



ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Presentation to the
Bethlehem Central School District Board of Education
Wednesday, May 7, 2025



ACADEMICS

INSTRUCTIONAL AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES THAT ARE ALIGNED TO A STRONG AND RELEVANT CURRICULUM.



CHARACTER

POSITIVE CHARACTER TRAITS ARE ESSENTIAL TO BECOMING CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.



COMMUNITY

STRENGTHENING FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION.



WELLNESS

ENHANCING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS AND BALANCE FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF BY SUPPORTING ACTIVE, HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR.

Our mission...

TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL, DISCOVER THEIR PURPOSE, AND BE ENGAGED COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

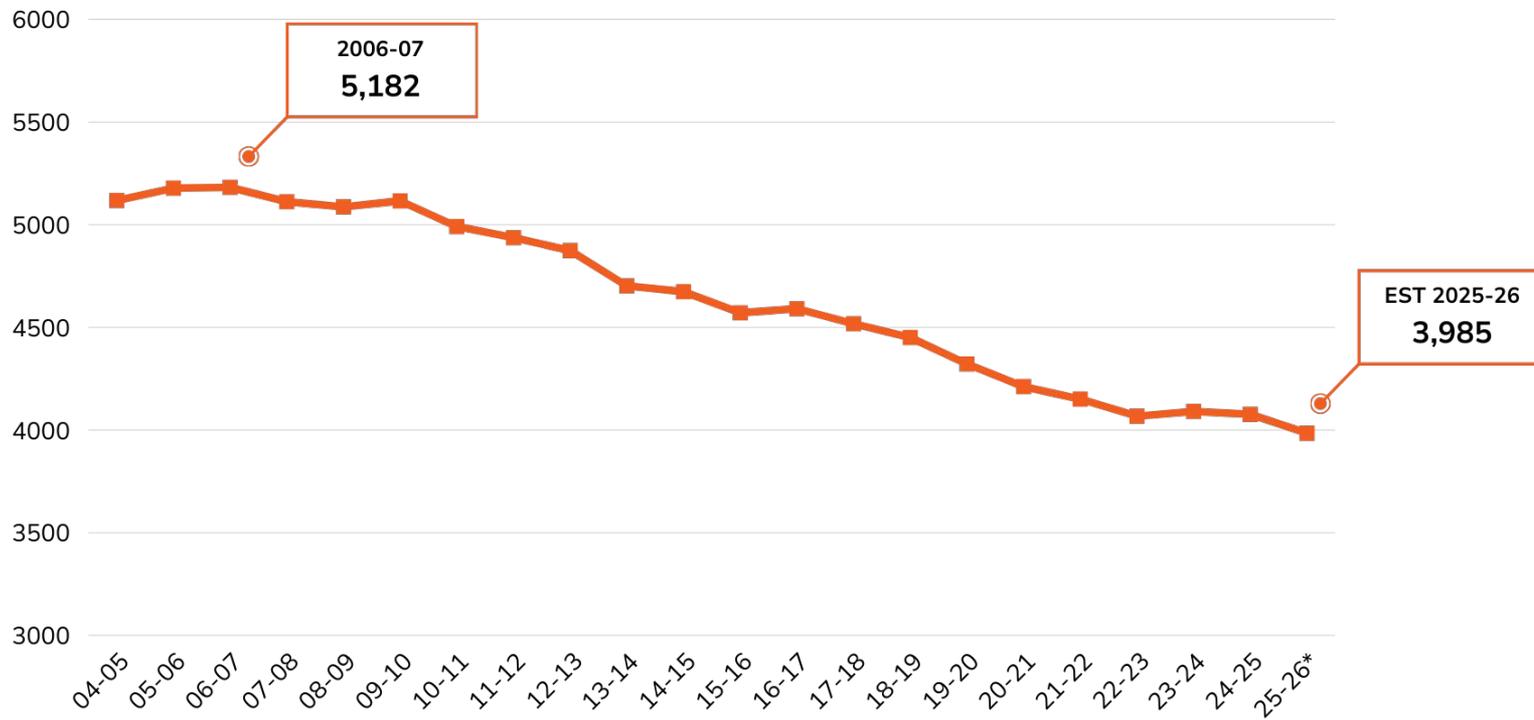


BCSD Enrollment

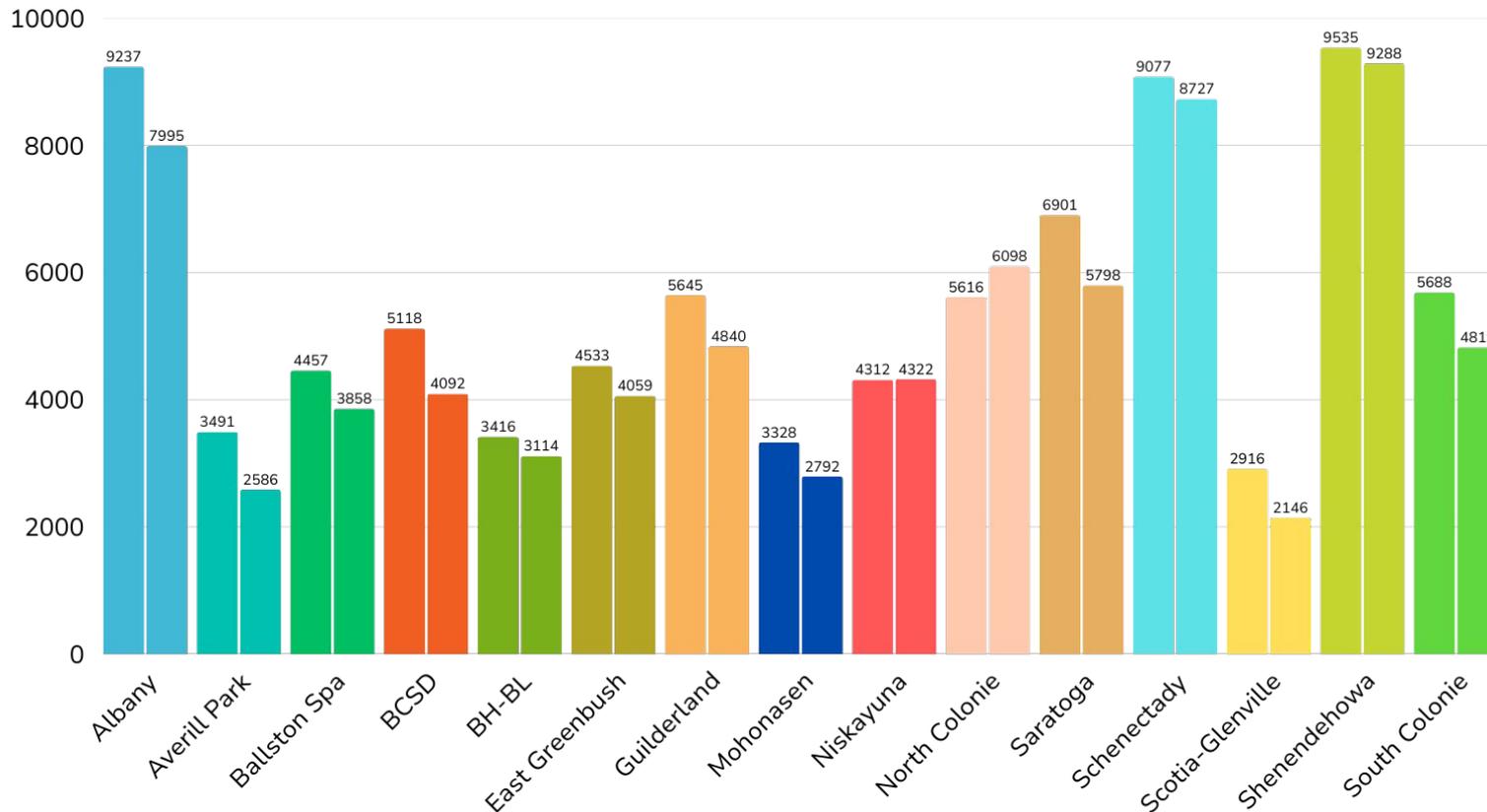
- Since its peak in 2006-07, enrollment districtwide has declined by 21.3%
- Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) has provided district with enrollment projections since 2016-17
- CDRPC projections have been largely accurate
- CDRPC has projected that enrollment decline may have reached a plateau with small increases projected over the next five years
- Current enrollment projected by the district for 2025-26 shows another year of decline
- Kindergarten enrollment is considerably lower than projected
- K-12 enrollment statewide and in the Capital Region has also been declining



BCSD Enrollment



Enrollment by District – Suburban Council, 2004-05 to 2023-24



BCSD Enrollment

Factors influencing enrollment trends

- Aging population
- Smaller family sizes and lower birth rates
- Economic factors such as the high cost of living, slow housing market
- Shifting demographic patterns, including the migration of families to other states
- Increased flexibility to homeschool due to more flexible work schedules



