



**Caldwell-West Caldwell**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **Demographic and Enrollment Projection Study**

## **Introduction**

This report will provide the Caldwell-West Caldwell Public Schools with the results of a demographic study conducted by Ross Haber and Associates. The District has four K-5 elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In addition, there is the Harrison School which houses an integrated prekindergarten program, a half-day prekindergarten disabled program, a full-day kindergarten disabled program and an ABA class.

## **Methodology**

This study used the cohort survival method for enrollment projections. This method calculates future enrollment based upon a six-year history of enrollment in the District. The calculation is based upon student growth and/or decline as groups move from grade to grade. A five-year average of these growth ratios serves as a multiplier for the projections. For example, if there are 100 children in grade one each year and this group becomes 110 when they are second graders then the growth ratio is 10% or 1.1. This is averaged for five years and the current year is multiplied by that average to create the projection.

Kindergarten enrollment is typically projected by averaging the difference between students born each year and kindergarten enrollment five years later. For example, children born in 2009 would become kindergarten students in the 2014-15 school year. The percentage between births and kindergarten generates the kindergarten projection.<sup>1</sup> Alternately in a District that has a half day kindergarten program the birth to kindergarten ratio often does not produce a reliable projection. Because the District implemented a full-day kindergarten in 2019-20 if the standard birth to kindergarten average was used it would skew the enrollment projections in subsequent years. The average growth from kindergarten to grade one, with a half day kindergarten was 17%. If 17% was used as a multiplier it would have created an inaccurate first grade and that would carry all through the projections. For this study a combination of factors was used including a birth to first grade average and then these averages were weighted. The actual average we used to project both kindergarten and first grade was 1.06.

The cohort survival method considers all reasons for children entering or leaving the District over the course of a year. The only factor that the cohort survival method does not consider is the impact of new housing (housing to be built) on enrollment. In order to do that, consideration is given to new housing based upon the type of housing unit that is being built (i.e.: single family, multi-family, affordable, etc.). Student yield ratios are assigned to each type of unit and these are added to the cohort projections.

This methodology meets the requirements of the State Education Department and the SDA (School Development Authority) for the Long-Range Facility Plan.

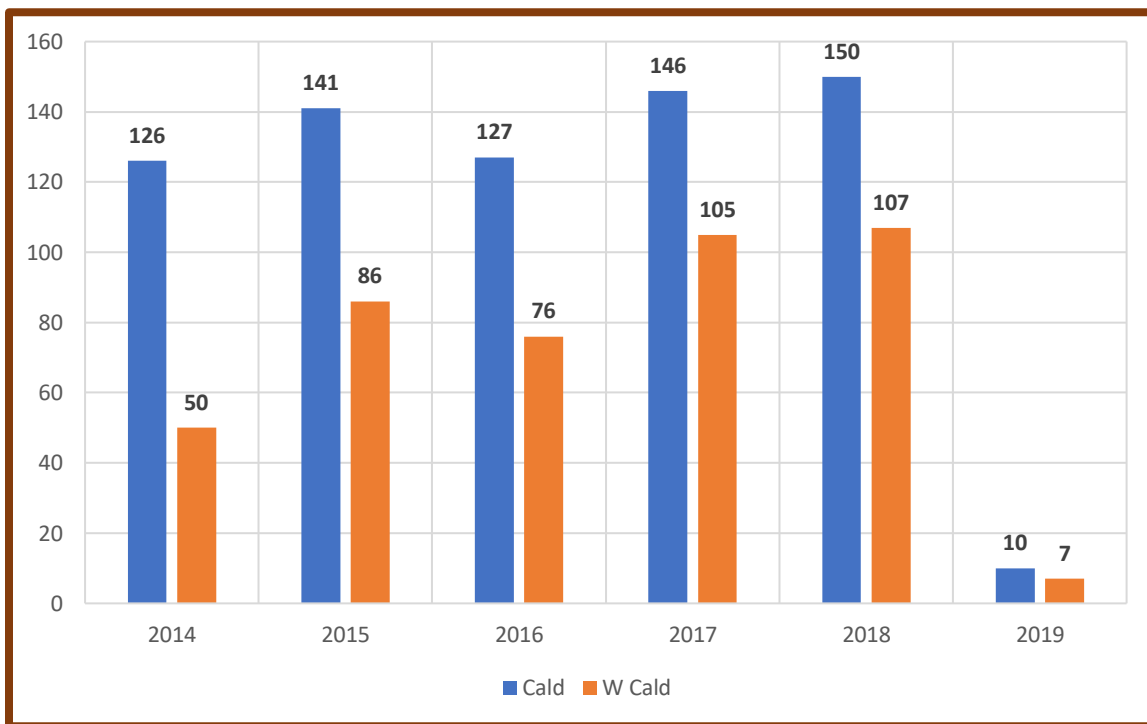
The cohort survival method does not include the impact of students for new non-age restricted construction. In speaking with the Borough Clerk of Caldwell and the Township Clerk of West Caldwell there is no significant new residential construction either currently in progress or on the agendas of either municipality. However, in both communities there has been an active market in terms of sales of existing properties. While projections can not be made based upon future housing sales this data does show that these sales are keeping the enrollment in the Caldwell-West Caldwell School District stable. Chart I on the next page shows housing sales in both

