
SECTION 2.1 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Enrollment projections were a subject of a good deal of discussions by the SBTF and the community. Over the various studies conducted by Stow, the projections have varied. The projections undertaken as part of this Master Plan were no exception.

Following the analysis and discussions, the SBTF decided to base the Master Plan on a PreK – 5 population of 660 students but set the program of spaces for “core facilities” at 700 students to better accommodate the possible high end of the projections if the housing market were to improve.

It must be noted that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will conduct population projections as part of Phase 2, Verify the Problem, of the MSBA Application process.

PROCESS

“Demography and K – 8 Enrollment Projection” studies were conducted in both 2005 and 2006 by Donald Kennedy, Ed.D. / New England School Development Council, (NESDEC).

The NESDEC Enrollment studies included the traditional projections using the “survival cohort method” as well as projections with the “Impact of Additional Development”. The survival cohort method does include normal housing growth as well as five other factors.

The issue of “Additional Development” is a window on Stow’s capacity for additional growth. This includes the projections for the community’s’ maximum build out from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and local housing sales and starts statistics. This later data is a very changeable economic factor. The 2005 study identified the potential for as many as 20 students per year to be added to the K – 8 populations, up to 180 additional students over the next ten year period.

NESDEC conducted enrollment projections in November of 2006 and revised them in December of 2006.

The December 2006 projections went down slightly from the 2005 and November 2006 study projections and made no reference to the potential additional development. Our understanding from a conversation with Don Kennedy justifies the current projections incorporating the following thoughts:

- The historical birth rates for the community have remained relatively flat for a number of years. Don Kennedy did note that there is a slight increase in births reflected in the 2013 – 2017 school years that could affect the numbers beyond the years of the projections
- The 2006 figures include population statistics for two additional years of actual births. This improves the accuracy of the projections and potentially informs “trends”. (Apparently the birth information was not available at the time of the report.)
- In Stow, there has been a slow down in house sales during the first 10 months of 2006, versus the average over the past three years. This reflects the general slow down in home sales in the region. (How long will this slow down or flat spot continue - will it revert back to a growth pattern?)
- When developing population projections, demographers use a “range” of figures. Because of the economic slow down, NESDEC used the lower range of figures which contributed to the lower projections.

This housing factor discussion appears to be heavily economically driven, a factor that can change relatively quickly. What is the sales projection for the 96 units that make up the 40B development (25% affordable) currently under construction on Route 117 for example? Is the slow down in housing sales, both new and turnover, a temporary condition or a new trend? The Route 495 communities in the area of Stow have historically experienced strong housing growth. (see table 1B) Are the factors that make Stow the community that it is, going to allow for or promote “additional growth”?

The December 2006 projections suggest the K – 5 populations will average about 600 students and the grades 6 – 8, about 300+, with a few peak years with higher numbers. The SBTf decided that the current house sales slow down may be too short term to base the school program on.

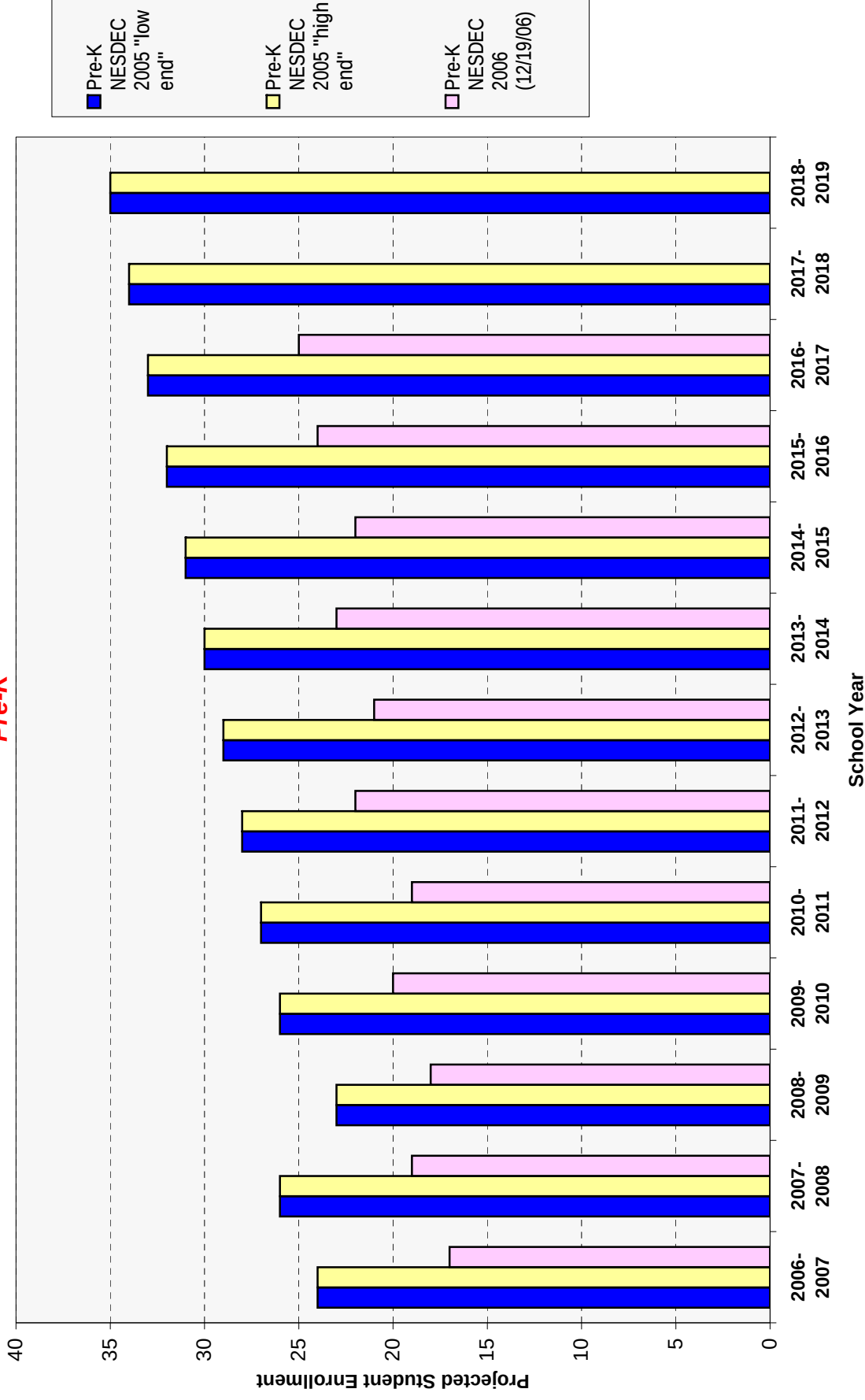
Stow’s enrollment concerns combine both population increases already experienced as well as anticipated future growth.

K – 5 student populations have increased between the years of 1996 and 2006 by 88 students, 17%.

The following pages include the December 2006 NESDEC study. Within that report are the November numbers that reflect the changes.

