

Enrollment Trends and Outlook for the Cleveland High School Cluster, Portland Public Schools

March 11, 2005

This report is prepared by the Population Research Center, which has prepared annual enrollment projections for Portland Public Schools since 1999. The Population Research Center serves as Oregon's statewide public service and research group concentrating on population analysis. Founded in 1956 as the Oregon State Board of Census, it came under Portland State University's umbrella and changed to its current name in 1965.

This brief report describes current population, housing, and school enrollment trends in the Cleveland High School cluster, the outlook for school enrollments over the next ten years, and how the enrollment projections are prepared.

The Cleveland High School cluster includes two middle schools – Hosford and Sellwood – and seven elementary schools – Abernethy, Buckman, Duniway, Edwards, Grout, Lewis, Llewellyn, and Winterhaven.

Because of special interest in the outlook for elementary school enrollments in the Cleveland cluster, the report devotes more attention to these enrollment figures.

Population and Housing Trends

The Cleveland High School area has experienced some housing growth but virtually no change in population during the past 15 years. Although there was an addition of about 120 housing units per year, the 1990 population of 52,651 increased by only 31 persons to 52,682 in 2000. Since 2000, the annual addition of housing units has slackened to about 55 per year. We estimate that the Cleveland HS area population grew to about 53,000 residents in 2004.

Examining recent information on housing development in Cleveland's elementary school attendance areas, new housing has decreased after 2000 throughout the attendance area. Housing development has dropped especially in the Buckman area, which added about 80 new units annually in the 1990s and added only 40 units each year after 2000. There were very few housing units added in the Edwards area in the 1990s and only one building permit recorded after 2000. In the Abernethy, Duniway, Grout, Lewis, Llewellyn areas, annual new annual housing development has dropped by about 5 units in each area. During the past four years, there have been 2 units annually added in Abernethy, 2 units in Duniway, 8 in Grout, 3 in Lewis, and 1 in Llewellyn on average, based on Portland's building permit data.

Declines in the number of births in the Cleveland High School cluster area have a pronounced effect on the numbers of students entering elementary school. During the past three years, there have been about 600 annual births in the Cleveland area. This is about 90 births fewer than the average annual number during the 1990s. Declines in the

average number of births implies that there will be about 500 fewer children in the K-5 school ages over the next years, as the newborns become older and enroll in elementary school. The number of births has declined by 5 to 20 births annually in each of the elementary school areas, except for the Grout area, which has experienced a drop of about 30 to 50 births per year, compared to the 1990s.

School Enrollment Trends

Enrollments in the Cleveland High School area decreased by more than 500 students during the 1990 to 2000 decade. Although the area added some new housing, the population did not increase. Many families who used to have children saw their children grow up and leave home; as a result, there was a substantial 4 percentage point decrease in the proportion of households with school-age children in the Cleveland area in the 1990s. In addition, there was a slight decline in the proportion of school-age children residing in the Cleveland area who enrolled in Portland Public Schools – dropping from 78 percent in 1990 to 77 percent in 2000. Since 2000, the number of PPS students residing in the Cleveland HS area decreased to about 4,200, a further decline of 400 students living in the area.

Not all students who live in the Cleveland HS area attend local Cleveland HS area schools and some students attend Cleveland schools from outside the area. Overall, there is a net in-flow of about 400 students, increasing the actual number of students attending local schools compared to the number of students residing in the area.

School Enrollment Outlook

We anticipate the current trends of modest housing development (about 50 to 60 additional housing units added annually) will produce modest population increases over the coming years. The resident population, however, is becoming older and we do not anticipate there will be future increases in the annual number of births. For these reasons, we expect that the number of PPS students residing in the Cleveland HS area will decrease from 4,700 in 2000 to about 4,200 in 2005, 3,800 in 2010, and about 3,500 in 2015.

We anticipate moderate declines in high school and middle school enrollment during the next decade. Except for elementary school enrollment increases in Buckman, we believe that decreases will occur in all other elementary schools, as shown in the table below. There is greater uncertainty, however, as the duration of the projection period increases. We can place greater reliance on the projections for next few years than we can for those in ten years or more.

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2005 to 2015 Change
Cleveland HS	1,322	1,349	1,227	1,144	-205
Hosford MS	426	347	301	307	-40
Sellwood MS	584	616	544	521	-95
Abernethy ES	198	192	157	160	-32
Buckman ES	536	496	499	576	+80
Duniway ES	419	436	409	432	-4
Edwards ES	218	181	169	185	+4
Grout ES	323	297	255	253	-44
Lewis ES	292	288	273	253	-35
Llewellyn ES	336	292	273	276	-16
Winterhaven ES	81	127	114	116	-11

Data Sources and Methods

We rely on several important data sources for developing school enrollment projections for Portland Public Schools. These include:

- Housing. We start with counts of housing, for single and multi-family units from the 2000 census. We rely on information on building permits and annual updates on the number of units in tax parcel assessments for up-to-date information on new residential development.
- Population. The key ingredient for school enrollment projections is data on the population by age and sex. We start with age and sex tabulations, for the population residing in the Cleveland High School area in 2000, and project the population assuming rates of mortality, fertility, and net migration. Mortality data are taken from Oregon’s life tables. Fertility data are derived from Oregon’s birth data that we code for the Cleveland High School area (there were 589 births in 2002 in the area, the most recent year for birth data; this is a large decrease from 769 births in the area in 1990). We derive net migration data by age and sex from 1990 to 2000 census changes, and make projections consistent with changes in housing development.
- School enrollments. Once we have the projected number of school-age children and youth residing in the attendance areas, we need to make two further calculations. First, we project the proportion of school-age children who enroll in Portland Public Schools – we refer to this as the capture rate. We currently estimate that the 2000 capture rate of 77 percent remains constant. We are able to check the capture rate each year by comparing our predicted enrollments with observed enrollments; since 2000, our predictions have been close enough to actual enrollments that we maintained a constant capture rate. Second, we calculate which PPS school students will attend. To do this, we tabulate where students live and which school they attend for all PPS students in the current year.

Although there are fluctuations year to year and, to be sure, new programs in the future will change the flow of students, we make projections based on this year's tabulation of resident-attendance.

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