

Possible High School Redistricting Affects School Sizes

Citizens For Education is interested in the effect the administration's proposal to redistrict Richboro Middle School will have on school size at CRHS North and South. Currently, Richboro Middle students split between CRHS North and South. The administration has tentatively proposed sending all students in Northampton to CRHS South, beginning with the 9th grade in the 2011-2012 school year (i.e., when this year's sixth grade students enter high school). The chart below uses current enrollment data to predict future student populations at the high school. By 2014-2015, when RMS populates grades 9-12 at South, there will be a large disparity in school sizes between North and South.

The chart below only includes students who are already attending Council Rock. Because of the unpredictability of projections, the chart does not take into account any growth from new housing, turnover of homes, or influx from private and parochial schools, which obviously occurs each year. (In 2008-2009, there were 63 more students in the high schools than the 2008 enrollment indicated – 52 at South, and 11 at North.) This means that the numbers below are very conservative.

On March 6, 1997, the School Board voted to construct a 1600 seat high school. On June 15, 2000, School Board minutes report that the Board voted to increase that capacity by 400 student seats, making a total capacity at Council Rock South of 2,000 students. Council Rock North was built for a student capacity of 2,400. By the 2014-2015 school year, CRHS North (the larger school) will have 424 less students than CRHS South (the smaller school). Again, this number does not include the growth, turnover and influx of private school students which occurs each year.

The chart below also does not account for natural growth that takes place in the early grades. Analysis of past growth trends indicate that the number of students in a specific grade level grows as they age through the school system. For example, the 3rd grade in 2002-2003 is in 9th grade now, and they number 144 students more in 2008-2009 than they did in 2002-2003. This is another example of the conservative data of the chart below. Actual numbers will likely be much higher. Because of this, Citizens will continue to evaluate enrollments going forward.

Enrollment Comparison for North and South With All Northampton Students Attending South Beginning in 2011-2012

	Actual Enrollment				Future Enrollment *					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	(Current students only - does not project growth)					
	2009-10	2010-11**	2011-12***	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15				
South	2081	2110	2142	2134	2081	1995	1999	2011	2028	2050
North	2258	2266	2273	2242	2204	2178	2019	1886	1768	1626
Difference between S&N	-177	-156	-131	-108	-123	-183	-20	125	260	424

* Calculated with actual enrollment figures from April 2009. Does not include growth of grade levels as students age, or influx from private and parochial schools.

** Assumes RMS historical split of 53% to South and 47% to North (after 20 students at RMS, who live in the NMS sending area and attended RMS, are added to North's enrollment).

*** All of Northampton begins attending South.