

October 2018

## SEMCOG's 2045 Forecast of School-Age Population

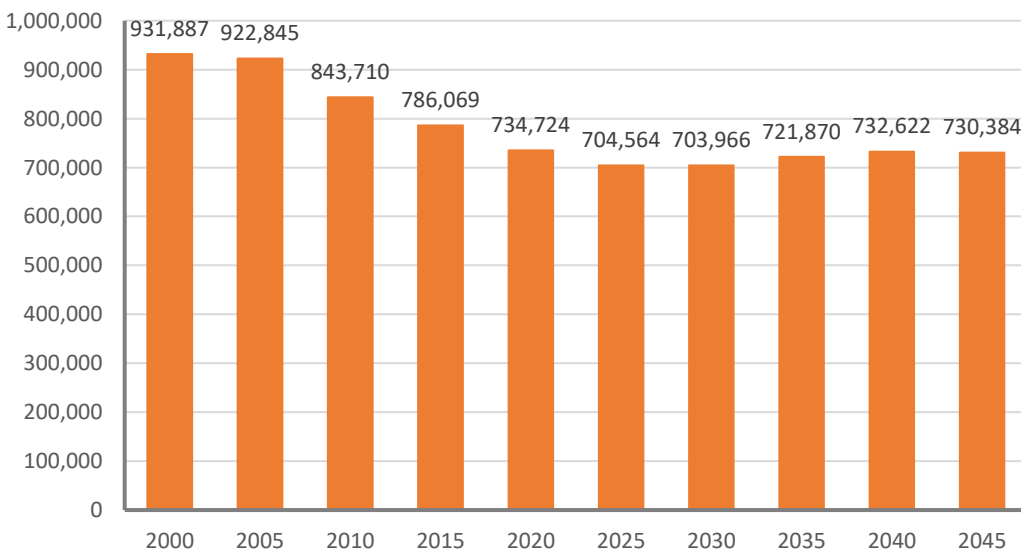
SEMCOG adopted its 2045 demographic and economic forecast, and subsequently released an interactive web tool – the 2045 Regional Development Forecast Explorer – which allows users to explore changing demographic trends in the region for seven age groups at multiple geographic levels. This report, along with the new Forecast Explorer for School Districts tool (<https://maps.semcog.org/SchoolDistrictForecast/>), presents an in-depth analysis of forecast changes in the region's school-age population (children aged 5 to 17), which helps local school districts, communities, and other data users better understand the changing dynamics of population over the next 30 years, and its impacts on K-12 education in Southeast Michigan. This reports covers these important trends:

- The region continues to age
- Fewer babies born in the region
- Migration a driving factor in population change
- Local trends impacting school districts

### Southeast Michigan's school-age population: Past, present, and future

In 2000, there were nearly 932,000 school-age children in Southeast Michigan. The number decreased to 786,000 by 2015, a decline of more than 15 percent in only 15 years. This number is projected to decrease even further to under 705,000 by 2025, another 10 percent decline. After 2025, school-age population is expected to stabilize and stay relatively unchanged for five years, before experiencing small increases beginning in 2030. By 2045, there will be 730,000 school-age children in the region, a four percent increase from 2025 (Figure 1).

