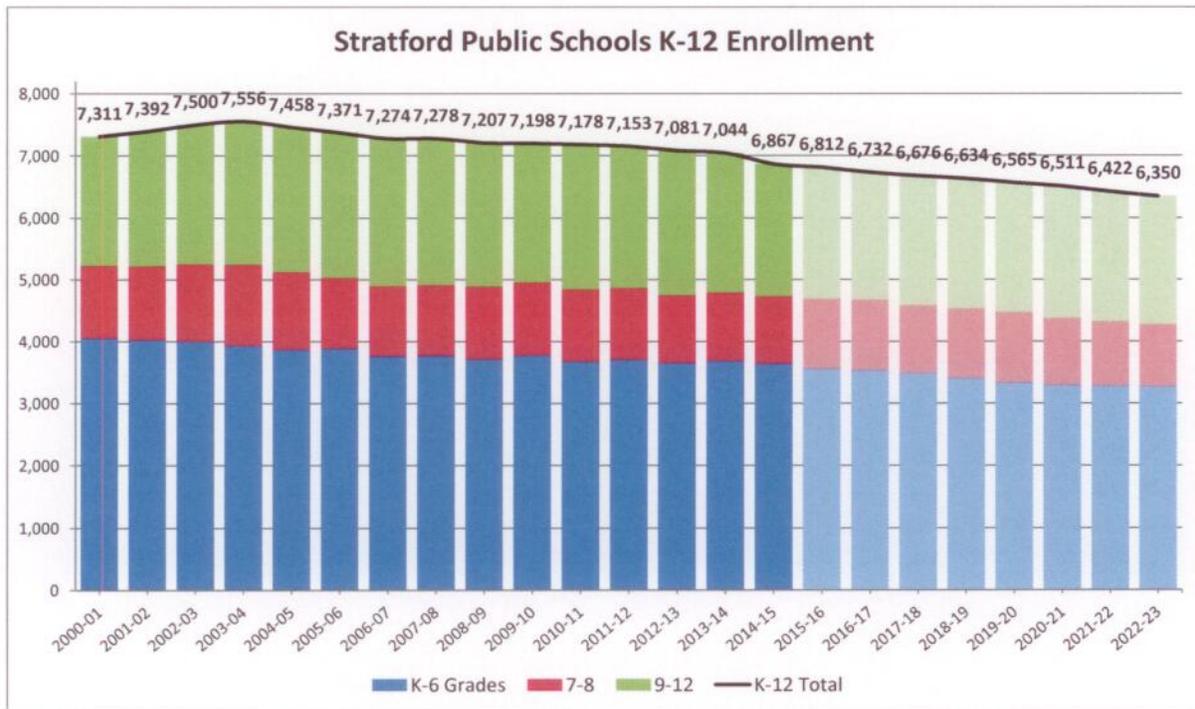
**Assumptions**

The following projections assume the following:

- Recent Stratford resident student enrollments in technical, private and other public schools remain stable
- The feeder pattern to the high schools remains the same

**ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

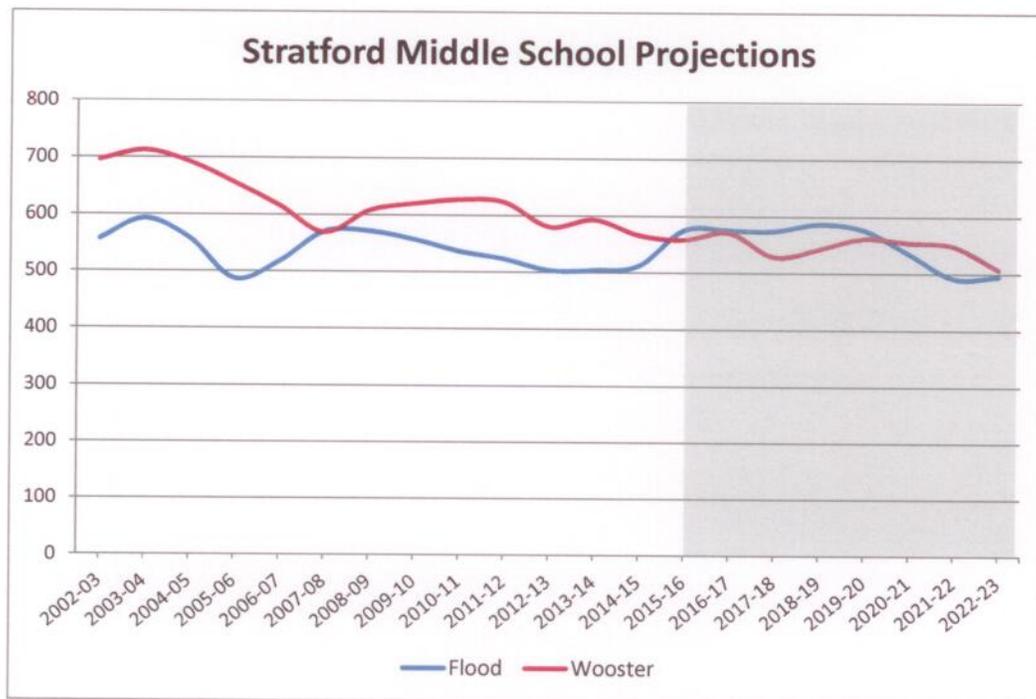
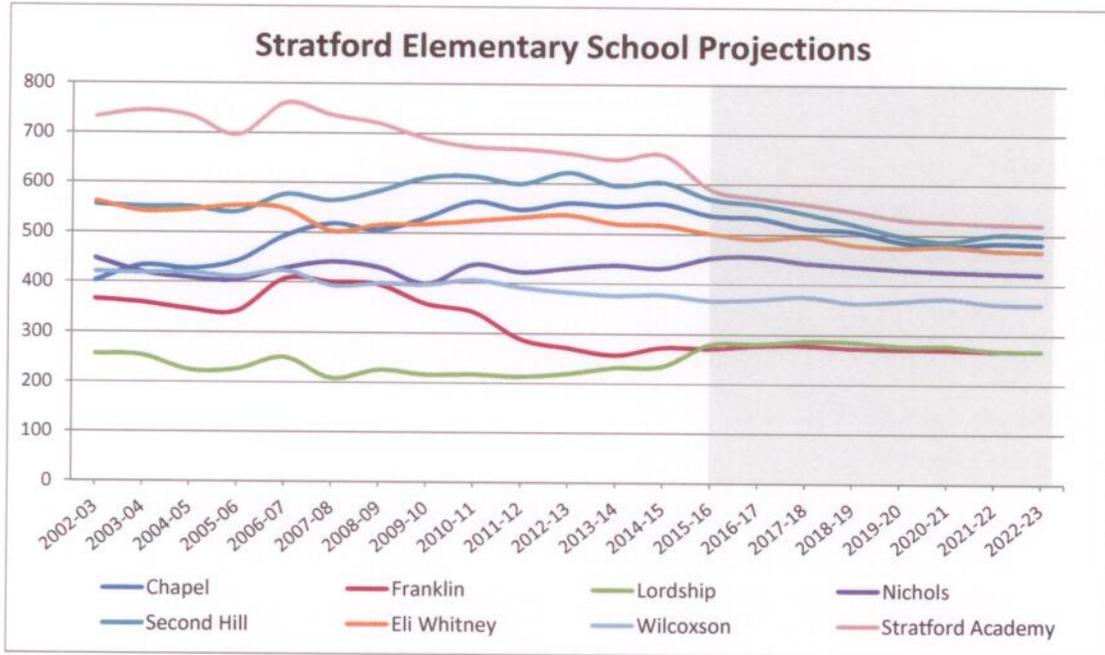
Projections based on 2014-15 enrollments project that total K-12 enrollments will decrease over the next eight years. From the 2014-15 total of 6,867, total enrollment is projected to decrease 7.5% by the start of the 2022-23 school year. However, the rates of change will differ slightly between the elementary, middle, and high schools. While the total elementary (K-6) and middle (7-8) enrollments are projected to decrease by 10.0% and 8.0% respectively, the total high school enrollment is projected to decrease only 2.8% over the same period.



By-school enrollment projections were prepared to reflect the patterns and trends in neighborhood school enrollments evident in individual school persistency ratios. All individual school enrollment projections are normalized to district-wide projections to reduce the impact of anomalies and small sample sizes. While total elementary school enrollments are projected to decline over the next eight years, some schools are projected

to maintain current enrollment levels, namely, Franklin, Lordship and Wilcoxson. Detailed by-school and by-grade projections are provided in the Appendix.

At the middle school level, Flood Middle School is projected to increase slightly and stabilize for five years, while Wooster is projected to decrease in 2017-18 before rebounding for a couple of years.



Overall, high school enrollments are projected to decrease over the next two years, before levelling off at around 2,100 students through 2021-22. While overall high school enrollments are projected to decrease, Stratford High's enrollments are projected to increase over the next five to six years, with a peak enrollment occurring in 2020-21 at 1,070 students. This is primarily due to steadier enrollments at the elementary school level in Lordship and Wilcoxson – schools that eventually feed Stratford High School.

