

**Demographics and LPS Future
Action Plan
August 2003**

Two major studies completed in the 2001-2003 time period provided information that confirms the need for the district to focus on changing community demographics and the projected decrease in student enrollment as planning for the long-term future proceeds.

Study by the 21st Century Task Force resulted in a series of alternatives for consideration by the district to address the issues of declining enrollment and increasing student needs. The alternatives identified included measures that might improve district resources, attract additional enrollment, and enhance services to students. Some considerations for reorganizing or reconfiguring schools were included as efficiency measures. Discussions by the Board of Education resulted in the selection of alternatives for action that were included in the Administrative Work Plan. In addition, the Board commissioned Strategic Resources West to complete a comprehensive demographic analysis of the district to supplement and validate current enrollment projection information.

Strategic Resources West presented a report on district demographics to the Board of Education in February 2003. This information confirmed the trend of a steady decline in the school-age population with a predicted stabilization in 2007. While the elementary level is currently experiencing the greatest impact due to enrollment decline, the trend may also affect secondary schools in the future, depending on the level of out-of-district student enrollment. Preliminary 2003 enrollment information continues to reflect this enrollment decline at the elementary level. In addition, while the district attracts students from surrounding districts, non-public schools capture a disproportionate number of elementary students, particularly at the kindergarten level. The report recommended: (a) that the district establish parameters for school facility utilization at the elementary level; and (b) that options for action be identified if utilization is less than established parameters.

In special workshops in March and May of 2003, the Board of Education discussed initial recommendations and a potential action plan, which would include a stated purpose, goals, expectations, and activities. Through further discussion, additional guidance about the proposed action plan will be sought from the Board during the August 28 regular meeting.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND LPS FUTURE ACTION PLAN

Statement of Issue

The demographic study completed by Strategic Resources West, Inc. in March 2003 confirmed that the school-age population in Littleton Public Schools is decreasing and will continue to do so for a few more years. The decline is expected to taper off around 2007 and enrollment will stabilize from that point on. As revenue for the district is based on a per pupil allocation, the decline in enrollment will have a significant negative impact on the district budget.

Purpose

To offset the impact of current and projected enrollment/demographic shifts on district resources, Littleton Public Schools will maximize the quality of education for all students by:

- A. creating programming options that attract enrollment
- B. refocusing available resources

Goals

- ◆ To determine appropriate parameters for diversity of educational programs, curriculum delivery, and instructional settings. (No. A2, B2)
- ◆ To develop and market programs that hold strong potential for attracting students. (No. A4, A5, A6)
- ◆ To develop criteria that establish an acceptable cost-benefit level for school enrollment, program delivery, and capacity. (No. B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8)
- ◆ To establish priorities for responding to unacceptable cost-benefit levels, e.g., boundary changes, facility closure, structural reorganization. (No. A7, B8, B9)
- ◆ To revise staffing formulas to support acceptable cost-benefit levels. (No. B7)

Process Expectations

- ◆ Implement a communication plan that fosters community involvement and understanding of the action plan. (No. A1, B1, A7, B9)
- ◆ Establish a timeline and structure for the district and school sites to develop and propose ideas and alternatives to address stated goals. (No. A1, B1, A3)
- ◆ Provide forums for public input as appropriate and collaborate with district and community groups on potential alternatives. (No. B4, A7, B9)
- ◆ Schedule regular updates for the Board of Education on status of action plan for discussion and comment. (No. A7, B9)

Numbers following Goals and Process Expectations refer to activities listed in the following chart.

**DEMOGRAPHICS AND LPS FUTURE
ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE — 2003-04**

Purpose A: Creating Programming options that attract enrollment

Activity	Responsibility	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
A 1. Communicate action plan.	BOE; Administration	↑											
A 2. Define values regarding acceptable degree of diversity in school programs and structures and expected common core.	BOE; Administration	↑											
A 3. Establish process for initiating significant change concepts by schools, programs, or district; communicate process.	Administration; BOE; schools	↑											
A 4. Identify marketable concepts and resources to attract student enrollment.	Administration; schools			↑									
A 5. Develop and implement district marketing plan.	Administration											↑	
A 6. Propose change concepts to Board for discussion and action.	Administration; schools; BOE											↑	
A 7. Conduct quarterly Board workshops to update progress, foster staff and community input, and determine decision points.	Administration; BOE		↑						↑			↑	
A 8. Establish 2004-05 action plan to incorporate decisions made in 2003-04.	Administration; BOE											↑	

Items No. 1, 2, 7 8 are duplicated in the Purpose B section

Purpose B: Refocusing available resources

Activity	Responsibility	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
B 9. Conduct quarterly Board workshops to update progress, foster staff and community input, and determine decision points.	Administration; BOE		↑			↑			↑			↑	
B 10. Establish 2004-05 action plan to incorporate decisions made in 2003-04.	Administration; BOE											↑	↑

Items No. 1, 2, 9, 10 are duplicated in the Purpose A section