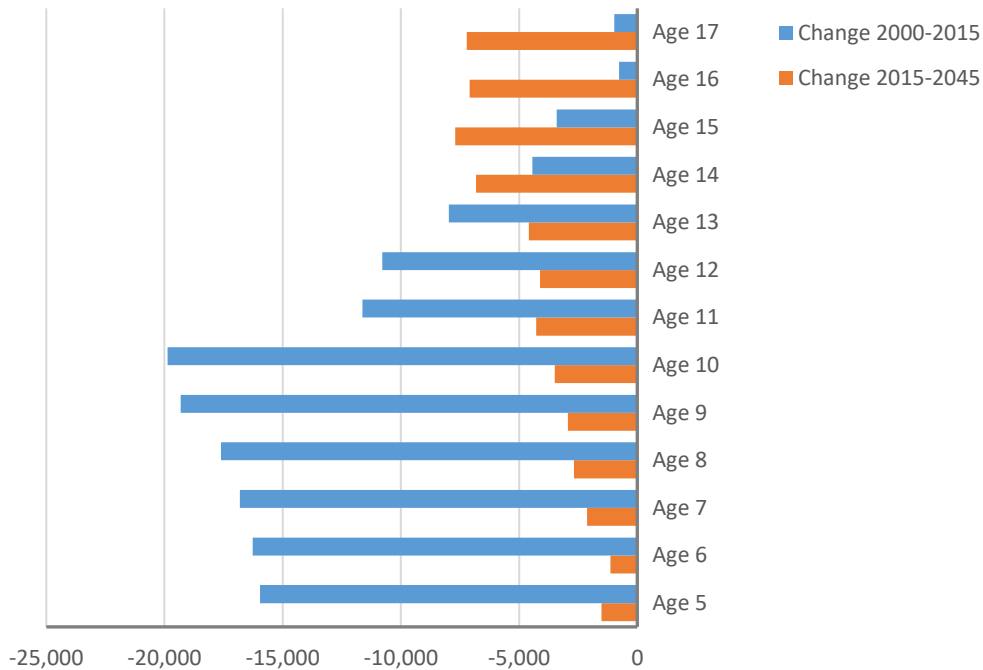
Figure 1  
Region's school-age population (aged 5-17), 2000-2045



While the decline in school-age population will slow down and stabilize in the coming decades, the changes among individual ages will continue to transform our schools. During the past decade, the region witnessed a dramatic decline in elementary school-age children (Figure 2). However, going forward, as children in lower grades move into higher grades, high schools in the region will see more population losses, although less severe than the record losses in younger cohorts observed in the recent past.

Figure 2

**Change in school-age population by single year of age, 2000-2015 and 2015-2045**

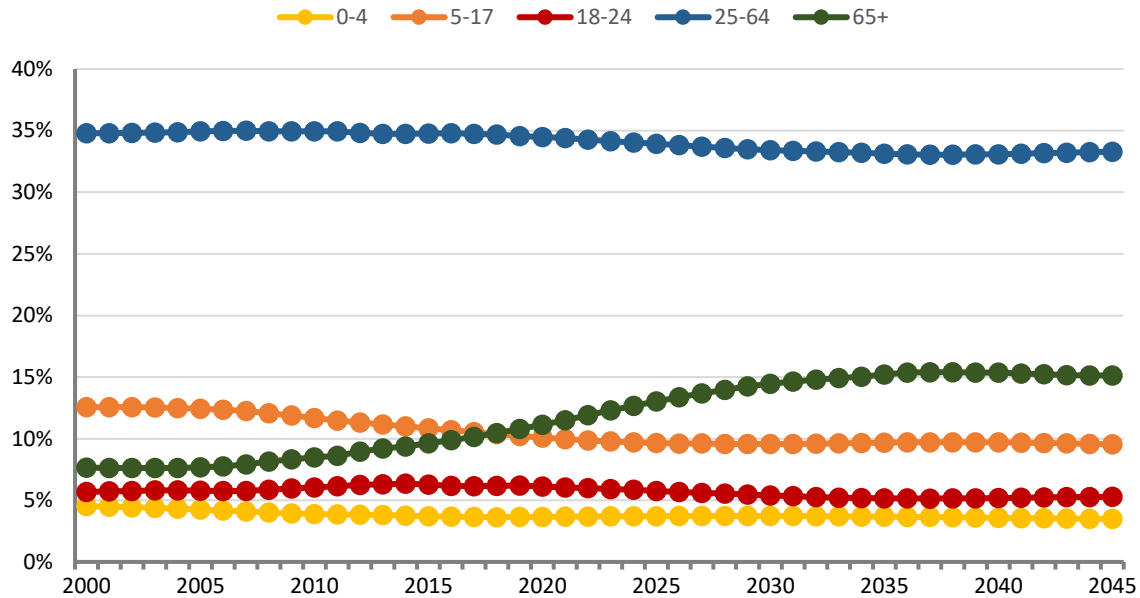


The trends in the region’s school-age population are driven by three factors: overall aging of our population, declining birth rates, and net out-migration from the region.