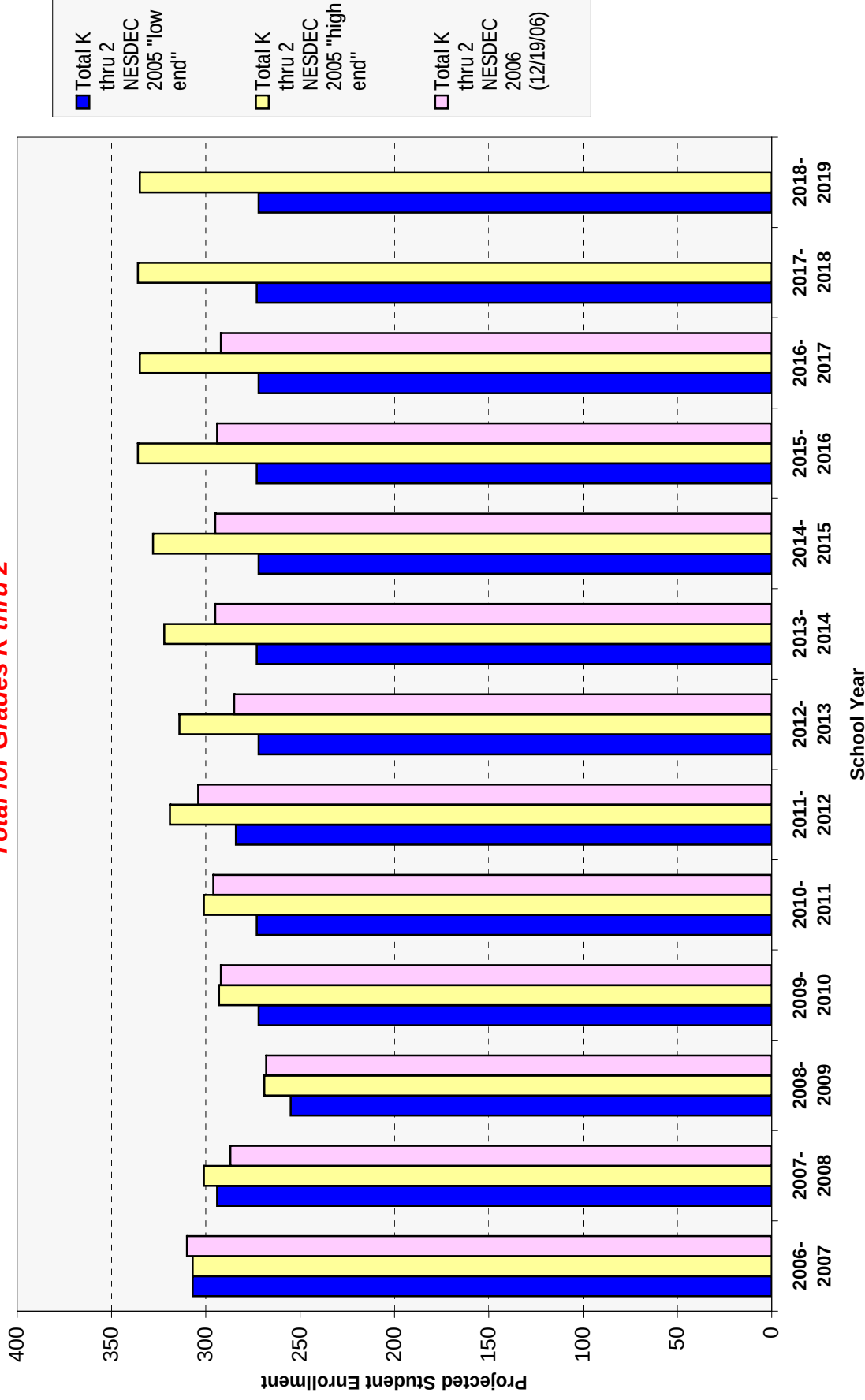
Also included is a chart by committee member George Nisotel who compared the NESDEC 2005 low end, 2005 high end and December 2006 numbers. This chart shows the variations that were discussed above.

Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios
"Pre-K"



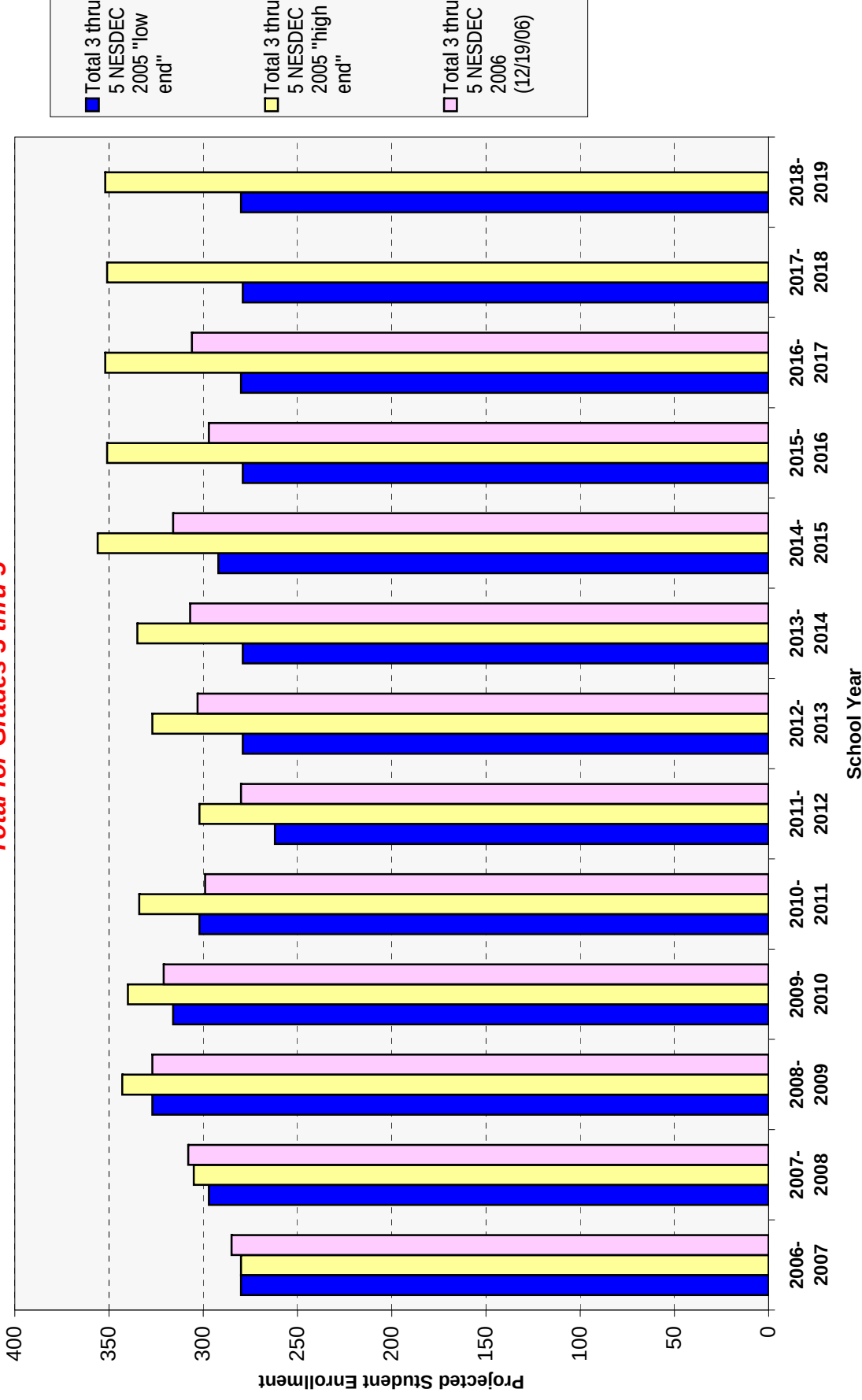
Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades K thru 2



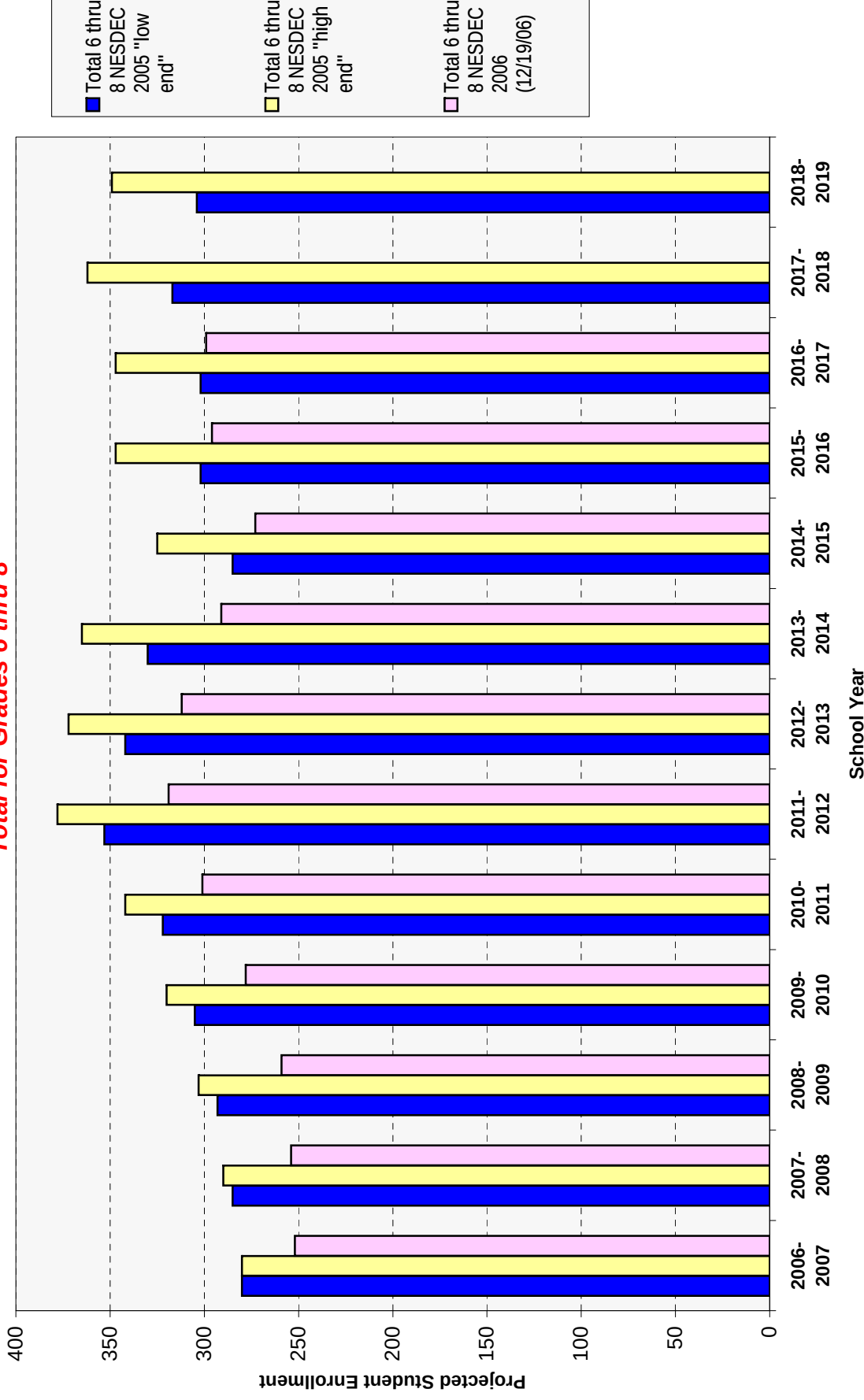
Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades 3 thru 5