---

<sup>1</sup> In New Jersey births attributed to a specific community are provided by the New Jersey Department of Health.

communities from 2014 through November 2019.<sup>2</sup>

**Chart 1: Sales of Existing Housing**



This chart represents sales of existing homes where there was an actual change in the residents residing in the home. This does not include “paper sales” in which a paper sale was made to change the ownership but not the residents of a home.

---

<sup>2</sup> Data from State Information Services, a paid on-line service providing information regarding sales of residential and commercial properties.

**Table 1: Selected Community Demographics Caldwell<sup>3</sup>**

Caldwell					
	2010	2018	Diff	Percent	% of Pop
Population	7,822	8,032	210	2.68%	
Median Age	40.40	41.90	1.50	3.71%	
Housing	3,510	3,593	83	2.36%	
Median Income	\$75,354.00	\$85,112.00	\$9,758.00	12.95%	
Mean Income	\$98,722.00	\$105,525.00	\$6,803.00	6.89%	
White	6,306	6,399	93	1.47%	79.67%
Black	233	228	-5	-2.15%	2.84%
Asian	366	282	-84	-22.95%	3.51%
Hispanic	786	992	206	26.21%	12.35%
Two or More	113	131	18	86.26%	0.22%
Other/NR	15	0	-15		0.00%

Table 1 shows selected demographic data points for the Township of Caldwell. The community showed a marginal increase in population between 2010 and 2018. There was an increase in the median age of the community. The number of homes increased by about 2.36% and these were primarily single family units. There was a marginal change in the racial/ethnic composition of the community with the largest percentage increase in the Hispanic community and the largest percentage decrease in the Asian community.

**Table 2: Selected Community Demographics West Caldwell Borough<sup>4</sup>**

W Caldwell					
	2010	2018	Diff	Percent	% of Pop
Population	10,759	10,932	173	1.61%	
Median Age	44.90	46.60	1.70	3.79%	
Housing	4,009	4,049	40	1.00%	
Median Income	\$102,584.00	\$105,931.00	\$3,347.00	3.26%	
Mean Income	\$121,330.00	\$134,292.00	\$12,962.00	10.68%	
White	9,574	9,441	-133	-1.39%	86.36%
Black	122	131	9	7.38%	1.20%
Asian	418	745	327	43.89%	6.81%
Hispanic	523	581	58	11.09%	5.31%
Two or More	14	9	5	-35.71%	0.05%
Other/NR	103	25	-78	-75.73%	0.23%

Table 2 shows selected demographic characteristics. The overall population in the Borough grew marginally. There was a slight uptick in the median age and a small increase in

<sup>3</sup> From the American Community Survey (ACS), the United States Census.

<sup>4</sup>From the American Community Survey (ACS), the United States Census

housing. The racial/ethnic mix in the community changed marginally with the Asian population showing the largest percentage increase.

**Table 3: School Demographics<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Caldwell-West Caldwell School District</b>					
	2014-15	% of Enr	<i>2018-19</i>	Change	% of Enr
Enrollment	2643		2614	-29	
White	2214	83.77%	2116	-98	80.95%
Black	42	1.59%	44	2	1.68%
Asian	122	4.62%	111	-11	4.25%
Hispanic	249	9.42%	317	68	12.13%
Other/NR	2	0.08%	5	3	0.19%
Two Races	9	0.34%	26	17	0.99%
Free Lunch	148	5.60%	157	9	6.01%
Reduced Lunch	27	1.02%	54	27	2.07%
Limited English	33	1.25%	47	14	1.80%

Table 3 compares selected demographic characteristics in the Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools. In general, the school characteristics mirror the demographic characteristics of both communities.

