

# Ten-Year School Enrollment Projections

UNIVERSITY *of* VIRGINIA  
THE DEMOGRAPHICS RESEARCH GROUP

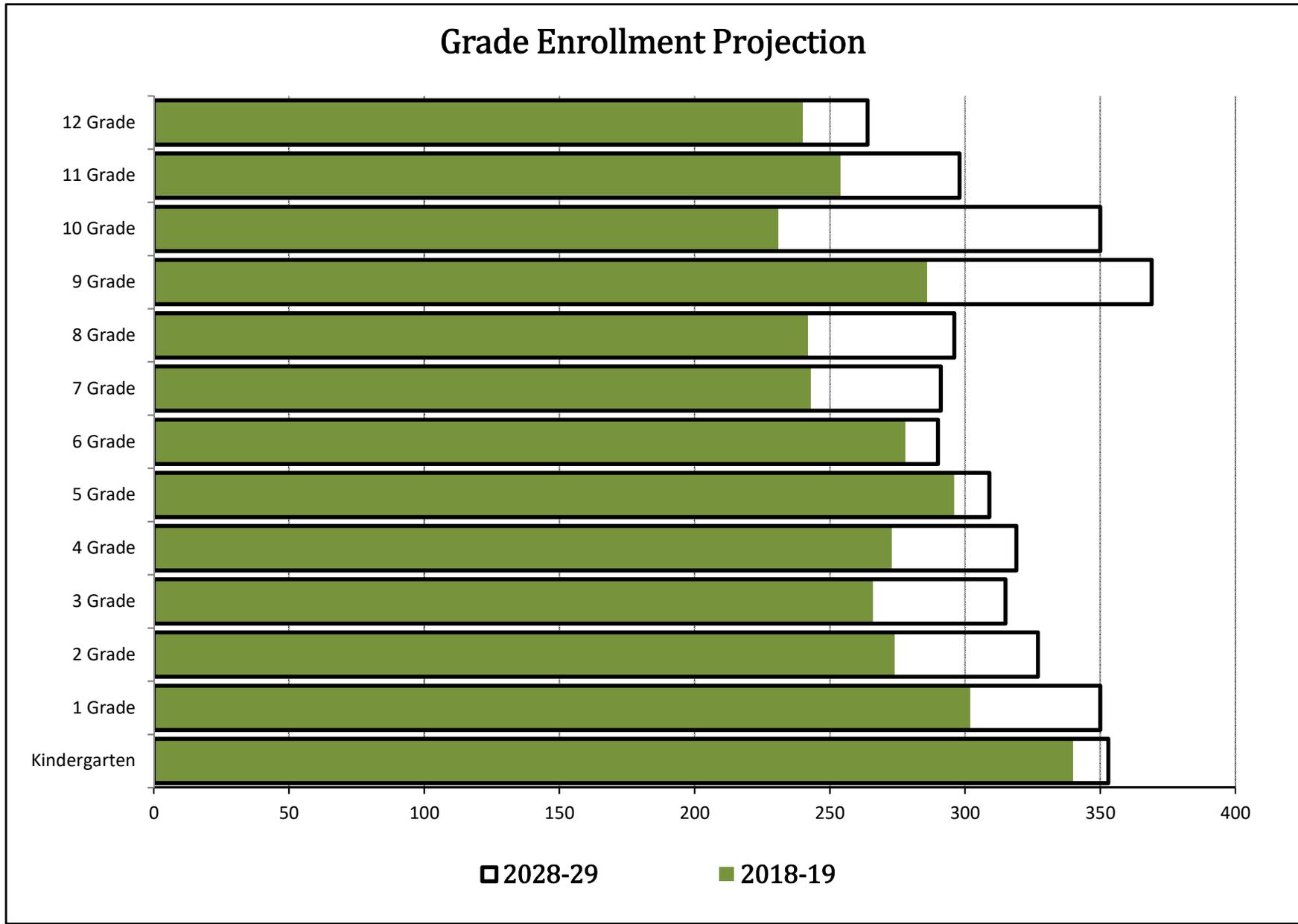