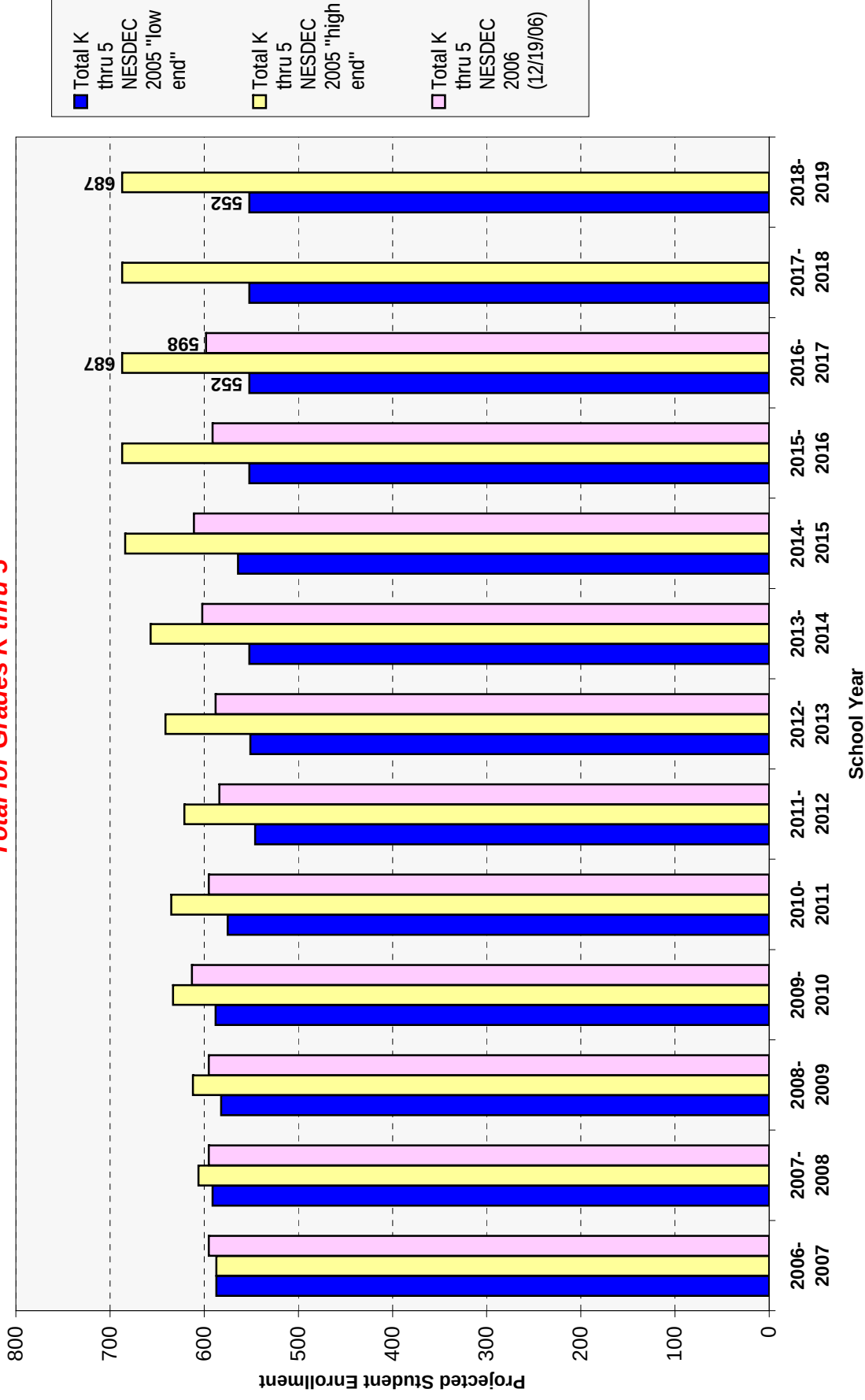
Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades 6 thru 8



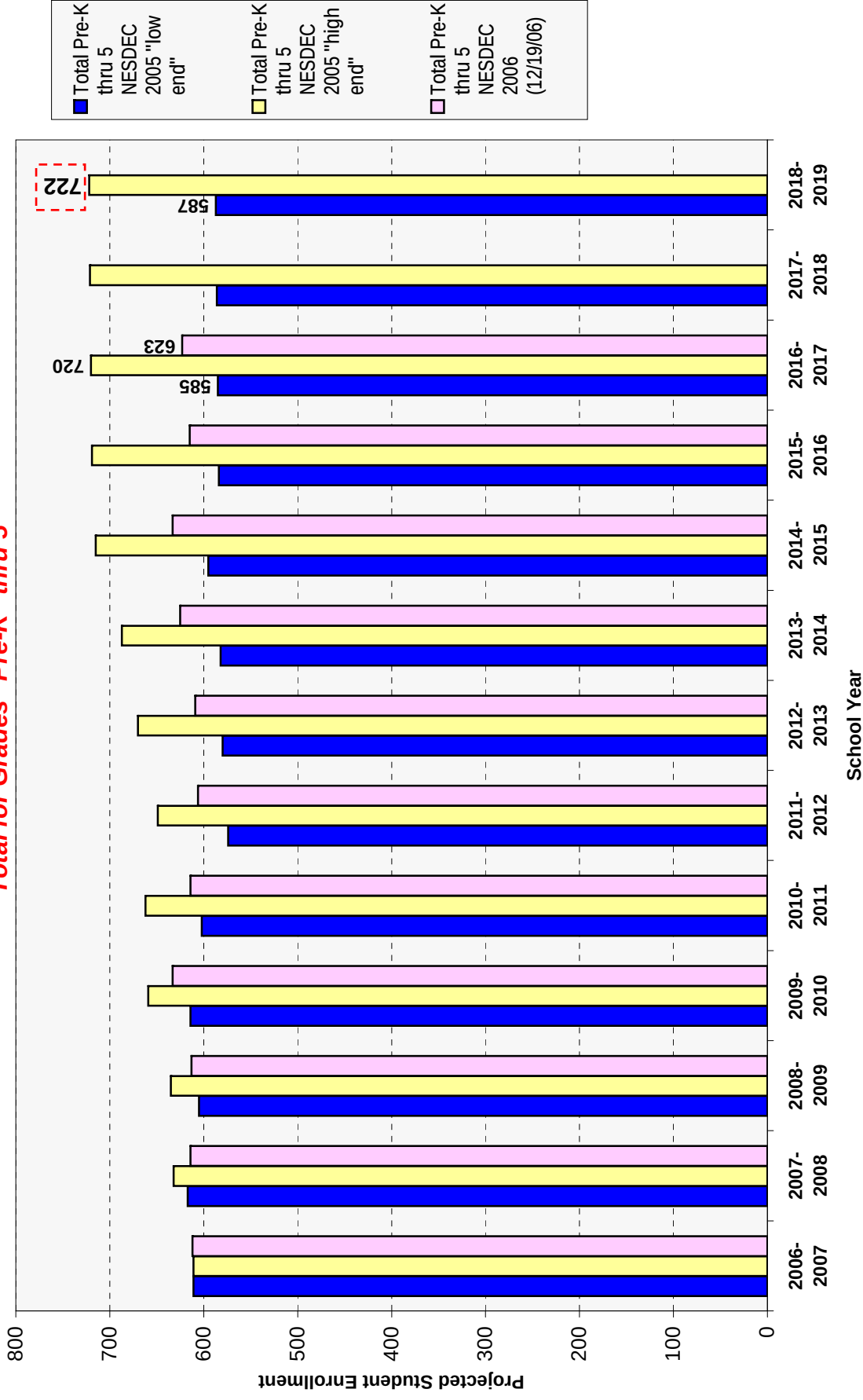
Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades K thru 5