**Enrollment**

**Table 4: Summary of Enrollment History and Projections**

	2014-15	2019-20	Students	% Change	2024-25	Students	% Change
District	2643	2674	31	1.17%	2759	85	3%
Jefferson	311	264	-47	-15.11%	300	36	14%
Lincoln	246	261	15	6.10%	273	12	5%
Washington	345	395	50	14.49%	402	7	2%
Wilson	263	248	-15	-5.70%	274	26	10%
Middle School	623	642	19	3.05%	632	-10	-2%
High School	804	826	22	2.74%	811	-15	-2%
SCSE	15	18	3	20.00%	29	11	61%
PSD	36	20	-16	-44.44%	36	16	80%

\*SCSE-self-contained special education

Table 4 shows changes in enrollment both on a District and school level basis. It looks at five-year changes showing that the enrollment between 2014-15 and 2019-20 remained stable with a slight increase of 1.17%. The projection shows that the District will show an increase in enrollment of approximately 3% by the 2024-25 school year.

<sup>5</sup> New Jersey Department of Education, ASSA Report, 2018-19 data was last available.

The following tables show the enrollment history and projections by District and by school from the base year, 2014-15 to the final projected year (2024-25).

**Table 5: District-Wide Enrollment History and Projection**

Year	Births		K		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	K-5	6-8	9-12	Sub-Tot	SCSE	PSD	Total	%												
																									Change											
2014-15	191	0.8586	163		164		224		201		192		221		214		199		210		214		192		198		200	1165	623	804	2592	15	36	2643		
					1.1043		1.0915		0.9509		1.1144		0.9010		1.0226		0.9766		1.0000		0.9429		0.9953		0.9948		1.0051									
2015-16	154	1.1688	158		180		179		213		224		173		226		209		199		198		213		191		199	1127	634	801	2562	19	37	2618	-0.95%	
					1.1456		1.0333		0.9777		1.0845		0.9018		1.1156		0.9823		1.0383		0.9548		0.9949		1.0141		1.0052									
2016-17	172	1.0523	154		181		186		175		231		202		193		222		217		190		197		216		192	1129	632	795	2556	27	25	2608	-0.38%	
					1.1883		0.9945		1.0269		1.0057		1.0000		1.0248		1.0104		1.0045		0.9631		0.9895		1.0203		1.0139									
2017-18	181	1.0110	152		183		180		191		176		231		207		195		223		209		188		201		219	1113	625	817	2555	23	28	2606	-0.08%	
					1.2434		1.0437		1.0167		1.0209		1.0057		0.9827		1.0290		1.0051		1.0000		1.0000		0.9947		0.9851									
2018-19	175	1.0800	173		189		191		183		195		177		227		213		196		223		209		187		198	1108	636	817	2561	24	29	2614	0.31%	
					1.1734		0.9788		1.0471		1.0055		1.0000		1.0847		1.0308		1.0141		1.0000		1.0269		1.0239		1.0000									
2019-20	188	1.0691	201		203		185		200		184		195		192		234		216		196		229		214		187	1168	642	826	2636	18	20	2674	2.30%	
Av		1.069			1.069		1.0284		1.0038		1.0462		0.9617		1.0461		1.0058		1.0124		0.9722		1.0013		1.0096		1.0018									
Year	Births		K		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	K-5	6-8	9-12	Sub-Tot	SCSE	PSD	Total	%												
2020-21	169		181		215		209		186		209		177		204		193		237		210		196		231		214	1176	634	852	2662	22	31	2715	1.52%	
2021-22	184		197		193		221		210		194		201		185		205		196		230		210		198		232	1216	586	870	2672	27	34	2733	0.66%	
2022-23	178		190		210		199		222		219		187		211		186		208		190		231		212		199	1227	604	831	2663	28	33	2724	-0.30%	
2023-24	178		190		203		216		199		232		211		195		212		188		202		190		233		213	1252	596	838	2686	28	35	2749	0.90%	
2024-25	177		188		202		209		217		209		224		221		197		214		183		202		192		233	1249	632	811	2691	29	36	2759	0.36%	

A combination of factors, including livebirth data, birth to first grade averaging, and weighting the kindergarten to first grade ratios were used due to the limited data from full day kindergarten (only one year’s worth of data).

