



District-wide Planning Study

February 23, 2015



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Superintendent

Methacton School
District

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Agenda

- History
- Core Values, Assumptions and Considerations
- Major Issues Facing the District
- Enrollment Projections
- Capacity Report
- Options for Consideration
- Superintendent's Recommendation
- Public Comments

History

- March 2014 Finance Committee Discussion
- April 2014 Study Approval
- January 20, 2015 Enrollment Report Presented
- February 3, 2015 Capacity Report Presented
- February 23 & 25, 2015 Public Hearing

Core Values and Assumptions

- Focus on what is best for all students
- Maintain focus on educational excellence
- Adhere to historical classroom size practices
- Process going forward must include community participation
- Make decisions with consideration for the future of our district

Considerations

- Our Children
- Our Families
- Our Staff
- Our Community
- Our Operations
- Our Finances
- Our Future

Major Issues Facing the District

- 96% of annual budget is fixed
- PSERS (retirement system)
- Medical costs
- Pending capital (building) improvements
- Revenues remain flat

Methacton Highlights

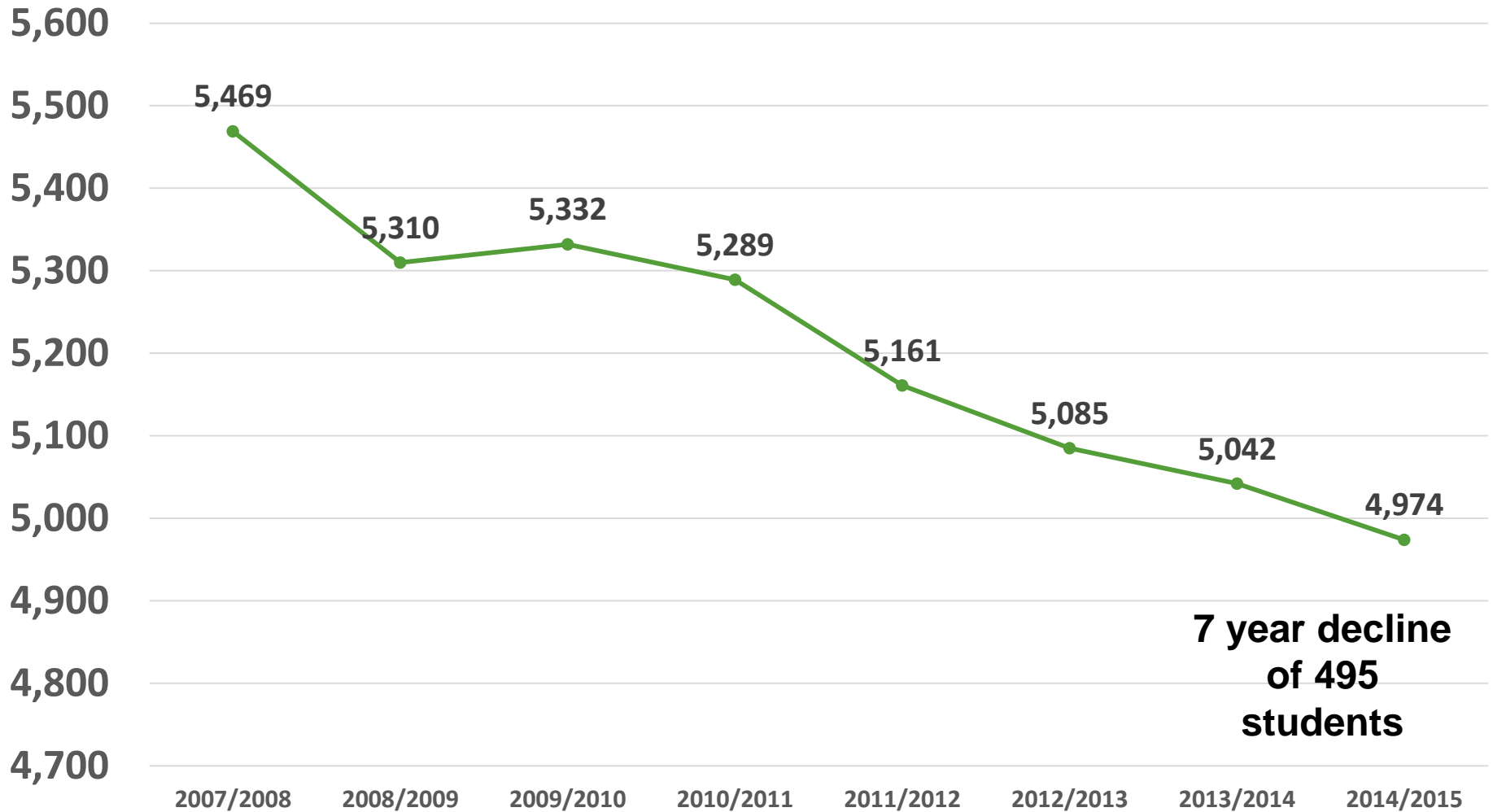
- In 2013-2014, Methacton High School obtained the 2nd highest SPP score among Montgomery County high schools.
- In 2015, Methacton High School ranked 18th highest SAT scores in the state.
- In their first year of competition, Methacton High School's Technology Student Association teams qualified to compete in the national Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science problem solving and oral competition. The teams went on to obtain a ranking of 6th in the nation!

Methacton Highlights

- 7 students obtained perfect scores on the SAT over the past 10 years.
- Class of 2014 earned scholarship and grant money in excess of \$16.4 million to further their education.
- In 2013-2014, Methacton High School captured 6 PAC-10 Championships and 3 District 1 titles. A single school year accomplishment unprecedented in school history.
- In 2014, Methacton tied for 3rd most recognized National Merit Scholars in the state of Pennsylvania – *including private schools.*

Current Status

Enrollment 2007/2008 – 2014/2015



Agenda (continued)

- Enrollment Projections
- Capacity Report
- Options for Consideration
- Superintendent's Recommendation
- Public Comments