**The region continues to age**

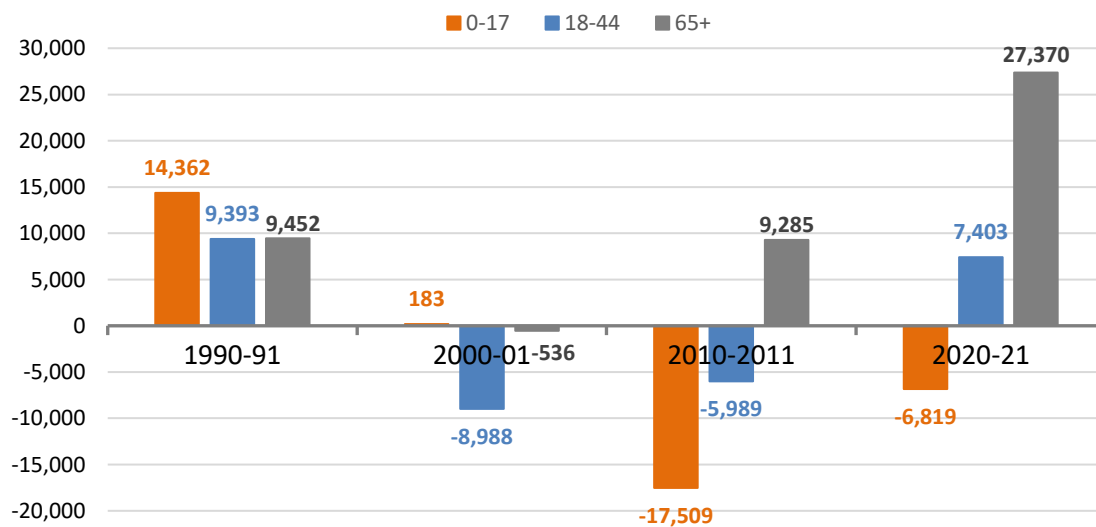
Southeast Michigan, along with the nation, faces an aging baby-boomer generation, whose influence on demographic trends continues to affect various age groups. While the baby boomers are driving the dramatic increases in senior age groups, the shares of working-age population (aged 18 to 64) and women of childbearing age (aged 15 to 44) are declining (Figure 3).

Figure 3  
**Demographic shifts by age group, Southeast Michigan**



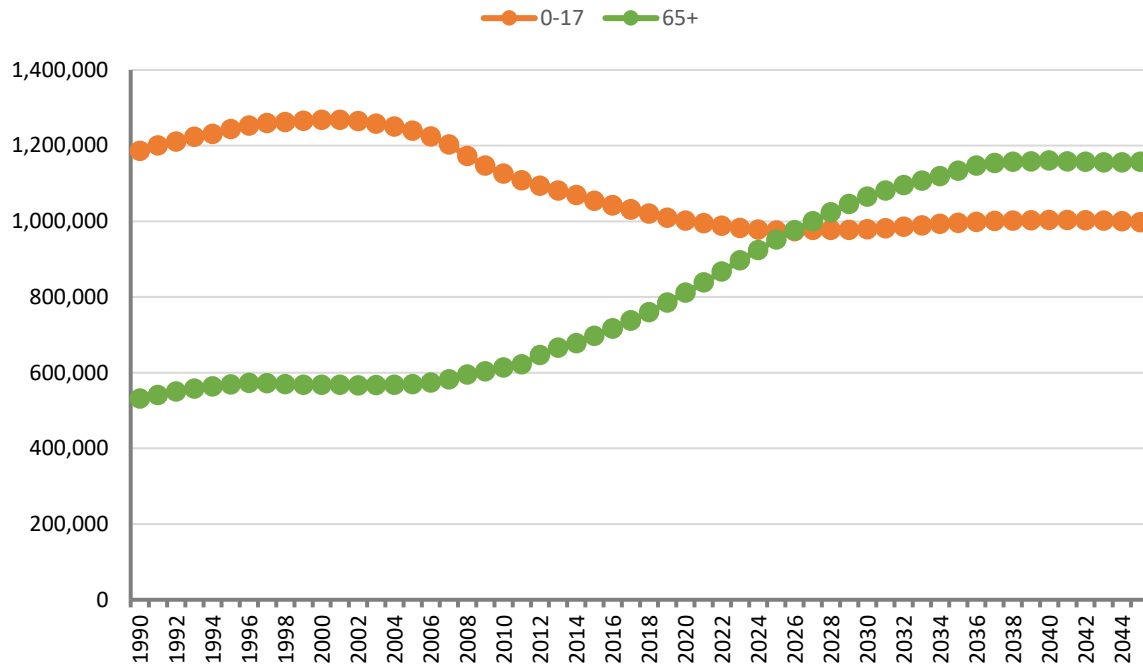
During early 1990s, children under 18 made up a significant portion of annual population growth in the region, and exceeded the growth of the childbearing and senior age groups (Figure 4). By the turn of the century, the pattern had changed, with hardly any growth in child population in 2001, and a large loss in 2011, when the region lost more than 17,000 people under age 18. The population aged 18 to 44 decreased in both 2001 and 2011. As the baby boomers began to enter senior age in 2011, total senior population increased by more than 9,000. By 2021, growth in the senior population will accelerate to over 27,000 in just one year.