**Chart 2: District-Wide Enrollment History and Projection**

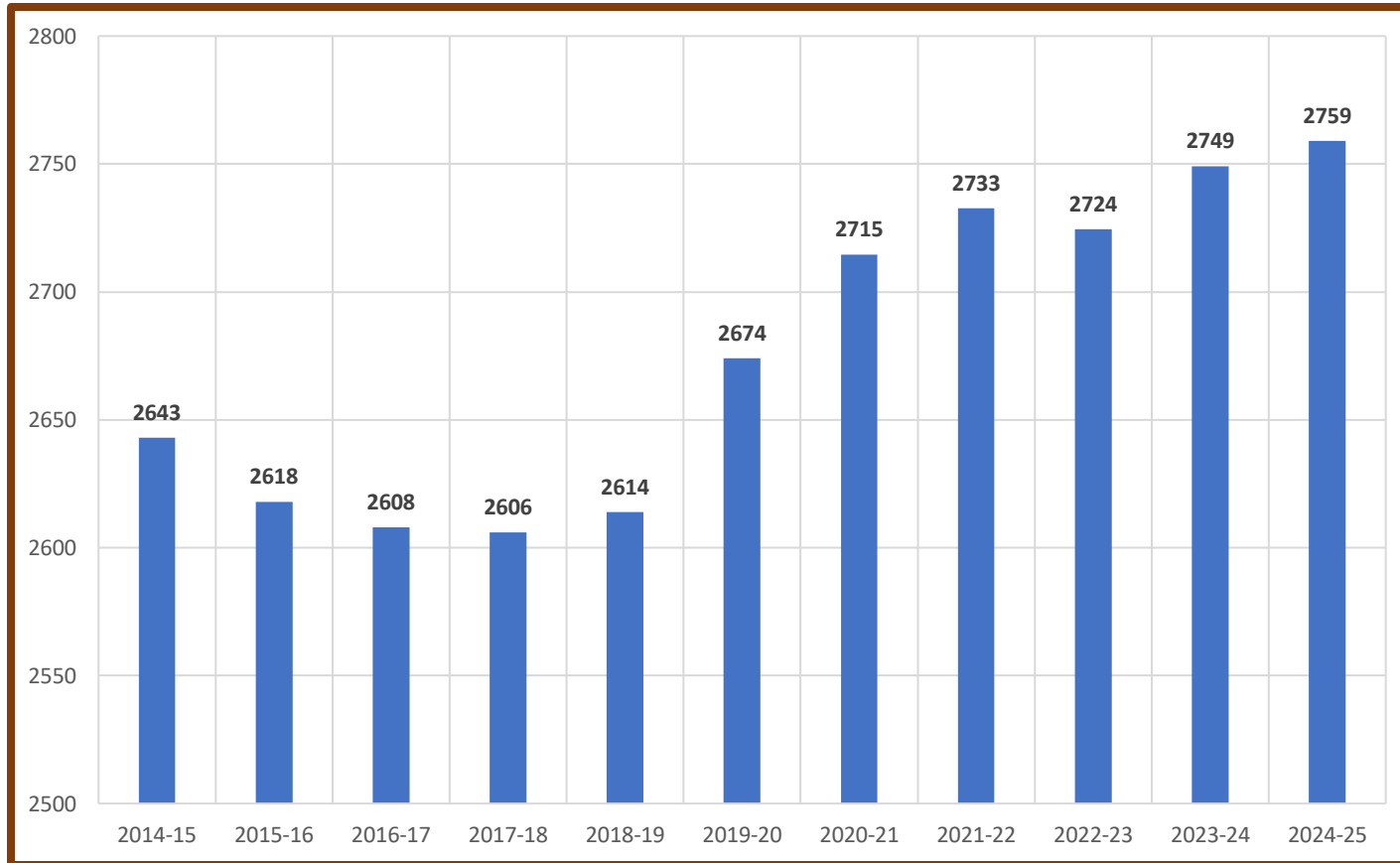


Chart 2 is a graphic representation of the District-wide enrollment history and projection.