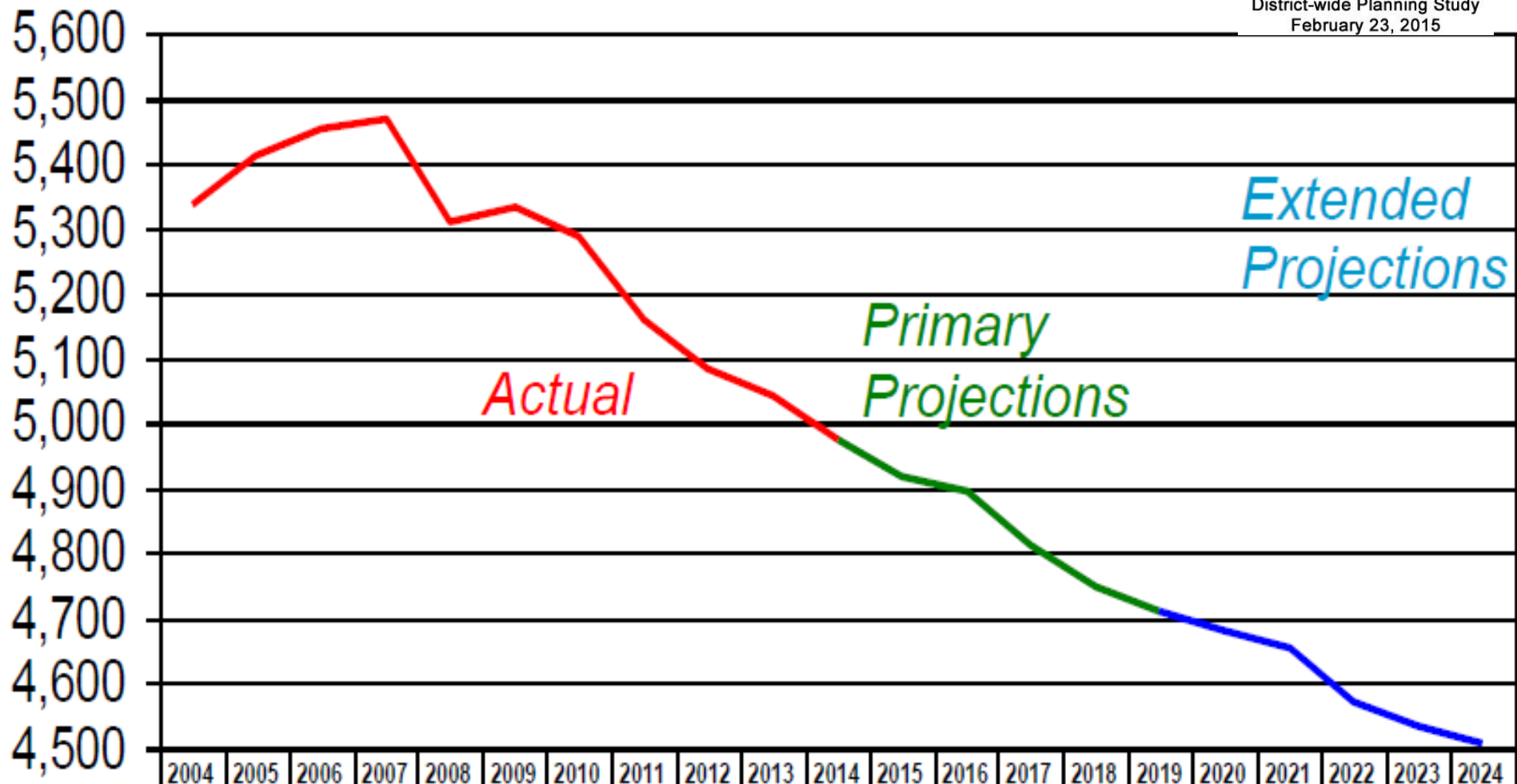


PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY LEAGUE

Information, Insight, Integrity.

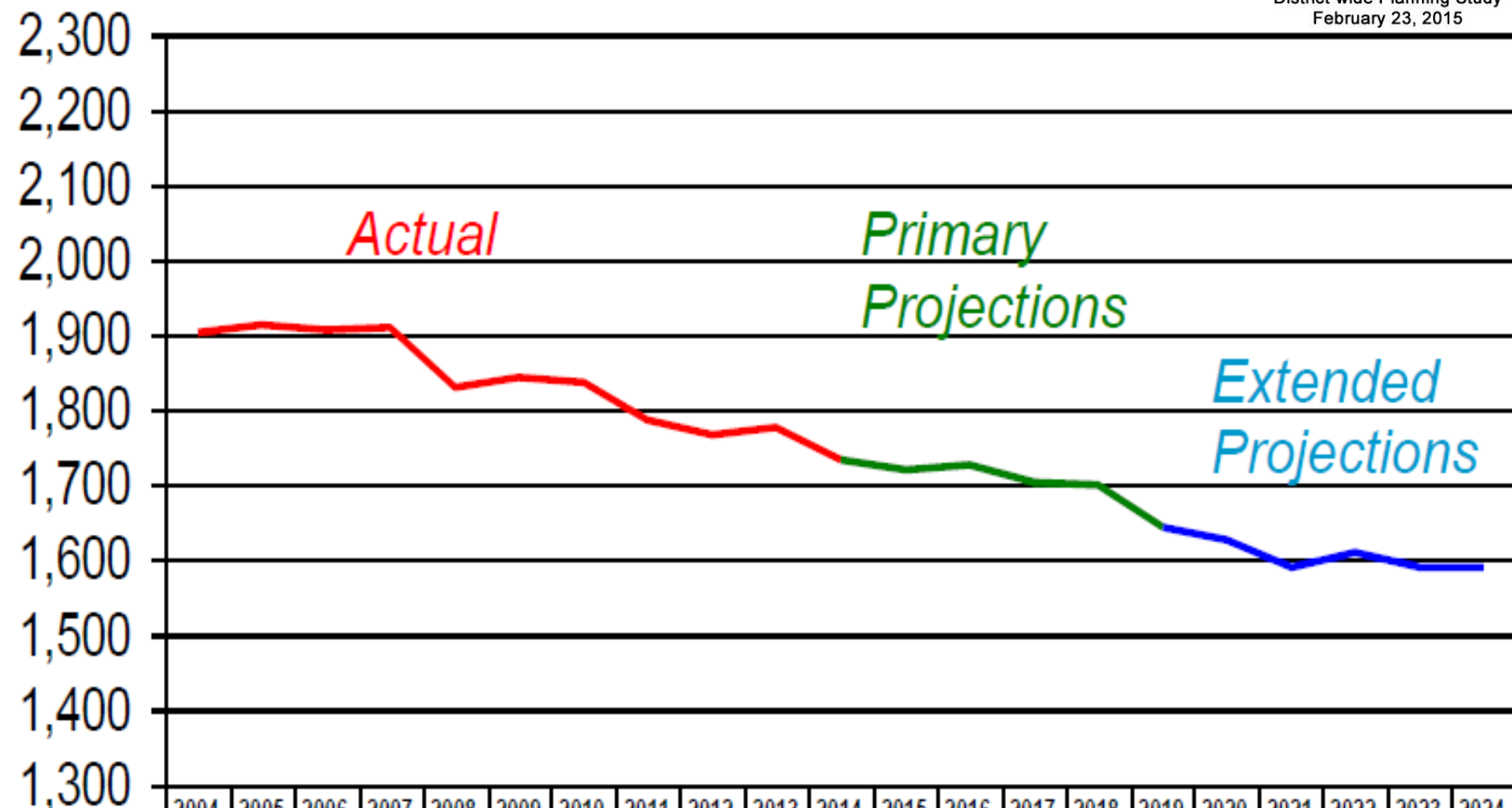
- PEL is a recognized leader in this area of research.
- PEL is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that since 1936 has been helping state and local governments.
- PEL has undertaken more than 175 school district studies. (representative sample)
 - East Penn School District – April 2014
 - Radnor Township School District – January 2014
 - Tredyffrin-Easttown School District – January 2014
 - Abington School District – December 2013
 - Norristown Area School District – February 2013
 - Council Rock School District – February 2013
 - Souderton Area School District – March 2012