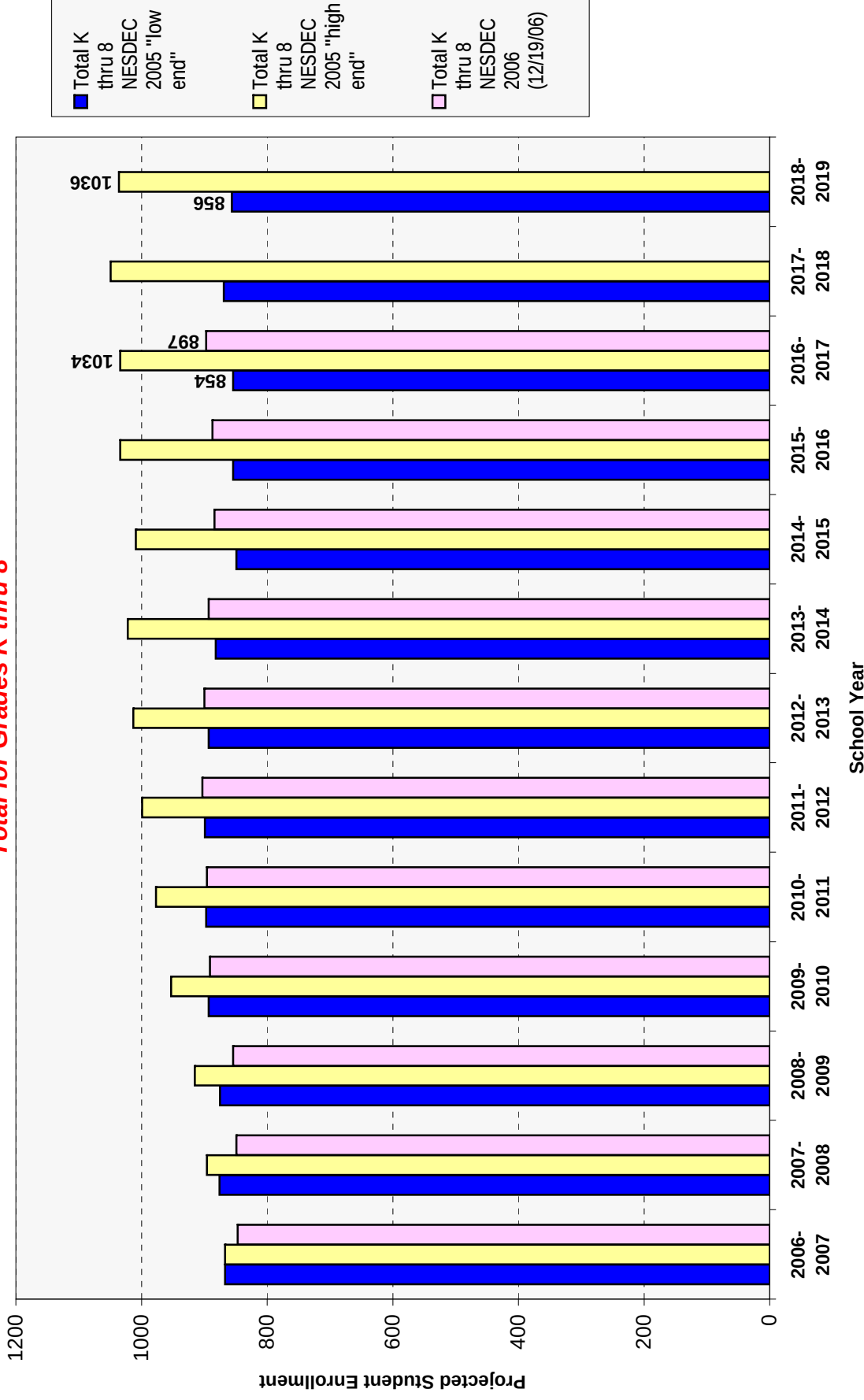
Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades "Pre-K" thru 5



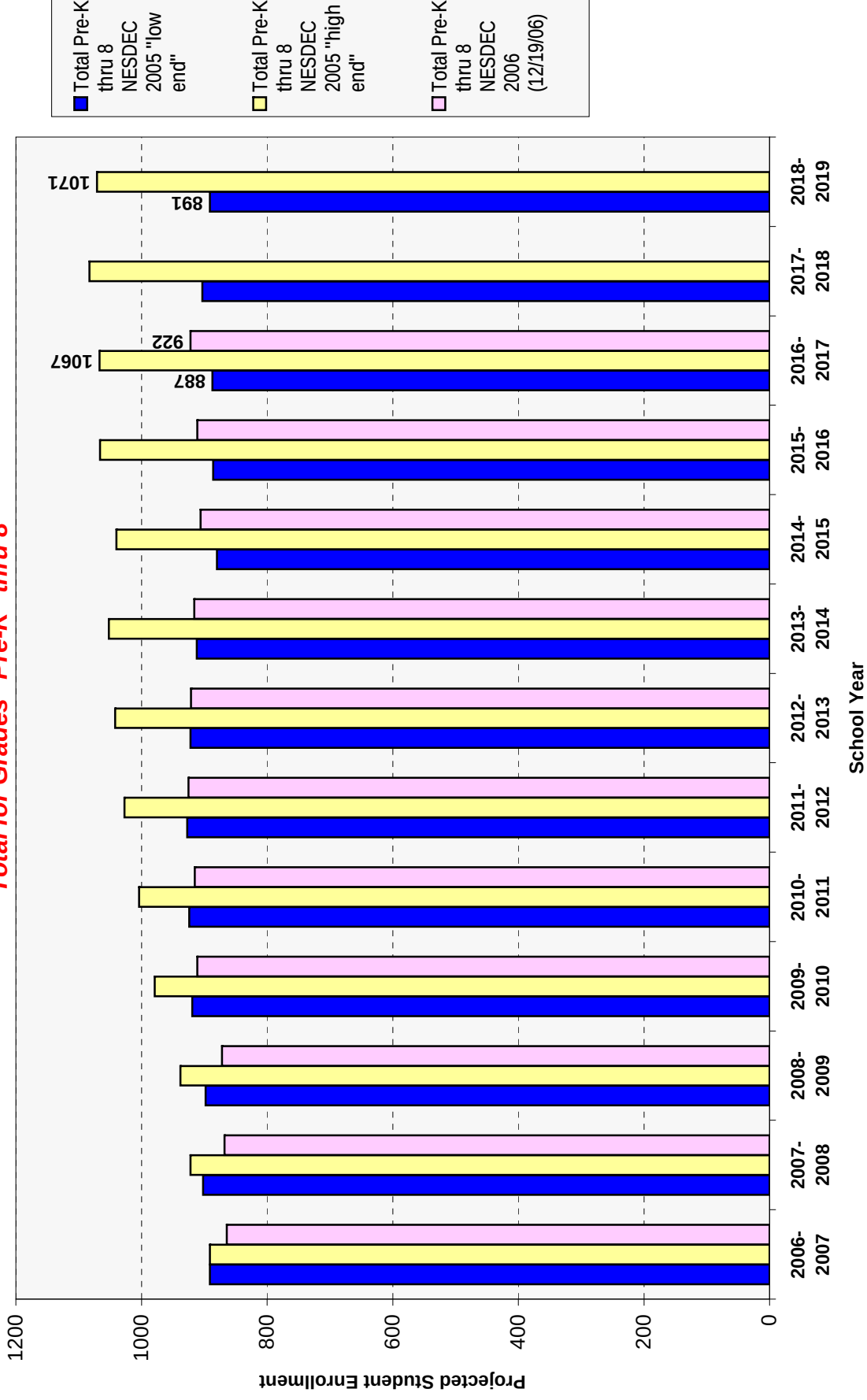
Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades K thru 8



Comparison of NESDEC Enrollment Projection Scenarios

Total for Grades "Pre-K" thru 8





New England School Development Council
Celebrating over sixty years of service to education

December 19, 2006

Mr. Michael Wood
 Superintendent of Schools
 50 Mechanic Street
 Bolton, MA 01740

Dear Michael:

The attached enrollment projection for Stow, dated December 19, 2006 is a revision of the Stow projection from November. The principal change in this revision is the inclusion of the 2005 Stow births (77 births is the provisional number not-yet-released by the DPH v. an estimate of 81 births used in the November projection for Stow).