DISTRICT CHALLENGE

Addressing enrollment disparity
among the five elementary schools



Enrollment trends at the elementary level

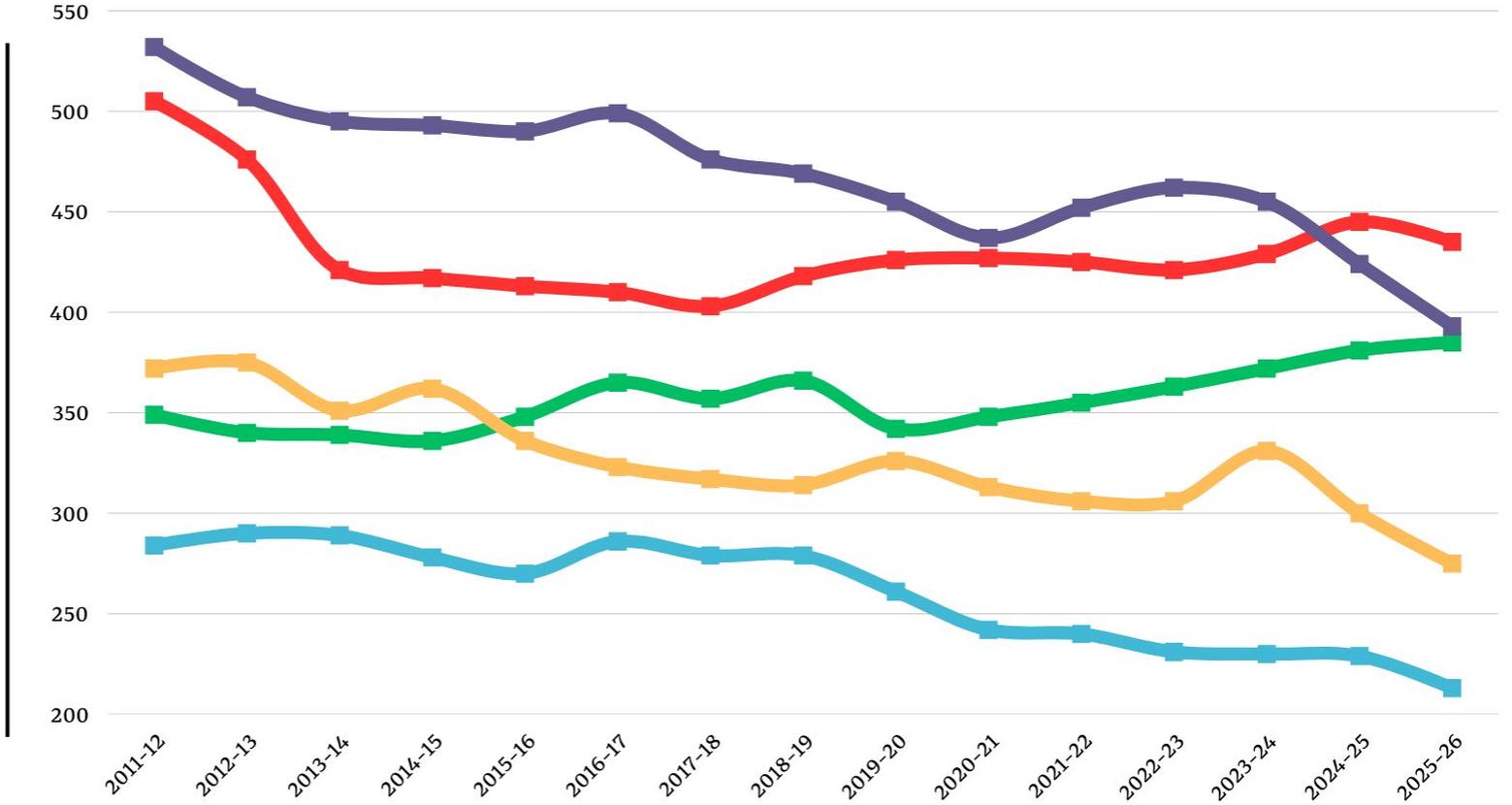
- K-5 enrollment has declined 20.5% since 2005-06
- Enrollment patterns at the elementary level have changed since 2011-12 (a year of redistricting after Clarksville Elementary School closed)
- Enrollment has shifted from Hamagrael, Slingerlands and Elsmere to Glenmont and Eagle; Eagle and Glenmont are nearing capacity
- Enrollment distribution changes over time as new housing developments are built and existing housing stock turns over
- Districtwide discussions are necessary to:
 - Balance class sizes across the five elementary schools
 - Optimize district resources, facilities
 - Reduce the need for administrative transfer of students to balance enrollment





ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2011-2025

- SLINGERLANDS**
27 classrooms
- EAGLE**
25 classrooms
- HAMAGRAEL**
24 classrooms
- GLENMONT**
23 classrooms
- ELSMERE**
17 classrooms



Current enrollment & instructional space

BUILDING	CLASSROOM SPACES (includes art, music, SPED)	GENERAL INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 2025-2026	SECTIONS 2025-2026 (General Instruction)
Eagle	25	23	443	23
Elsmere	17	13	224	12
Glenmont	23	21	388	19
Hamagrael	24	20	275	15
Slingerlands	27	23	394	19



