



**TO:** Dr. David Title, Superintendent of Schools  
Fairfield Public Schools

**FROM:** Michael Zuba, AICP  
Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

**DATE:** January 11, 2016

**RE:** Holland Hill School Projections  
MMI #5785-01-1

## Holland Hill School Projections

Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) was hired by Fairfield Public Schools to conduct 10-year enrollment projections for the district and its 11 elementary schools as part of a larger school racial balance and redistricting plan. The State of Connecticut requires 8-year enrollment projections as a critical factor for determining reimbursement eligibility and project size for school construction projects. This memo describes the methodology used to create the enrollment projections and presents enrollment projections by grade and by year for Holland Hill School.

### Methodology

MMI 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 Projections (CGS 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. It is important to remember that the basic premise of the cohort-survival methodology is that the recent past is a good predictor of the near future. MMI obtained Town of Fairfield birth records from 2003 to 2014 from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. These births were address geocoded, assigned to their resident elementary school, and used to predict future kindergarten enrollment for each elementary school. Projections up to 2019-20 are most accurate because they rely on known birth data. Births for the years 2015 to 2020 (corresponding with the kindergarten classes of 2020 to 2025) were projected using multiple regression and were based on local unemployment rates and home sales. By 2020, it was projected that town-wide births would increase by 11% over their current levels to 628 births.

Enrollment projections assumed that the outplacement of students to Burr Elementary School and Dwight Elementary School will continue at current rates. As of the 2015-16 school year, 20 students who lived within the Holland Hill attendance zone were enrolled at Burr Elementary School or Dwight Elementary School.

**Enrollment Projections**

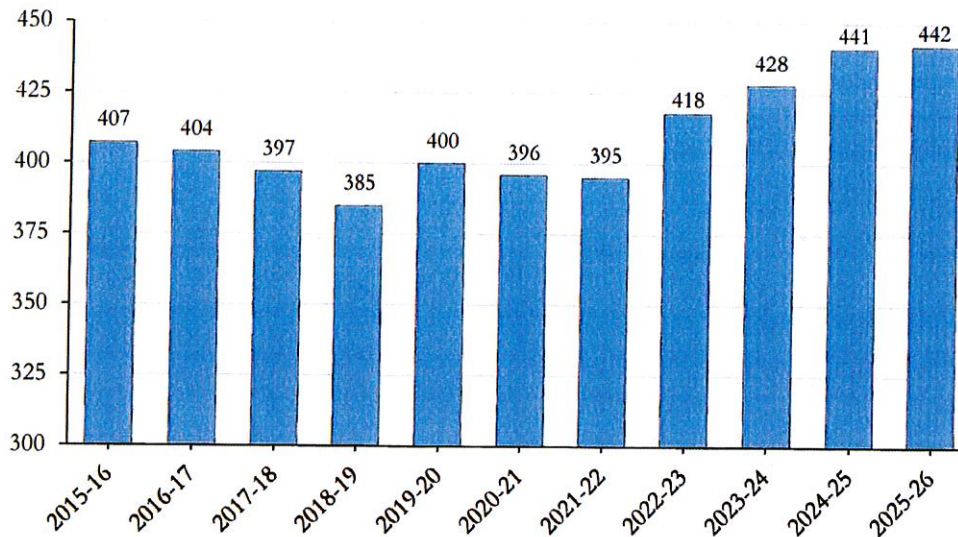
Over the next 3 years, three small kindergarten classes will enter Holland Hill School, corresponding with the record low birth years of 2011 to 2013. As these small grade cohorts matriculate through the school, enrollment will decline to 385 students by the 2018-19 school year. However, this decline is only temporary as births have begun to rebound beginning in 2014. Enrollment is projected to increase beginning in 2019-20 as kindergarten class sizes return to their historic levels (between 65 and 70 students). Holland Hill sees in-migration through all grade levels, resulting in enrollment growth as classes matriculate to the higher grades. Rebounding birth rates, in-migration, and the graduation of the small birth classes beginning in 2021-22 will result in moderate enrollment growth beginning at the tail end of the projections. By 2024-25, Holland Hill is projected to have an enrollment of 441 students, an 8% increase over today's levels.

Table 1. Holland Hill School Enrollment Projections: 2015-16 to 2025-26

School Year	Grade						Total K-5
	K	1	2	3	4	5	
2015-16	67	67	58	75	78	62	407
2016-17	47	69	70	61	79	78	404
2017-18	59	48	71	74	65	80	397
2018-19	57	60	50	75	78	65	385
2019-20	68	59	62	53	79	79	400
2020-21	64	70	61	66	56	79	396
2021-22	66	65	72	65	70	57	395
2022-23	67	67	68	76	69	71	418
2023-24	68	68	70	72	81	69	428
2024-25	69	69	71	74	76	82	441
2025-26	69	70	72	75	79	77	442

Source: Milone & MacBroom projections for Fairfield Public Schools

Figure 1. Holland Hill School Enrollment Projections: 2015-16 to 2025-26



Source: Milone & MacBroom

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

**MILONE & MACBROOM, INC.**

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Director of Planning

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