The enclosed revised projections should be read in conjunction with NESDEC's April, 2005 Demography and Enrollment Projections booklet. This memo, with the attachments, is an update of that Report.

Page 11 of the 2005 Report includes the assumption that Stow births (used as a ratio in projecting future Kindergarten enrollment) will continue in the range of 81-86 per year. In fact, this statistic continues to track at 82-83 births.

Page 11 of the 2005 Report also includes the assumption that Stow will have 105-120 new households per year as a result of real estate turnover. In fact, real estate sales began to slow down by mid-2005 as follows:

Stow	Single-Family Sales	Condo Sales
2002	102	41
2003	112	31
2004	117	7
2005	93	9
2006*	48	3

* January – October

Turnover of real estate has a large impact upon school enrollments. If one compares the 2006 data with the most recent four-year average (2002-2005), the 48 sales of single-family homes represents 53% of the 90 homes sold in the first ten months of a "typical year" (2002-2005); the 3 condos sold in 2006 can be compared with an average of 19.5 condo sales in Jan-Oct for the four prior years. Meanwhile, Stow

60th
 Anniversary
 1946-2006

median prices have continued to escalate: \$479,000 in 2006 and \$455,000 in 2005 for single-family homes; \$511,373 in 2006 and \$401,000 in 2005 for condos.

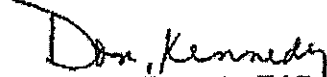
The April, 2005 NESDEC Report was based upon October 1, 2004 school enrollments, thus we are now two-years into the planning period described in the Report. The Report offered two scenarios, Table 14 (based upon real estate development to date) and Table 16 (based upon real estate growth anticipated in 2004-05 but not yet implemented). Despite the real estate "pause" which began in mid-2005 just after the NESDEC Report was presented, Stow K-8 enrollments appear to be tracking within the ranges anticipated by NESDEC, closer to Table 14:

K-8

2004-05	819	Actual when NESDEC Report written
2006-07	867	Proj. NESDEC Report Table 14 based on October 2004 data
2006-07	847	Actual
2010-11	897	Proj. NESDEC Report Table 14 ("low end")
2010-11	896	Proj. (new, attached to memo)
2010-11	977	Proj. NESDEC Report Table 16 ("high end")
2016-17	854	Proj. NESDEC Report Table 14 ("low end")
2016-17	897	Proj. (new, attached to memo)
2016-17	1034	Proj. NESDEC Report Table 16 ("high end")

We will be happy to answer your questions.

Best Wishes,



Donald G. Kennedy, Ed.D.
New England School Development Council

5 atts.

NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL-MARLBOROUGH, MA

DATE: 12/19/05

SHOW, MA (out-of-district SPED not included) 2005 data revised

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENTS BY GRADE

BIRTH YEAR	BIRTHS	SCHOOL YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ungrad	PK-12 TOTAL
1981	71	1986-87	5	77	89	82	85	92	82	90	81	78	56	64	82	65		1008
1982	82	1987-88	10	91	77	84	89	87	93	81	91	71	57	57	80	54		1002
1983	89	1988-89	7	79	89	73	89	89	82	93	78	82	54	50	51	58	3	986
1984	84	1989-90		84	83	88	71	98	80	66	93	82	67	69	60	53		984
1985	78	2000-01		87	88	85	88	74	87	86	77	90	53	65	47	48		986
1986	87	2001-02		90	84	90	88	86	76	97	85	87	70	55	69	49		1038
1987	90	2002-03	19	86	82	90	84	103	73	75	101	86	58	68	67	59		1052
1988	93	2003-04	31	102	93	87	85	86	85	93	78	103	61	68	68	51		1091
1989	95	2004-05	24	102	103	93	89	89	67	88	97	74	76	65	70	66		1121
2000	88	2005-06	18	108	112	103	95	90	91	86	84	97	86	78	66	69		1163
2001	78	2006-07	17	92	108	110	102	91	92	86	82	85	82	61	76	65		1148

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENTS IN GRADE COMBINATIONS

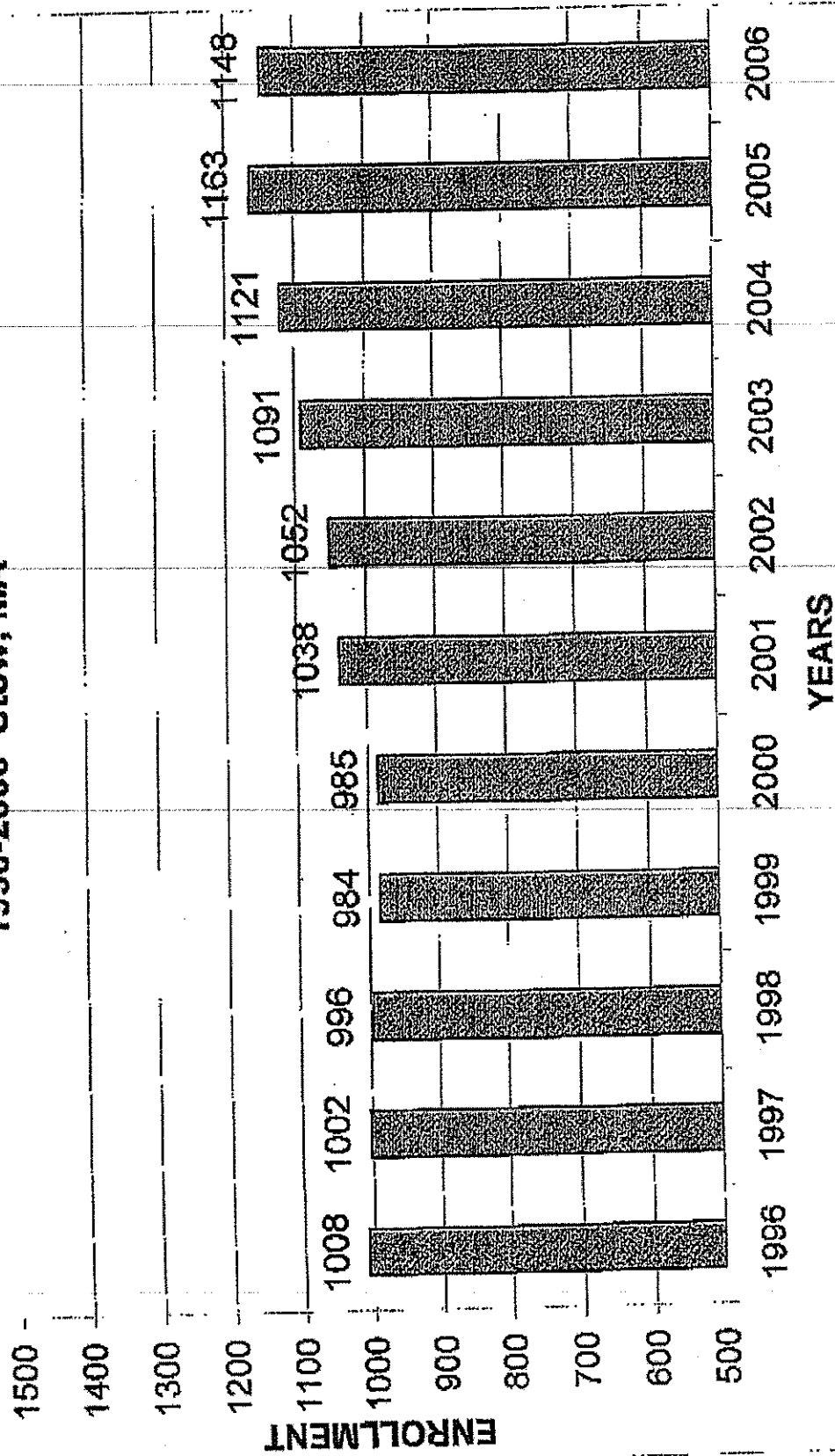
SCHOOL YEAR	K-2	K-5	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	8-12
1986-87	248	607	597	756	331	249	159	406
1987-88	252	521	602	784	336	243	162	390
1988-89	241	611	604	775	346	264	171	382
1989-90	255	514	580	755	331	241	175	404
2000-01	260	519	606	772	350	263	167	380
2001-02	274	528	623	785	345	269	172	415
2002-03	258	518	593	780	335	262	187	440
2003-04	282	538	631	812	359	274	181	429
2004-05	298	582	650	821	346	259	171	447
2005-06	323	598	685	866	267	161	460	279
2006-07	310	585	680	847	252	167	451	284