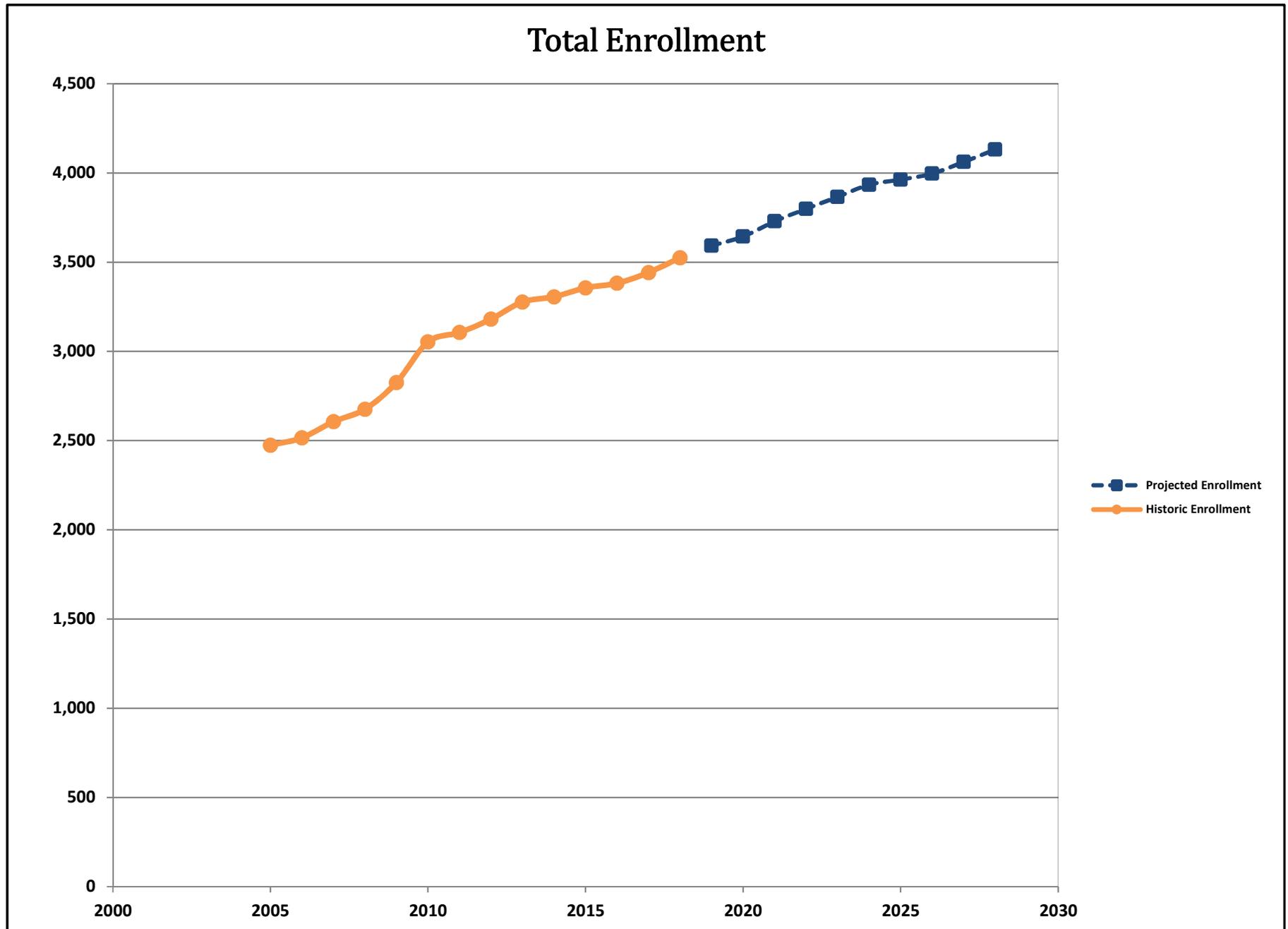
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS - BASED ON 2018 FALL ENROLLMENT COUNTS