Total Enrollments



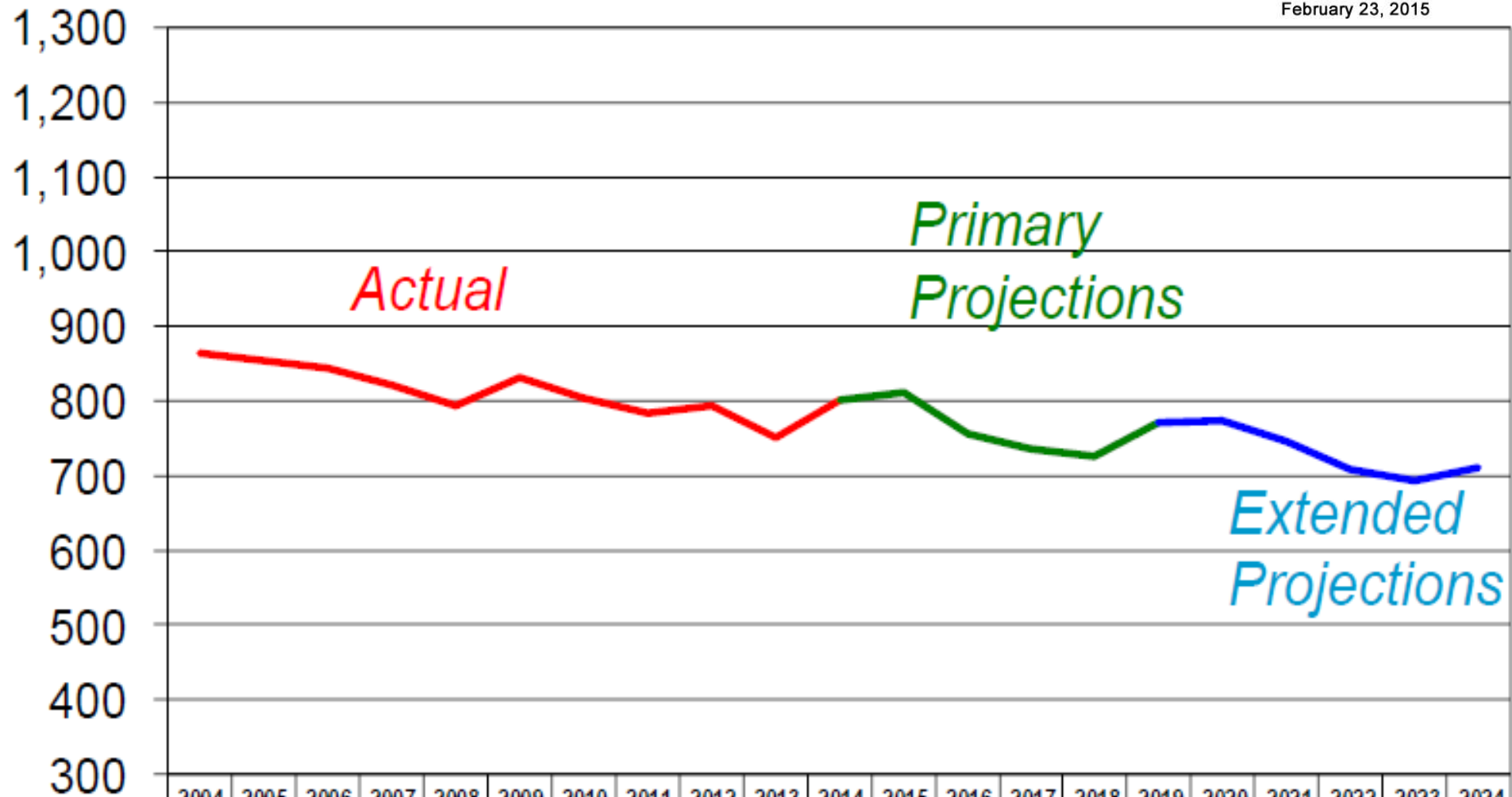
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Actual	5,338	5,413	5,454	5,469	5,310	5,332	5,289	5,161	5,085	5,042	4,974											
Primary											4,974	4,920	4,894	4,812	4,747	4,710						
Extended																4,710	4,682	4,656	4,572	4,535	4,509	

Elementary Enrollments (K-4)



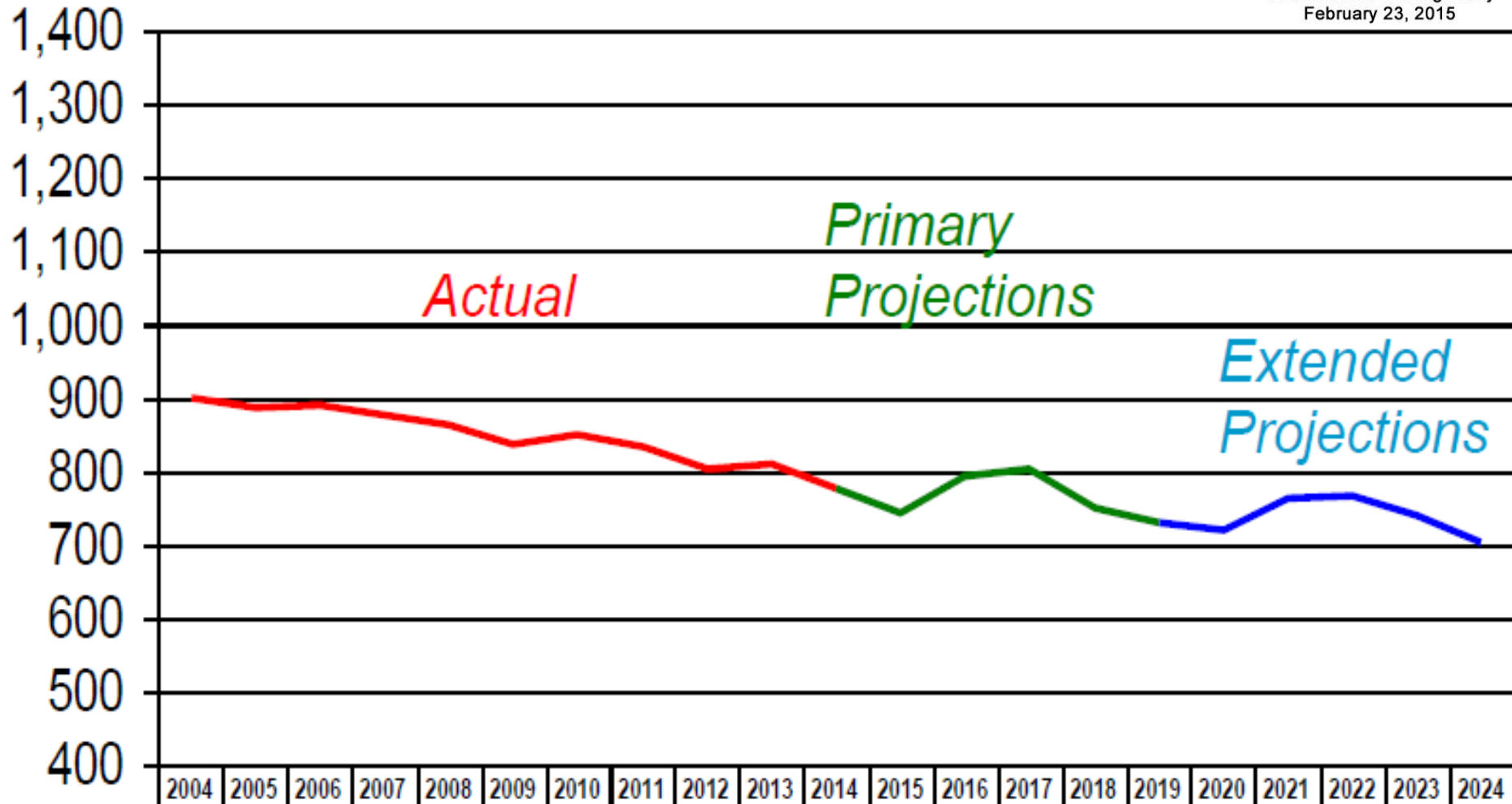
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Actual	1903	1913	1906	1910	1831	1844	1836	1788	1766	1778	1733											
Primary											1733	1721	1728	1703	1701	1644						
Extended																1644	1627	1591	1610	1590	1590	

Upper Elementary Enrollments (5-6)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Actual	863	853	845	822	793	832	805	783	794	751	802											
Primary											802	812	756	737	726	770						
Extended																770	773	747	709	693	711	

Intermediate School Enrollments (7-8)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Actual	899	886	890	877	863	838	851	833	803	811	777											
Primary											777	742	794	805	749	731						
Extended																731	720	763	767	740	703	



PENNSYLVANIA
ECONOMY LEAGUE

Information, Insight, Integrity.