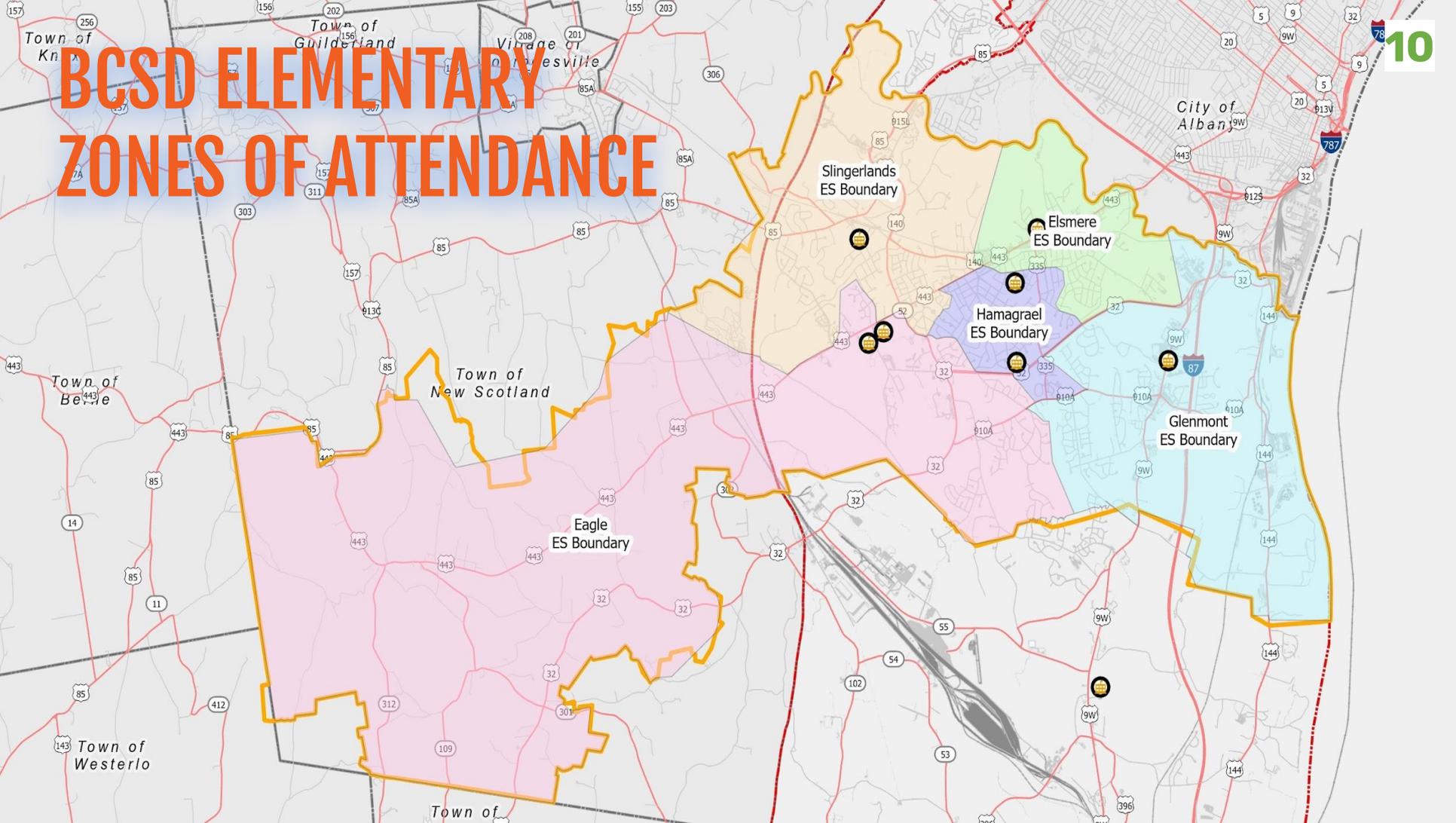
Elementary schools % of students enrolled

BUILDING	GENERAL INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES	% of K-5 Enrollment 2012-13	% of K-5 Enrollment 2025-26*
Slingerlands	23	25.5	23.0
Eagle	23	23.9	25.7
Glenmont	21	17.1	22.6
Hamagrael	20	18.9	16.2
Elsmere	13	14.6	12.5

**2025-26 estimates as of 4/1/25*



BCSD ELEMENTARY ZONES OF ATTENDANCE



NEXT STEPS

- Hire a consultant to lead data analysis and a development of a community-focused plan for balancing enrollment
- Work with towns and Transportation Department to ensure accuracy of maps, impact of new or proposed housing developments
- Develop a committee to review the current zones and identify areas to focus on
- Outreach to community during process
- Periodic updates to BOE
- Recommendations to BOE for consideration by December 2025
- Implementation of any changes for 2026-27 school year