**Table 6: Jefferson Elementary School**

Jefferson										
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2014-15	191	46	45	49	56	40	75	311	15	326
2015-16	154	36	45	44	54	56	43	278	15	293
2016-17	172	35	39	45	47	50	51	267	14	281
2017-18	181	32	42	41	46	47	49	257	16	273
2018-19	175	39	42	44	42	48	47	262	14	276
2019-20	188	40	48	41	43	44	48	264	12	276
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2020-21	169	44	52	50	45	50	43	284	15	299
2021-22	184	47	46	53	51	47	48	292	17	309
2022-23	178	46	51	48	53	53	45	296	18	314
2023-24	178	46	49	52	48	56	51	302	18	320
2024-25	177	45	49	50	52	50	54	300	19	319

**Table 7: Lincoln Elementary School**

Lincoln										
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2014-15	191	32	32	48	41	43	50	246		246
2015-16	154	27	41	35	47	44	42	236		236
2016-17	172	34	40	41	38	47	43	243		243
2017-18	181	39	41	37	42	41	46	246		246
2018-19	175	39	46	41	42	40	43	251		251
2019-20	188	47	48	45	43	42	36	261		261
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2020-21	169	39	47	46	41	46	39	258	0	258
2021-22	184	43	42	48	46	42	44	265	0	265
2022-23	178	41	46	43	48	48	41	267	0	267
2023-24	178	41	44	47	43	51	46	272	0	272
2024-25	177	41	44	46	47	46	49	273	0	273

**Table 8: Washington Elementary School**

Washington										
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2014-15	191	46	52	75	65	50	57	345		345
2015-16	154	63	52	51	78	66	50	360		360
2016-17	172	54	66	56	52	80	66	374		374
2017-18	181	51	62	64	59	52	80	368		368
2018-19	175	56	61	64	61	61	51	354		354
2019-20	188	79	64	56	72	61	63	395		395
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2020-21	169	58	69	67	60	67	57	378	0	378
2021-22	184	64	62	71	68	63	65	393	0	393
2022-23	178	61	68	64	72	71	60	396	0	396
2023-24	178	61	65	70	64	75	68	403	0	403
2024-25	177	61	65	67	70	67	72	402	0	402

**Table 9: Wilson Elementary School**

Wilson										
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2014-15	191	39	35	52	39	59	39	263		263
2015-16	154	32	42	49	34	58	38	253	4	257
2016-17	172	31	36	44	38	54	42	245	13	258
2017-18	181	30	38	38	44	36	56	242	7	249
2018-19	175	39	40	42	38	46	36	241	10	251
2019-20	188	35	43	43	42	37	48	248	6	254
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	K-5	SCSE	Total
2020-21	169	40	47	46	41	46	39	259	7	266
2021-22	184	64	62	71	68	63	65	393	9	402
2022-23	178	42	46	44	49	48	41	270	10	280
2023-24	178	42	44	47	44	51	46	274	10	284
2024-25	177	41	44	46	48	46	49	274	11	285

**Table 10: Middle School Projection**

Year	6	7	8	Total
2014-15	214	199	210	623
2015-16	226	209	199	634
2016-17	193	222	217	632
2017-18	207	195	223	625
2018-19	227	213	196	636
2019-20	192	234	216	642
Av				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2020-21	204	193	237	634
2021-22	185	205	196	586
2022-23	211	186	208	604
2023-24	195	212	188	596
2024-25	221	197	214	632

**Table 11: High School Projection**

Year	9	10	11	12	Total
2014-15	214	192	198	200	804
2015-16	198	213	191	199	801
2016-17	190	197	216	192	795
2017-18	209	188	201	219	817
2018-19	223	209	187	198	817
2019-20	196	229	214	187	826
Av					
Year	9	10	11	12	Total
2020-21	210	196	231	214	852
2021-22	230	210	198	232	870
2022-23	190	231	212	199	831
2023-24	202	190	233	213	838
2024-25	183	202	192	233	811

## Summary

The Caldwell-West Caldwell School District had a relatively stable enrollment between 2014-15 and 2019-20. The overall enrollment increased by just over 1% in that five-year period. The projection shows that the enrollment will increase over the next five years by approximately 3%. This will be an increase of approximately 85 students over all the schools in the District. This is by no means a radical change. Housing sales have been moderate over the past five years and, in large measure, are why the enrollment has been stable.

As of this report (December 2019) there is no indication of any large residential housing developments at either Planning Board. The demographics of the community and the schools do not appear to have changed in any significant way during the past five years.

We have not addressed the Harrison facility in this report. It is our understanding that there is a plan to add another ABA section in the building. The preschool and preschool disabled enrollment appears to be stable and, it is difficult to project with any level of reliability, special needs children because of the time issue involved in classification (i.e.-development of IEP's; diagnosis, entry into a program, etc.). However, as with the rest of the District these students appear to have been relatively stable in numbers over the past five years.