- James R. Thompson AIA
 - President of Thompson Associates Architects and Planners
 - MArch Carnegie Mellon University
 - Architect for over 100 schools
 - Educational Planner for 16 PA School Districts including:
 - Upper St. Clair SD
 - State College Area SD
 - Easton Area SD
 - School District of Springfield Township
 - School District of Cheltenham Township
 - Marple-Newtown SD

Capacity and Options

- Introduction
 - Current Status
 - Future Options
 - 7 Options

Current Enrollment Grades K to 4

- Arrowhead: 295
 - 59% of 500 capacity
 - 8 full-size classrooms
- Audubon: 433
 - 87% of 500 capacity
 - 5 full-size classrooms
- Eagleville: 356
 - 71% of 500 capacity
 - 6 full-size classrooms
- Woodland: 299
 - 60% of 500 capacity
 - 7 full-size classrooms
- Worcester: 367
 - 73% of 500 capacity
 - 7 full-size classrooms

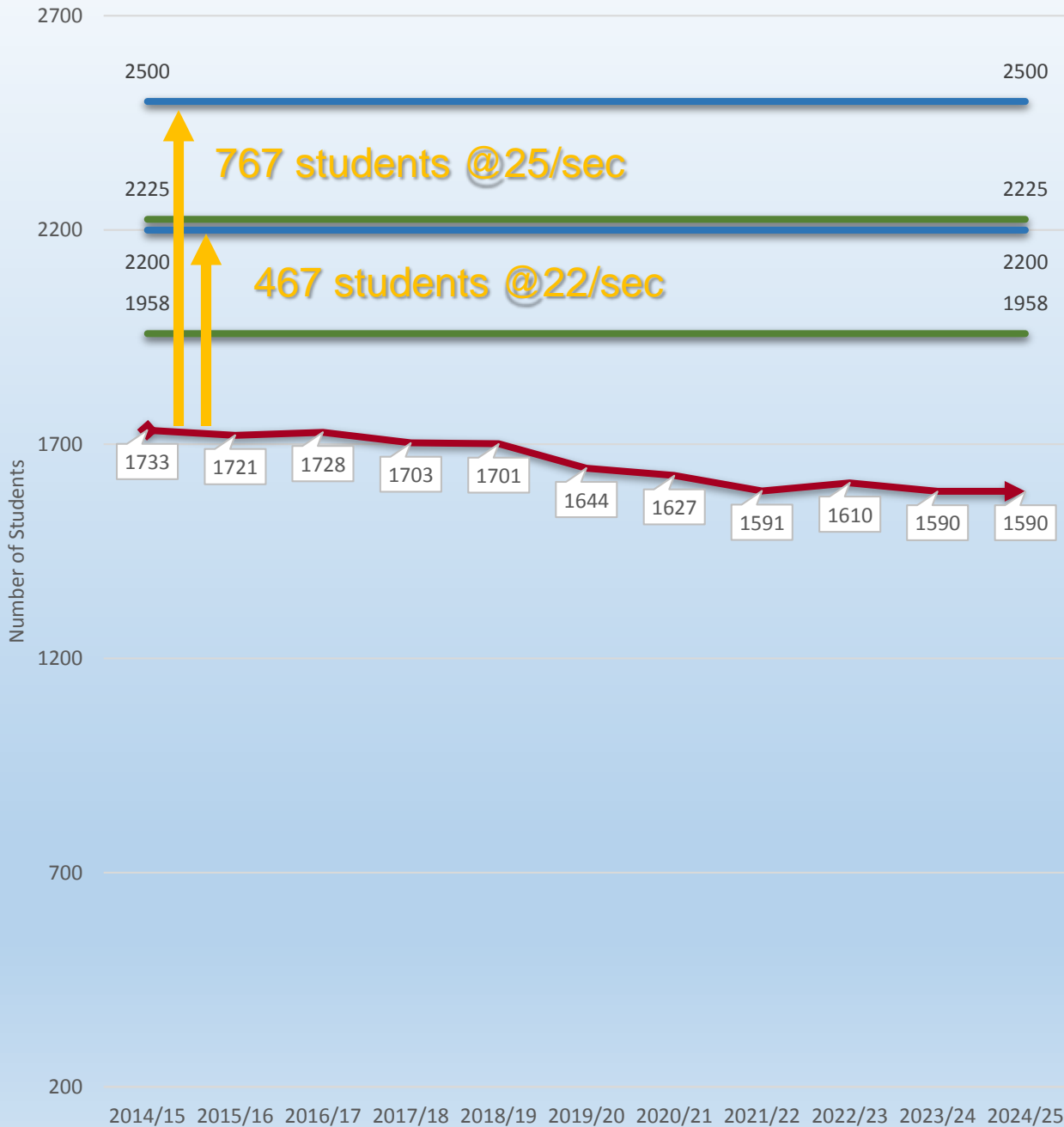
Total Enrollment = 1,733
69% of 2,500 school capacity

Data above reflects 10/1/2014

Full-size classrooms=Special Education/Pupil Services

Data by building reflects 11/21/2014

Grades K to 4 Enrollment vs Capacity



- Upper Limit- 5 Schools with 4 Sections at 25 Students
- Lower Limit- 5 Schools with 4 Sections at 22 Students
- Upper Limit- Current Sections at 25 Students
- Lower Limit- Current Sections at 22 Students
- ◆→ Grades K to Four Enrollment

Grades K to 4: School Condition and Major Needs

*Items of need on this slide are addressed
through capital borrowing*

Arrowhead

- Condition: Good/Fair
- \$2 million in 3 to 5 years
- +\$10 million in 5 to 10 years

- Roof replacement
- ADA accessibility upgrades
- Mechanical / electrical upgrades
- Masonry restoration
- Window replacements
- Modular classroom upgrades

Audubon

- Condition: Good/Fair
- \$2 million in 3 to 5 years
- +\$10 million in 5 to 10 years

- ADA accessibility upgrades
- Mechanical / electrical upgrades
- Masonry restoration
- Window replacements
- Modular classroom upgrades