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT DATA
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Year	Total	Diff.	%
1986-87	1008		
1987-88	1002	-6	-0.6%
1988-89	996	-6	-0.6%
1989-90	984	-12	-1.2%
2000-01	986	1	0.1%
2001-02	1038	53	5.4%
2002-03	1052	14	1.3%
2003-04	1091	39	3.7%
2004-05	1121	30	2.7%
2005-06	1163	42	3.7%
2006-07	1148	-15	-1.3%

TOTAL
CHANGE 1986-2006
140 13.9%

**HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT, PK-12
1996-2006 Stow, MA**



NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL--MARLBOROUGH, MA
 SCHOOL DISTRICT: Stow, MA (out-of-district SPED not included) 2005 data revised
 DATE: 12/19/06
 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY GRADE*

BIRTH YEAR	BIRTHS	SCHOOL YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ungrad	PK-12 TOTAL
2001	76	2006-07	17	92	108	110	102	91	92	85	82	85	82	61	76	65		1148
2002	73	2007-08	19	85	95	107	111	104	93	91	81	82	71	82	61	73		1155
2003	73	2008-09	18	85	88	95	108	113	106	92	86	81	69	71	82	59		1153
2004	100	2009-10	20	115	88	88	96	110	115	105	87	85	68	69	71	79		1198
2005	77	2010-11	19	89	119	88	89	98	112	114	100	87	72	68	69	68		1192
2006	81	2011-12	22	94	92	116	89	91	100	111	108	100	73	72	68	65		1204
2007	83	2012-13	21	96	97	92	119	91	93	99	105	108	84	73	72	65		1215
2008	85	2013-14	23	99	99	97	93	121	93	92	94	105	91	84	73	69		1233
2009	81	2014-15	22	94	102	99	98	95	123	92	87	94	88	91	84	70		1239
2010	82	2015-16	24	96	97	101	100	100	97	122	87	87	79	88	91	81		1258
2011	83	2016-17	25	96	99	97	102	102	102	96	118	87	73	79	88	87		1249

PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS IN GRADE COMBINATIONS*

SCHOOL YEAR	K-2	K-5	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	9-12
2006-07	310	595	880	847	344	252	167	451
2007-08	287	595	886	849	347	254	163	450
2008-09	268	595	887	854	365	259	167	448
2009-10	292	613	718	891	393	278	173	460
2010-11	296	595	709	896	413	301	187	464
2011-12	304	584	695	903	419	319	208	487
2012-13	285	593	687	900	405	312	213	507
2013-14	295	602	694	898	384	291	198	516
2014-15	295	611	703	894	396	273	181	514
2015-16	294	591	713	887	393	286	174	513
2016-17	292	598	694	897	401	299	203	530

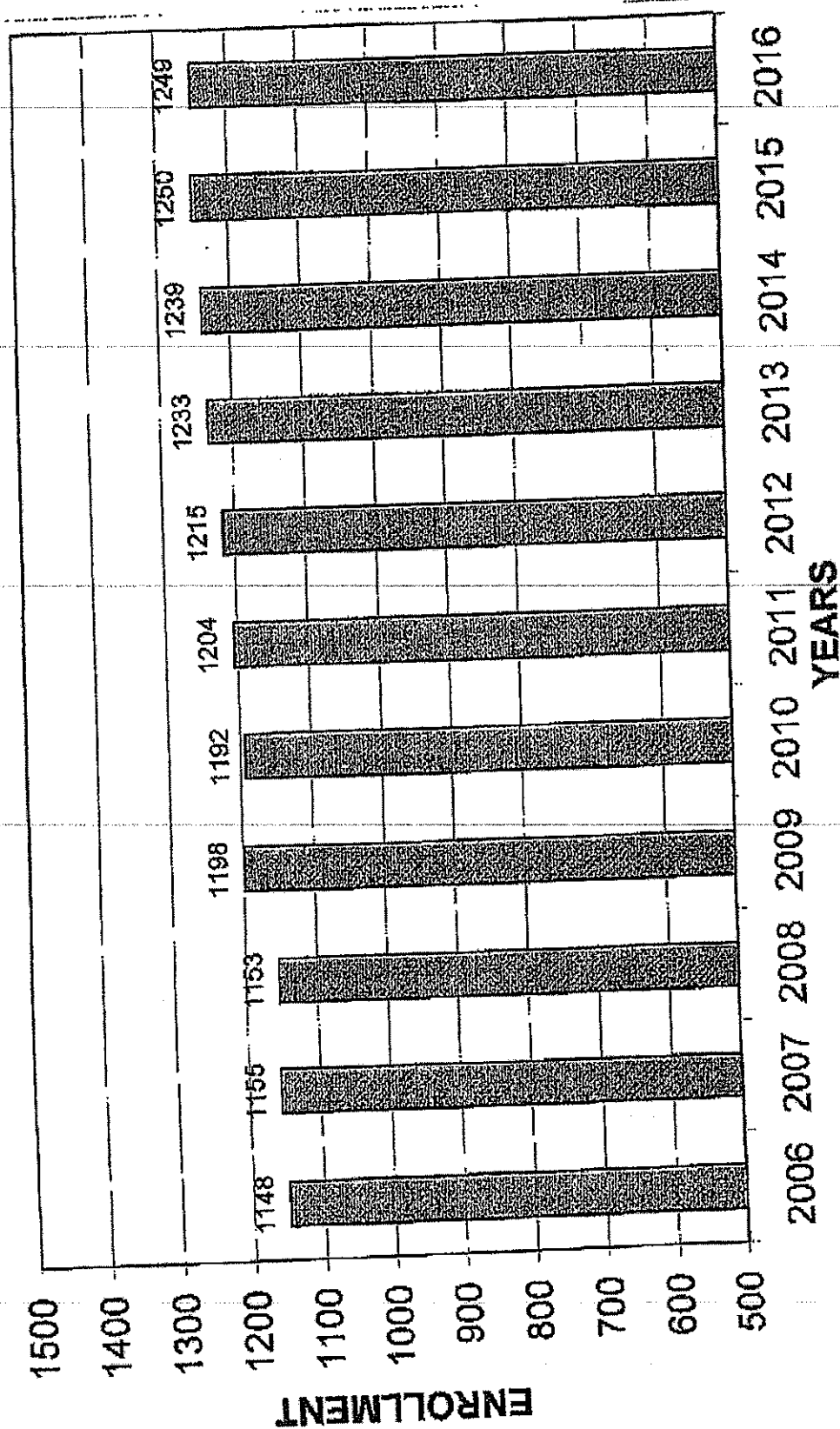
*PROJECTIONS SHOULD BE UPDATED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT DATA
 ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Years	Total	Diff.	%
2006-07	1148		
2007-08	1155	7	0.6%
2008-09	1153	-2	-0.2%
2009-10	1198	45	3.9%
2010-11	1192	-6	-0.5%
2011-12	1204	12	1.0%

