

ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

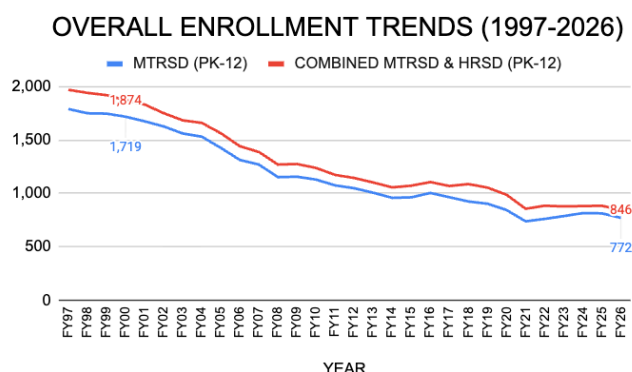
KEY FINDINGS AND CONSIDERATIONS

CONTEXT

- Our enrollment trends are shaped by **lower birth rates, regional population decline, school choice patterns, and student movement across districts and schools.**
- Enrollment is foundational to district sustainability, directly influencing **program offerings, staffing, facilities, and finances.**
- Recent analyses and updates confirm that while enrollment decline has slowed compared to historical losses, **overall enrollment continues to decrease by approximately 1–2% annually.**

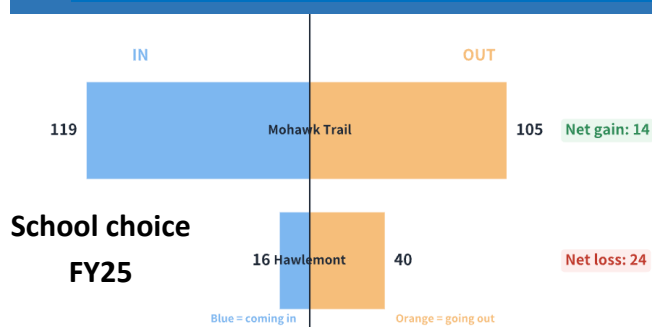


Historical Decline Reflects Regional Demographic Change (2000-2025)



Since 2000, combined enrollment has dropped 55%

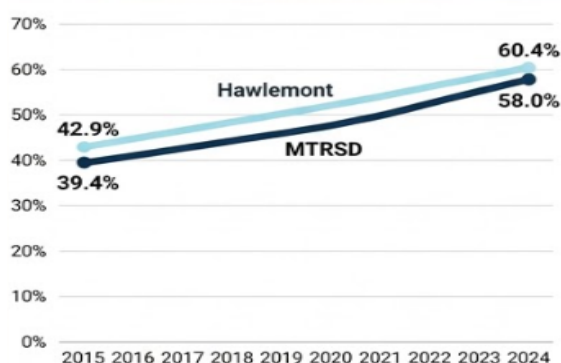
- MTRSD has dropped 55%, 947 fewer students
- HRSD has dropped 52%, 81 fewer students



SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

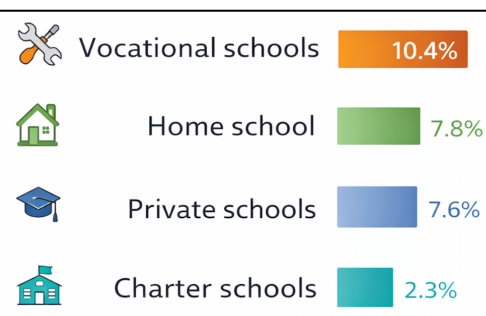
- Projected enrollment is expected to continue declining gradually, with smaller class sizes becoming more common.
- Smaller groups of students can create challenges in maintaining comprehensive academic programs, staffing, efficiency, fiscal sustainability, and peer groups necessary for academic and social growth.

High Needs Students Trends (2015 – 2024)



Increasing numbers of high needs students (low income, special education, and English learners) necessitate specific and targeted resources and supports.

School Aged Students in the 8 towns attend:



Enrollment trends reflect long-term demographic shifts rather than short-term decisions. Planning for the future requires aligning educational programming, facilities, staffing, and finances with smaller, more slowly declining enrollment levels.