Grades K to 4: School Condition and Major Needs

*Items of need on this slide are addressed
through annual operating budget*

Eagleville

- Condition: New
- Masonry repairs
- Roof leaks
- Library window leaks

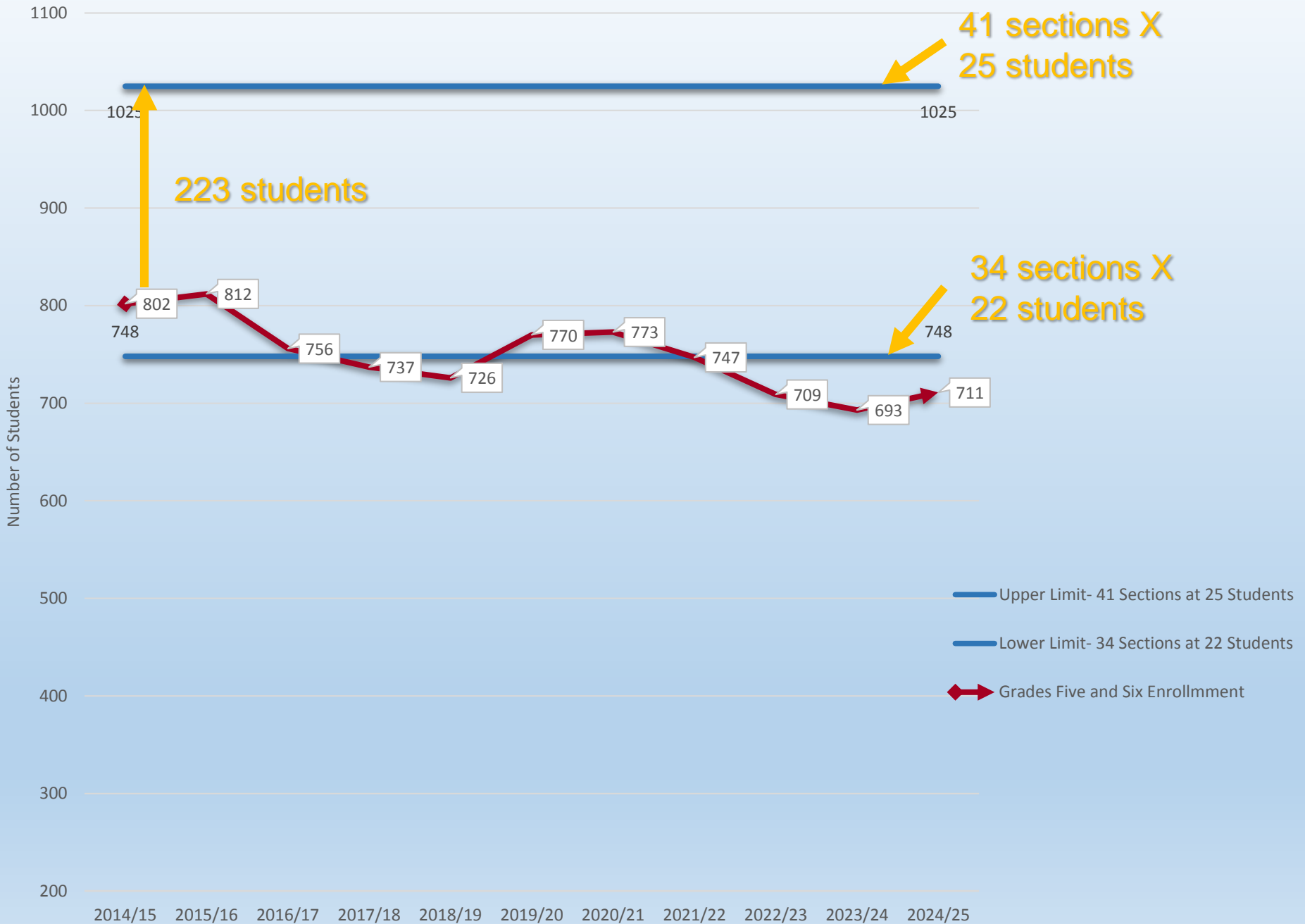
Woodland

- Condition: New
- Masonry repairs

Worcester

- Condition: Good
- No major needs

Combined Fifth and Sixth Grade Enrollment vs Capacity



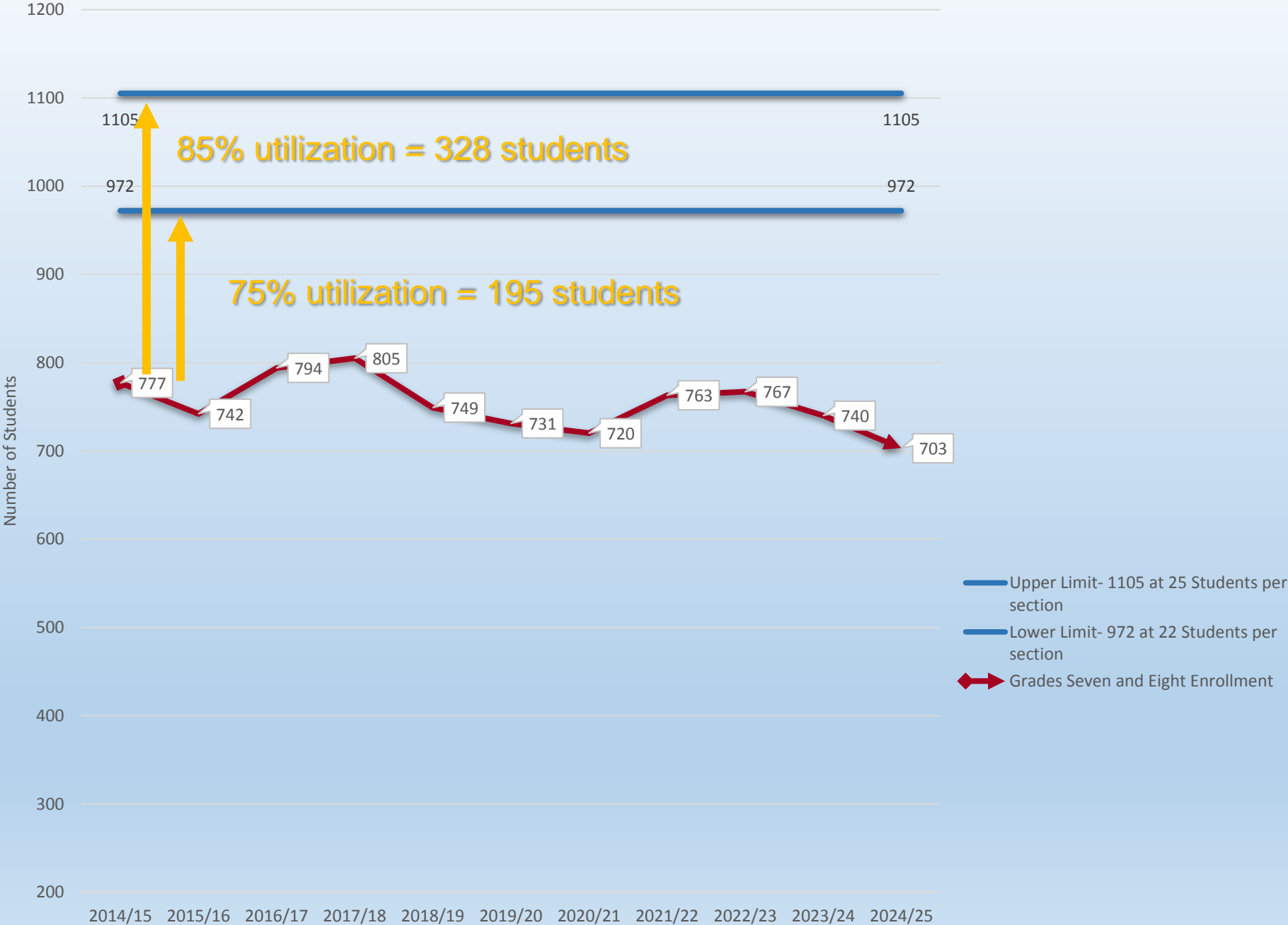
Grades 5 to 6: School Condition and Major Needs