TOTAL
 CHANGE 2006-2011 56 4.9%

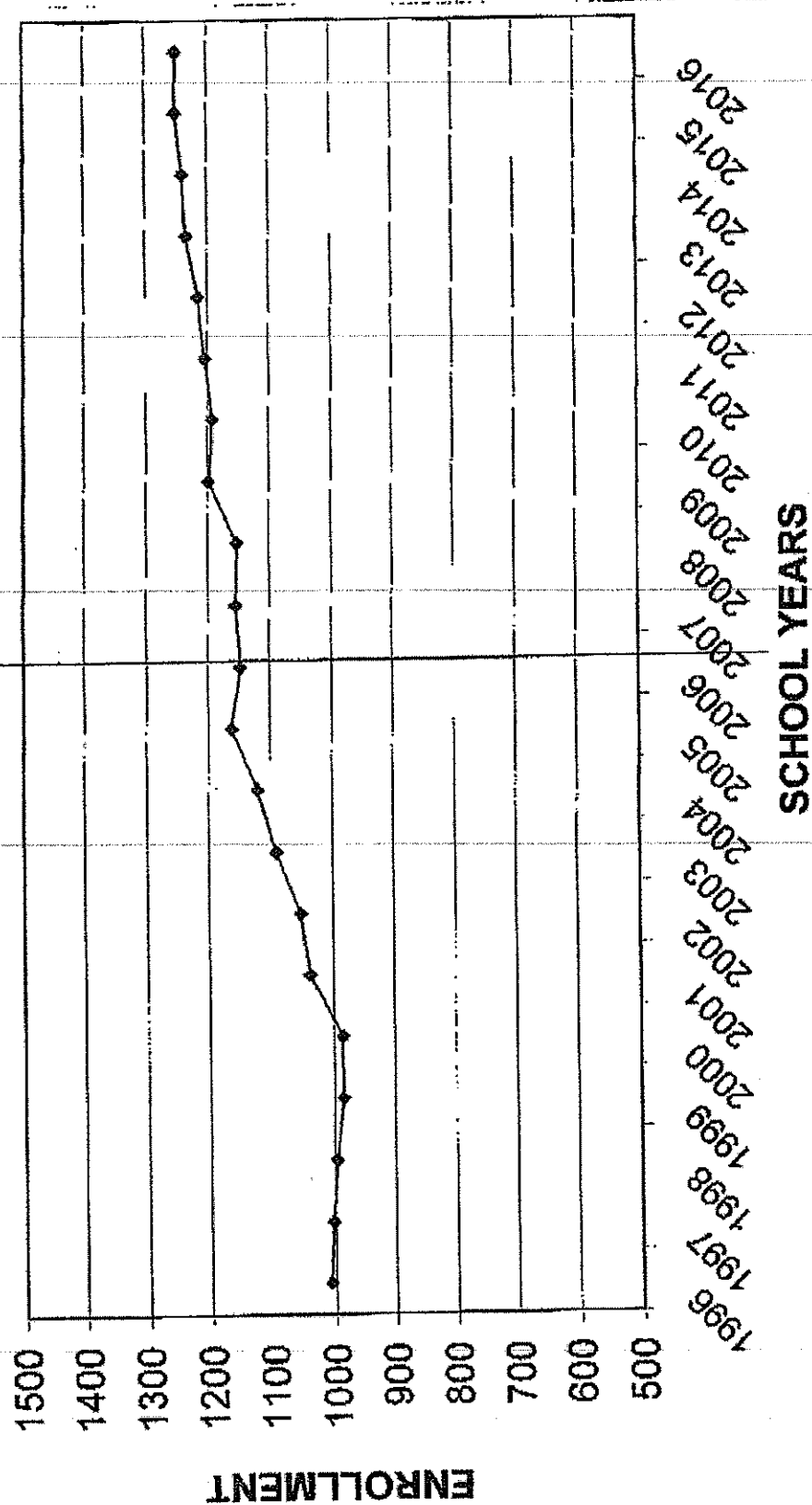
**PROJECTED PK-12 ENROLLMENT TO 2016 BASED ON DATA THROUGH
SCHOOL YEAR 2006-07 Stow, MA**



HISTORICAL & PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS
1996 TO 2016 Stow, MA

HISTORICAL

PROJECTED



NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL--MARLBOROUGH, MA
 Stow, MA (out-of-district SPED not included) 2005 data revised
 11/08/06
 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY GRADE*

BIRTH YEAR	BIRTHS	SCHOOL YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ungrad	PK-12 TOTAL
2001	78	2006-07	17	92	108	110	102	91	92	85	82	85	82	61	76	65		1148
2002	73	2007-08	17	85	95	107	111	104	93	91	81	82	71	82	61	73		1153
2003	73	2008-09	17	85	88	95	108	113	106	92	86	81	69	71	82	59		1152
2004	100	2009-10	17	116	88	88	96	110	115	105	87	86	68	69	71	79		1195
2005	81 (est.)	2010-11	17	94	119	88	89	98	112	114	100	87	72	68	69	68		1195
2006	82 (est.)	2011-12	17	95	97	118	89	91	100	111	108	100	73	72	68	66		1205
2007		2012-13			98	97	119	91	93	99	105	108	84	73	72	65		
2008		2013-14				98	98	121	93	92	94	105	91	84	73	69		
2009		2014-15					99	100	123	92	87	94	88	91	84	70		
2010		2015-16						101	102	122	87	87	79	88	91	81		
2011		2016-17							103	101	116	87	73	79	88	87		

PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS IN GRADE COMBINATIONS*

SCHOOL YEAR	K-2	K-5	K-6	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	9-12
2006-07	310	595	680	847	344	292	167	451	284
2007-08	287	595	686	849	347	254	163	450	287
2008-09	268	595	687	854	365	259	167	448	281
2009-10	292	613	716	891	393	278	173	460	287
2010-11	301	600	714	901	413	301	187	484	277
2011-12	310	590	701	909	419	319	208	487	279
2012-13					405	312	213	507	294
2013-14					384	291	199	516	317
2014-15					396	273	181	514	333
2015-16					398	296	174	513	339
2016-17					407	304	203	530	327

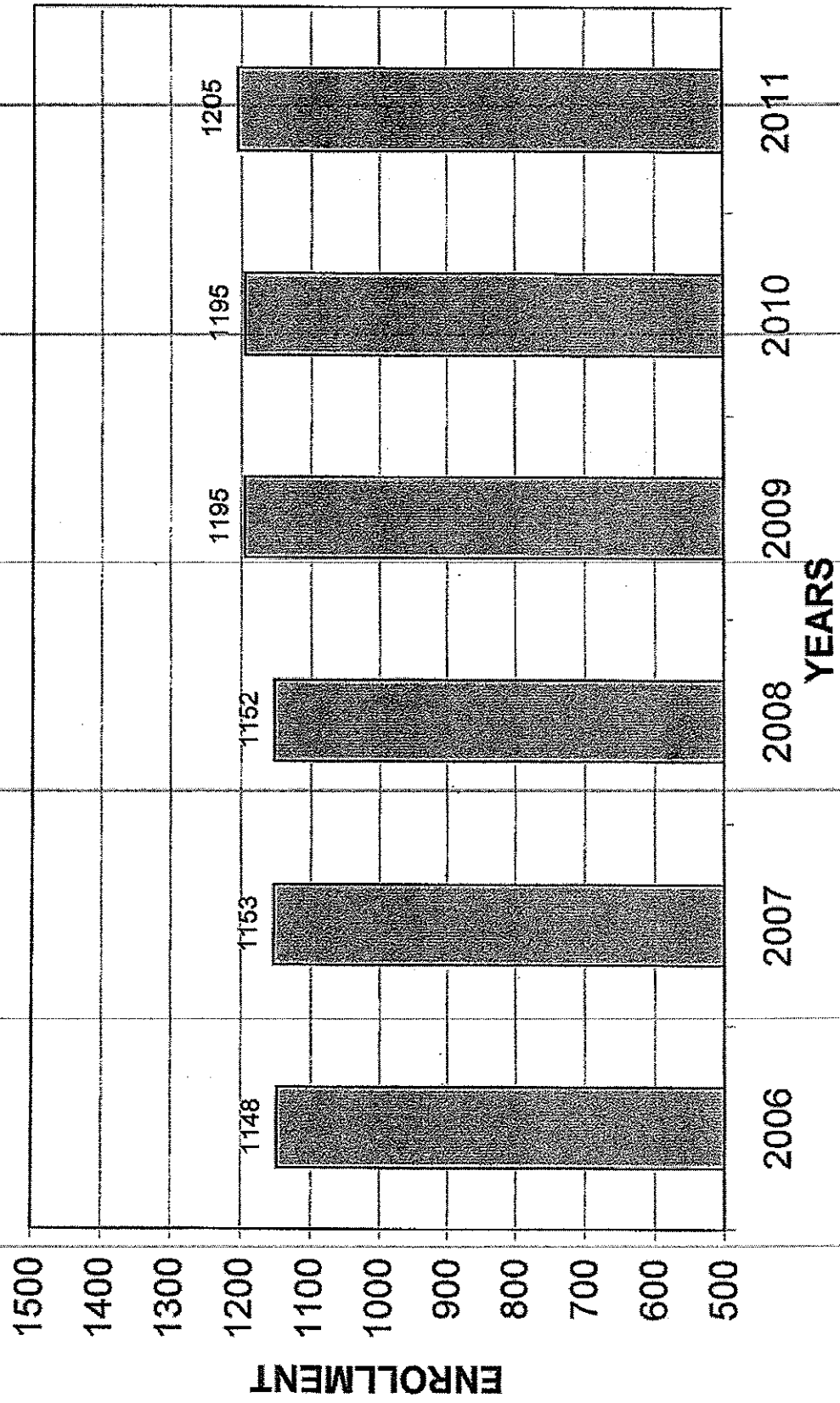
*PROJECTIONS SHOULD BE UPDATED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT DATA
 ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Years	Total	Diff.	%
2006-07	1148		
2007-08	1153	5	0.4%
2008-09	1152	-1	-0.1%
2009-10	1195	43	3.7%
2010-11	1195		
2011-12	1205	10	0.8%