Grade Enrollment Projection

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total K-12
2018-19	340	302	274	266	273	296	278	243	242	286	231	254	240	3,525
2019-20	320	341	290	267	272	267	289	291	245	291	256	222	241	3,592
2020-21	308	324	325	283	273	267	260	303	292	298	259	245	207	3,644
2021-22	303	313	306	321	289	268	258	274	299	351	265	249	233	3,729
2022-23	316	306	298	300	328	283	260	271	274	361	313	254	235	3,799
2023-24	326	320	291	292	307	321	275	273	270	331	321	300	239	3,866
2024-25	331	330	304	286	298	301	311	289	272	326	295	308	283	3,934
2025-26	334	335	314	298	292	292	292	327	288	328	290	283	290	3,963
2026-27	340	338	318	308	305	286	283	307	326	348	292	278	267	3,996
2027-28	346	344	321	312	315	299	277	297	306	393	310	280	262	4,062
2028-29	353	350	327	315	319	309	290	291	296	369	350	298	264	4,131
Change	13	48	53	49	46	13	12	48	54	83	119	44	24	606

	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	Total
2018-19	916	835	763	1,011	3,525
2019-20	951	806	825	1,010	3,592
2020-21	957	823	855	1,009	3,644
2021-22	922	878	831	1,098	3,729
2022-23	920	911	805	1,163	3,799
2023-24	937	920	818	1,191	3,866
2024-25	965	885	872	1,212	3,934
2025-26	983	882	907	1,191	3,963
2026-27	996	899	916	1,185	3,996
2027-28	1,011	926	880	1,245	4,062
2028-29	1,030	943	877	1,281	4,131
Change	114	108	114	270	606







## METHODOLOGY FOR 10-YEAR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

This document describes the grade-progression ratio method used by Cooper Center demographers in developing standard ten-year school enrollment projections.

### INPUT DATA

School enrollment projections require the use of birth data and fall membership counts. Birth data are obtained from the Virginia Center for Health Statistics, reported by county. To ensure that the birth data have been assigned to the correct localities, Cooper Center demographers geocode the residence address of each birth mother and then assign each birth to the locality of residence.

The second element of input data—historical and current fall membership counts—are obtained from the school division or from the Virginia Department of Education.

### GRADE-PROGRESSION RATIO METHOD

The grade-progression ratio captures the school enrollment patterns of a cohort of children as they move forward in time and progress from grade to grade. Grade progression ratios provide detail of how many students advance into the next grade from the lower grade one year before and are determined by dividing the number of students in a particular grade by the number of students from the previous grade in the previous school year. For example, the 2nd grade/1st grade-progression ratio is found by dividing the current number of 2nd grade students by last year's number of 1st grade students. (In the case of kindergarten, the ratio is the actual enrollment in kindergarten divided by births five years prior). A ratio larger than 1 means there are additional students coming in to the school who were not enrolled in the previous grade. A ratio smaller than 1 means students may be transferring to private school or home school, dropping out, or families with school children are moving away from the community, among other reasons.

Because grade-specific progression ratios can fluctuate considerably from one year to another, it is important to generate and evaluate multiple sets of grade-progression ratios to minimize the “noise”. The Cooper Center does this by creating three- and five-year average ratios based on data from those most recent years, along with the single-year ratio of the latest year. All three grade-progression ratios are applied to the current school enrollment data to obtain forecasts for the following year, which then become the basis for projecting enrollment the year after. The projections based on single- and multiple-year grade progression ratios are compared, and the middle series is selected as most probable. For some customized studies, the range of years utilized to create the average grade-progression ratios may vary from this standard approach.

### A NOTE ABOUT PROJECTIONS

School enrollment projections are based, in part, on past student enrollment trends. Since student enrollment can change, enrollment projections should be updated annually to account for any changes in enrollment trends.

Please contact Kathryn Crespin at (434) 982-5582, or [kathryn.crespin@virginia.edu](mailto:kathryn.crespin@virginia.edu), if you have any questions.