Skyview

- Condition: New
- No major needs



Combined Seventh and Eighth Grade Enrollment vs Capacity



Grades 7 to 8: School Condition and Major Needs

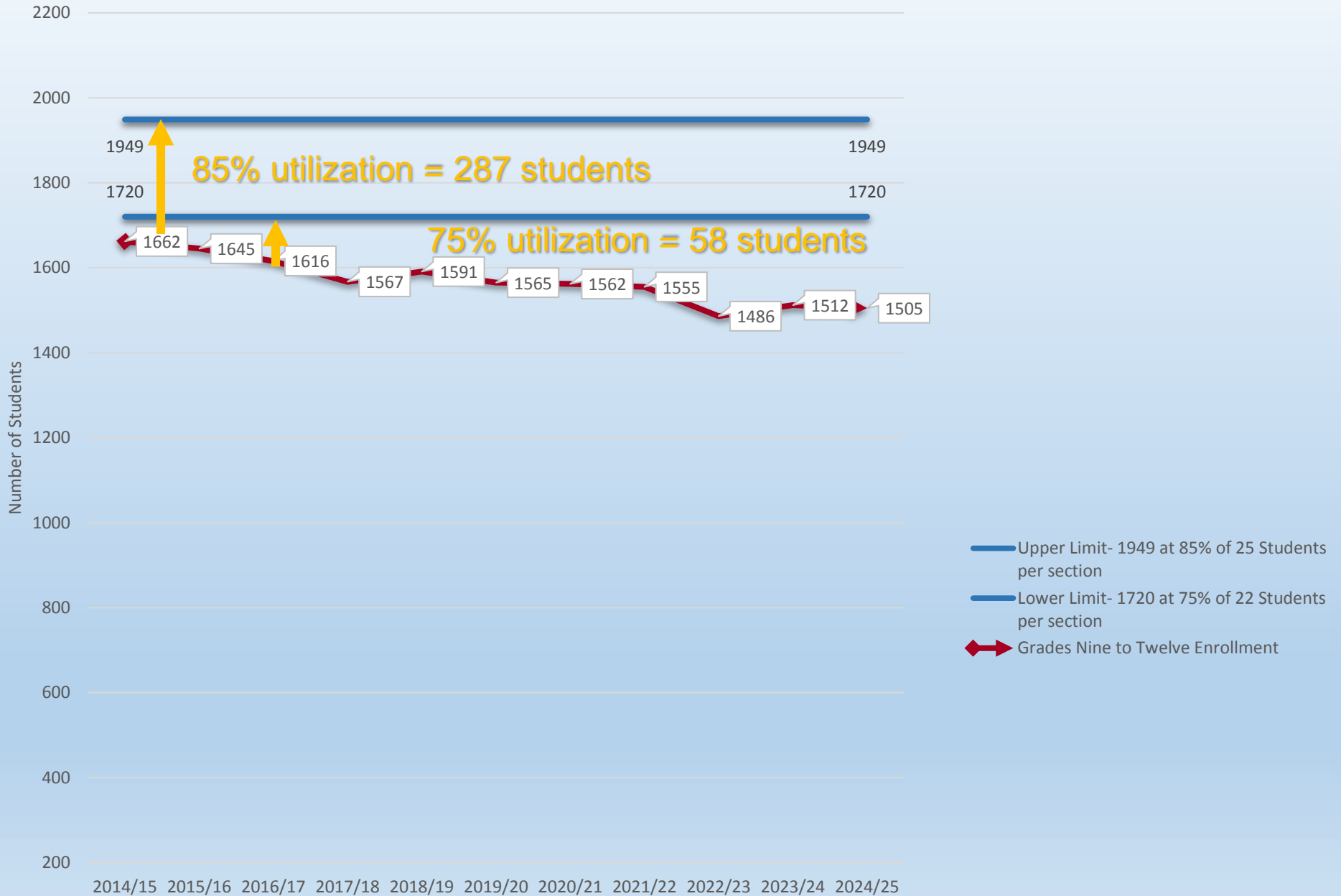
Arcola

- Condition: Good
- Masonry repairs
- Mechanical / electrical upgrades



*Items of need on this slide are addressed
through annual operating budget*

Combined Ninth through Twelfth Grade Enrollment vs Capacity



Grades 9 to 12: School Condition and Major Needs

High School

- Condition: Good
- Mechanical / electrical upgrades
- Masonry restoration
- Upgrade modular classrooms











*Items of need on this slide are addressed
through annual operating budget*

Future Options: 7 Options

- K-4 (3 Options)
- K-5 (2 Options)
- K-3 & 4-8 Skyview / Arcola
- K-6 Neighborhood Elementary Schools

K-4 Option (1) – No Change

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12









		AR
K-4		AU
		EV
		WD
		WR
5-6		SV
7-8		AC
9-12		HS

Pros:

- Maintains successful K-4 program
- Recent 5-6 and 7-8 programs remain
- Maintains same level of special education / pupil support services
- Does not require grade re-configuration
- Does not require re-drawing attendance lines

K-4 Option (1) – No Change

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12

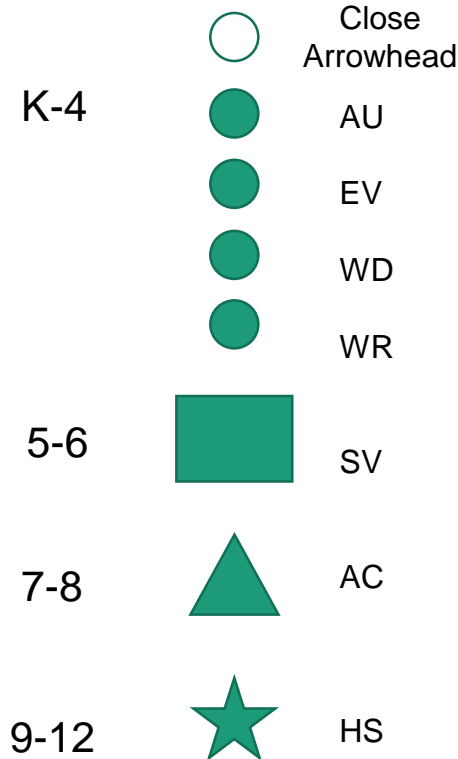
K-4		AR
		AU
		EV
		WD
		WR
5-6		SV
7-8		AC
9-12		HS

Cons:

- Does not address excess capacity at five elementary schools
- Does not address excess capacity at Skyview / Arcola
- Does not improve operational efficiency
- Significant capital improvements are needed in next 3-5 and 5-10 years

K-4 Option (2) – Close Arrowhead

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12

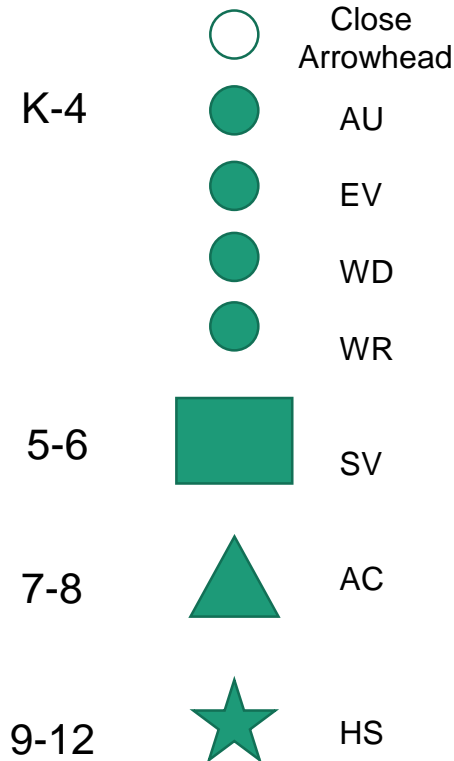


Pros:

- Maintains successful K-4 program
- Maintains same level of special education / pupil support services
- Saves annual operating costs
- Saves cost of one major renovation over the next 5 to 10 years
- Recent 5-6 and 7-8 programs remain
- Does not require grade re-configuration