TOTAL
 CHANGE 2006-2011 57 5.0%

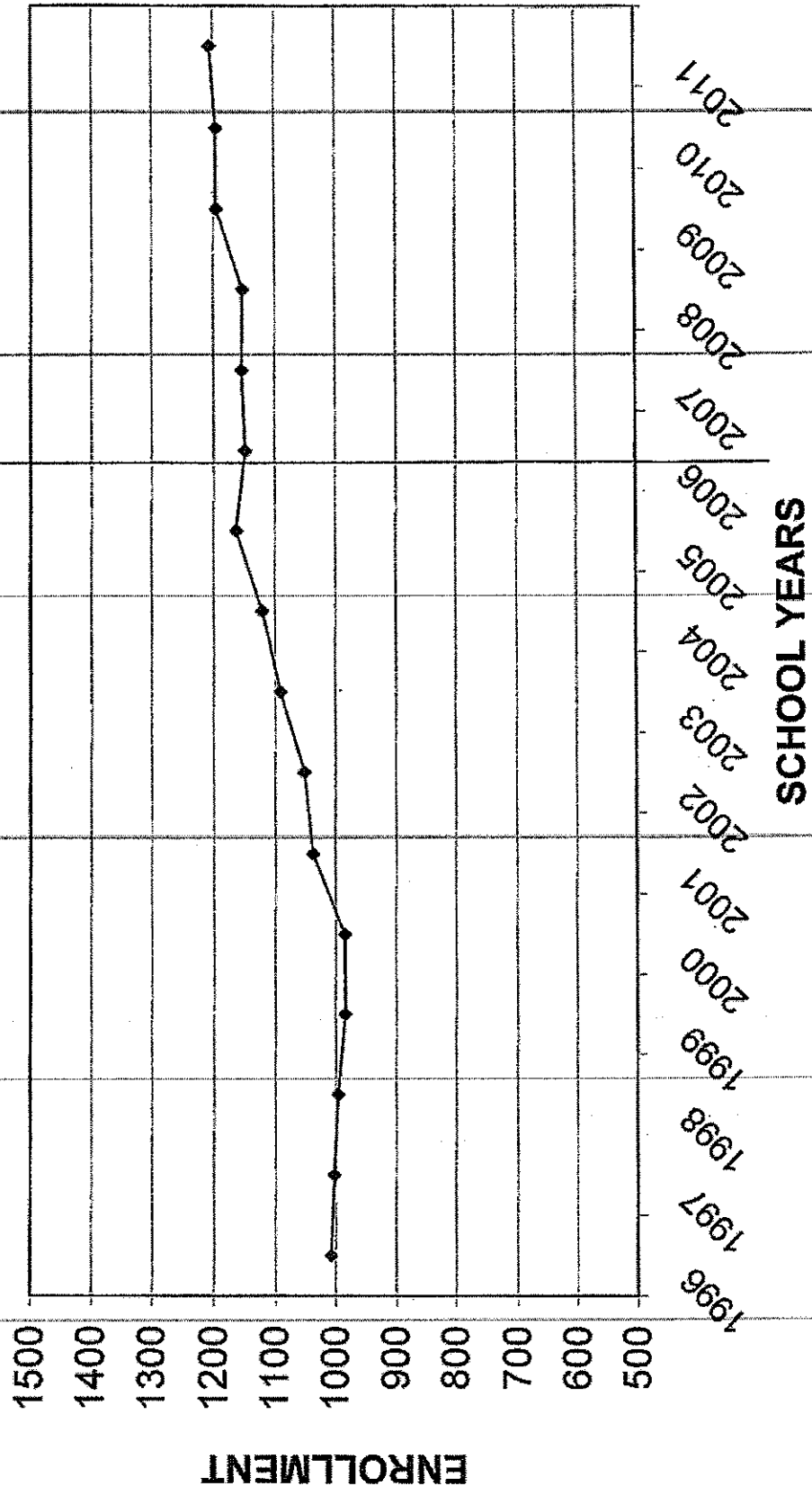
**PROJECTED PK-12 ENROLLMENT TO 2011 BASED ON DATA THROUGH
SCHOOL YEAR 2006-07 Stow, MA**



HISTORICAL & PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS
1996 TO 2011 Stow, MA

HISTORICAL

PROJECTED



NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL--MARLBOROUGH, MA

DATE: 11/08/06

SCHOOL DISTRICT: Stow, MA (out-of-district SPED not included) 2005 data revised

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENTS BY GRADE

BIRTH YEAR	BIRTHS	SCHOOL YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ungrad	PK-12 TOTAL
1991	71	1996-97	5	77	89	82	85	92	82	90	81	78	56	64	62	68		1008
1992	82	1997-98	10	91	77	84	89	87	93	81	91	71	57	57	60	54		1002
1993	69	1998-99	7	79	89	73	99	89	82	93	78	92	84	50	61	58	3	985
1994	84	1999-00		84	83	88	71	98	90	88	93	82	87	59	50	53		984
1995	78	2000-01		87	88	85	88	74	97	86	77	90	53	65	47	48		985
1996	87	2001-02		90	94	90	88	88	76	97	85	87	70	55	69	49		1038
1997	90	2002-03	19	86	82	90	84	103	73	75	101	86	69	58	57	59		1052
1998	93	2003-04	31	102	93	87	85	86	85	83	78	103	81	68	68	51		1091
1999	95	2004-05	24	102	103	93	88	89	87	88	97	74	76	66	70	65		1121
2000	88	2005-06	18	108	112	103	95	90	91	86	84	97	86	78	86	69		1163
2001	78	2006-07	17	92	108	110	102	91	92	85	82	85	82	61	76	65		1148

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENTS IN GRADE COMBINATIONS

SCHOOL YEAR	K-2	K-5	K-6	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	9-12
1996-97	248	507	597	756	331	249	159	406	247
1997-98	252	521	602	764	336	243	162	380	228
1998-99	241	511	604	775	346	264	171	382	211
1999-00	255	514	580	755	331	241	175	404	229
2000-01	260	519	605	772	350	263	167	380	213
2001-02	274	526	623	795	345	289	172	415	243
2002-03	258	518	593	780	335	262	187	440	253
2003-04	282	538	631	812	359	274	181	429	248
2004-05	298	562	650	821	346	259	171	447	276
2005-06	323	599	685	868	358	287	181	460	279
2006-07	310	595	680	847	344	252	167	451	284

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT DATA
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Year	Total	Diff.	%
1996-97	1008		
1997-98	1002	-6	-0.6%
1998-99	985	-6	-0.6%
1999-00	984	-12	-1.2%
2000-01	985	1	0.1%
2001-02	1039	53	5.4%
2002-03	1052	14	1.3%
2003-04	1081	39	3.7%
2004-05	1121	30	2.7%
2005-06	1163	42	3.7%
2006-07	1148	-15	-1.3%

TOTAL
CHANGE 1996-2006

140 13.9%

**HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT, PK-12
1996-2006 Stow, MA**