K-4 Option (2) – Close Arrowhead

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12











Cons:

- Does not address excess capacity at Skyview / Arcola
- Significant capital improvements are needed at Audubon in the next 3-5 and 5-10 years
- Must re-draw attendance areas

K-4 Option (3) – Close Audubon:

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12









K-4		AR
		Close Audubon
		EV
		WD
		WR
5-6		SV
7-8		AC
9-12		HS

Pros:

- Maintains successful K-4 program
- Maintains same level of special education / pupil support services
- Saves annual operating costs
- Saves cost of one major renovation over the next 5 to 10 years
- Recent 5-6 and 7-8 programs remain
- Does not require grade re-configuration

K-4 Option (3) – Close Audubon:

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12

K-4		AR
		Close Audubon
		EV
		WD
		WR
5-6		SV
7-8		AC
9-12		HS

Cons:

- Does not address excess capacity at Skyview / Arcola
- Significant capital improvements are needed at Arrowhead in the next 3-5 and 5-10 years
- Must re-draw attendance areas

K-4 Options (2 or 3) – Summary

Grade configuration K-4 / 5-6 / 7-8 / 9-12

- **Arrowhead: Close**
 - Keep Audubon with 500 and 5 full-size classrooms
 - **Eagleville: 500**
 - 6 full-size classrooms
 - **Woodland: 500**
 - 7 full-size classrooms
 - **Worcester: 500**
 - 7 full-size classrooms
- OR**
- **Audubon: Close**
 - Keep Arrowhead with 500 and 8 full-size classrooms

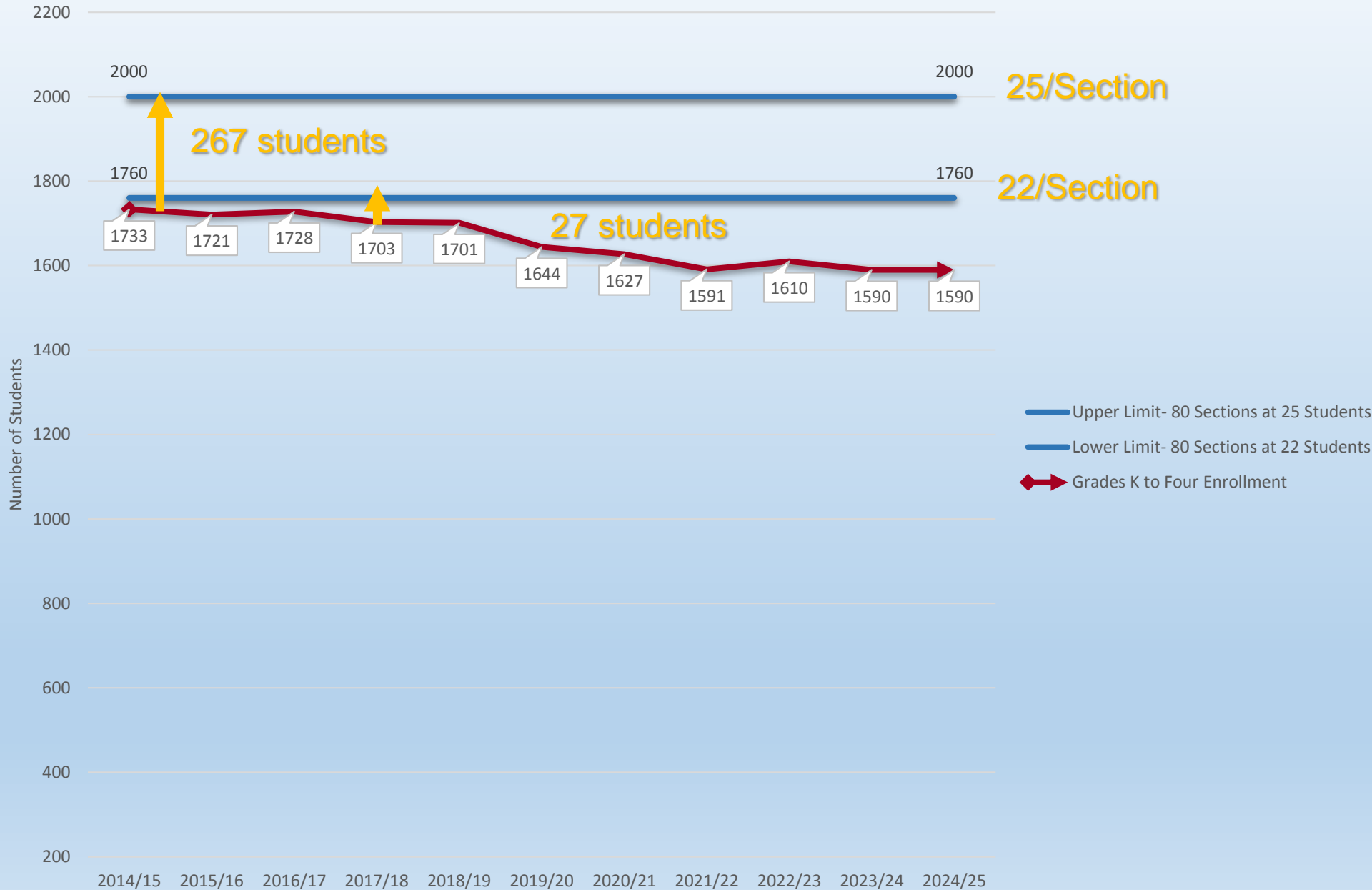
Total K to 4 = 2,000

**Corrected typo on 2/24/2015 from 4 to 5 full size classrooms at Audubon and from 6 to 7 full size classrooms at Woodland*

Full-size classrooms=Special Education/Pupil Services

Consolidate from Five to Four Elementary Schools

Grades K to 4 Enrollment vs. Capacity



Future Options: 7 Options

- K-4 (3 Options)
 - Educationally sound
 - Operationally efficient

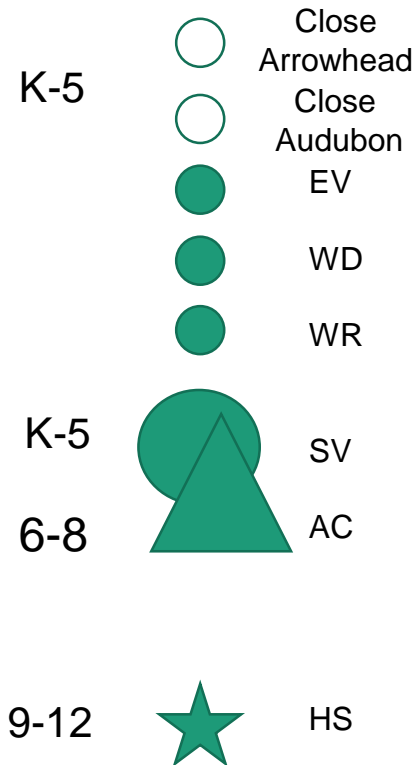
4 Additional options considered

Purpose was to address excess capacity District-wide with changes in grade configurations

- K-5 (2 Options)
- K-3 & 4-8 Skyview / Arcola
- K-6 Neighborhood Elementary Schools

K-5 Option (1): Split 6th

Grade configuration K-5 / 6-8 / 9-12



Pros:

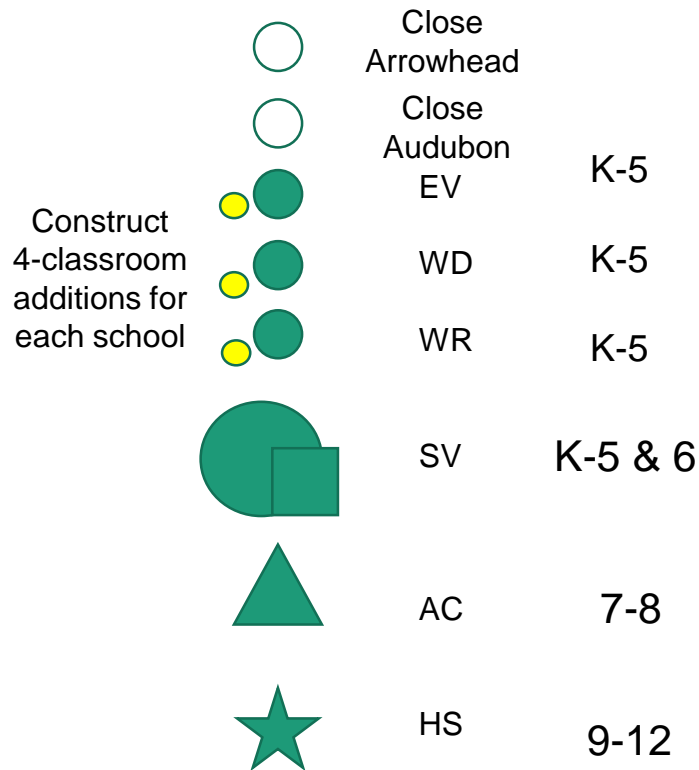
- Saves annual operating costs
- Avoids two major renovations in 5 to 10 years

Cons:

- Reverts to K-5 and 6-8 configurations
- Requires significant planning
- Educational delivery model splits 6th grade (6-8 School)
- Skyview renovation costs for K/1
- Grade re-alignment
- Must re-draw attendance areas

K-5 Option (2): All 6th grade in Skyview

Grade configuration K-5 / 6 / 7-8 / 9-12



Pros:

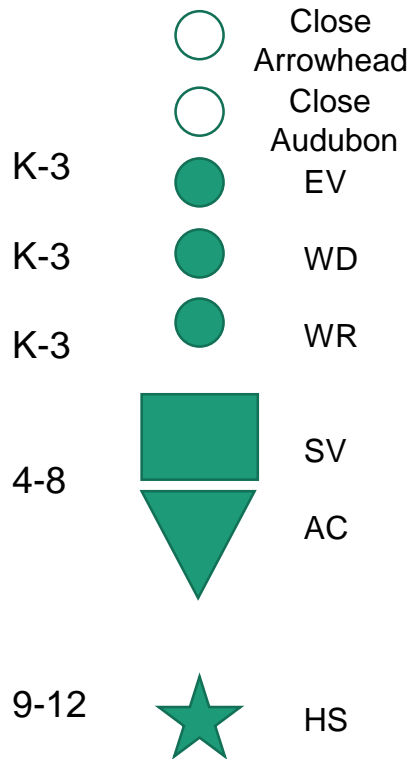
- Saves annual operating costs
- Avoids two major renovations in 5 to 10 years
- Maintains all 6th grade in elementary setting

Cons:

- Requires significant curricular and programming realignment
- New construction at 3 elementary schools
- Skyview renovation costs for K/1
- Must re-draw attendance areas
- Skyview not equitable with remaining elementary schools

K-3 & 4-8 Option

Grade configuration K-3 / 4-8 / 9-12



Pros:

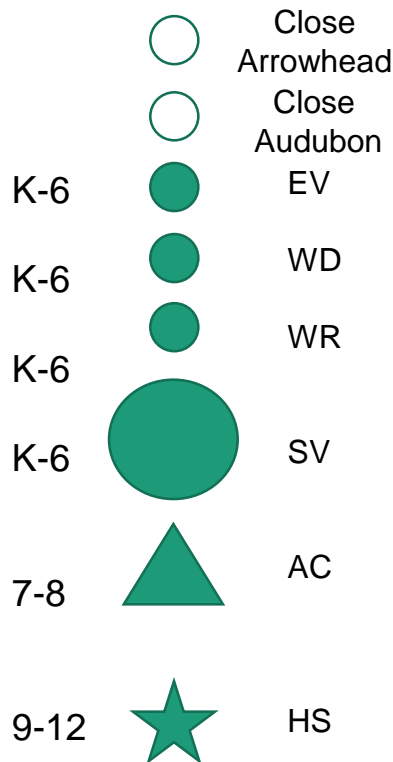
- Keeps all youngest students in neighborhoods
- Saves annual operating costs
- Saves cost of major renovations at two schools in 5 to 10 years
- Can be achieved without added construction

Cons:

- Skyview/Arcola split grades among floors and between buildings
- Divides 5 grades in 4 spaces
- Divides 5 grades in 2 lunch rooms
- Requires time to explore educational implications
- Traffic challenges on campus
- Must re-draw attendance areas
- Introduces floaters and IPCs at SV/AC
- Shifts from pupil support by team to pupil support by grade level at SV/AC

K-6 Neighborhood Schools Option

Grade configuration K-6 / 7-8 / 9-12



Pros:

- Fewer transitions for students
- Retains elementary concept grades K-6
- Saves annual operation costs
- Saves cost of major renovations at two schools in 5 to 10 years

Cons:

- Skyview renovation costs for K/1
- Complex two-year disruptive transition needed to reach configuration
- Pupil Support services at 3 elementary schools would not be equitable
- Requires time to explore educational implications
- Must re-draw attendance areas

Summary of Options

- **K-5 (2 Options)** Close 2 Schools
 - K-5 Option (1): Split 6th K-5 / 6-8 / 9-12
 - K-5 Option (2): All 6th grade in Skyview
Grade configuration K-5 / 6 / 7-8 / 9-12
- **K-3 & 4-8 Skyview / Arcola** Close 2 Schools
- **K-6 Neighborhood Elementary Schools** Close 2 Schools

 - Requires closing of 2 elementary schools
 - Requires re-drawing of attendance areas
 - Requires significant change in educational programming
 - Requires significant planning to implement
 - Requires change in grade configurations
 - Requires significant construction

Summary of Options

- **K-4 (3 Options)**

- No Change
- Close Arrowhead-Consolidate to 4 Elementary Schools
- Close Audubon-Consolidate to 4 Elementary Schools

-
- Educationally sound by maintaining successful K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 configuration
 - Maintains same level of special education / pupil support services
 - Saves annual operating costs
 - Saves cost of one major renovation over the next 5 to 10 years
 - Does not require grade re-configuration
 - Requires re-drawing of attendance areas

Considerations for K-4 Consolidation

- Arrowhead is geographically situated for less disruption district-wide when re-drawing attendance areas
- Arrowhead has 26 classrooms compared to Audubon's 23 classrooms allowing for more flexibility for future programming
- Arrowhead single-story construction and site is more conducive to future expansion/construction
- Arrowhead is located in low traffic residential area
- Arrowhead facility at 44 years, has more useful life remaining

Considerations for K-4 Consolidation

- Audubon is in close proximity to newly renovated Woodland which is currently underutilized
- Audubon is located on a main thoroughfare and is suitable for more immediate sale relieving district of future operating costs
- Audubon was constructed in 1928, part of original structure remains and has had several fragmented renovations and additions since then
- Audubon site and building architecture is less conducive for future renovation
- Audubon's multi-story multi-level facility presents current and future accessibility issues
- Audubon is the highest cost per square foot building to operate in the district



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