Figure 4  
**Annual change in population by age group, Southeast Michigan**



As more baby boomers enter senior years and fewer people will be in the childbearing ages, there will be continued decrease in the child population. Year 2026 marks an important turning point in the region, when the child population is projected to be outnumbered by the senior population for the first time (Figure 5).

Figure 5  
**Growth trends in child and senior populations, Southeast Michigan**

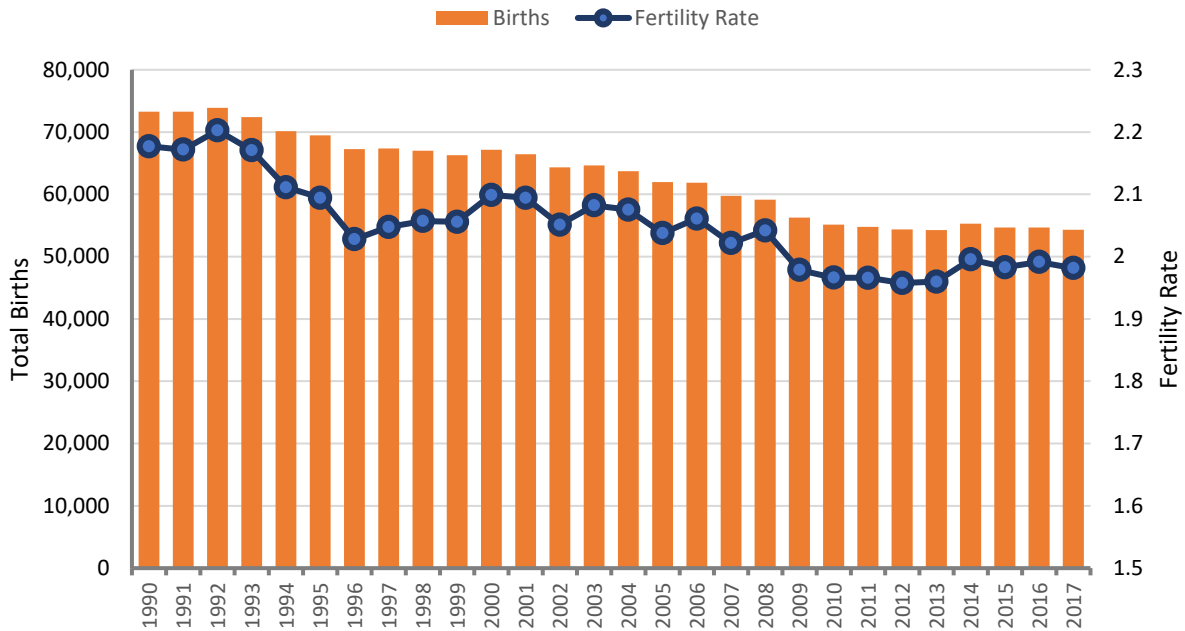


**Fewer babies are born in the region**

Birth rates and fertility rates among women have also been dropping in the region, reducing the level of natural increase in population. Birth rates measure the number of live births per 1,000 people in a year. The region’s birth rate has decreased from 15.9 in 1990 to 11.5 in 2017. Between 2015 and 2017, there were an average of 54,500 births per year in the region, down from 72,500 annual births between 1990 and 1995 (Figure 6).

Fertility rate measures the average number of children born to a woman throughout her childbearing years (ages 15 to 44). The region’s fertility rate was 2.18 births per woman in 1990, slightly above the replacement rate (2.1) needed to maintain a stable population. However, recent data show a decline and leveling off of the fertility rate at 1.98, well below the needed population replacement rate.

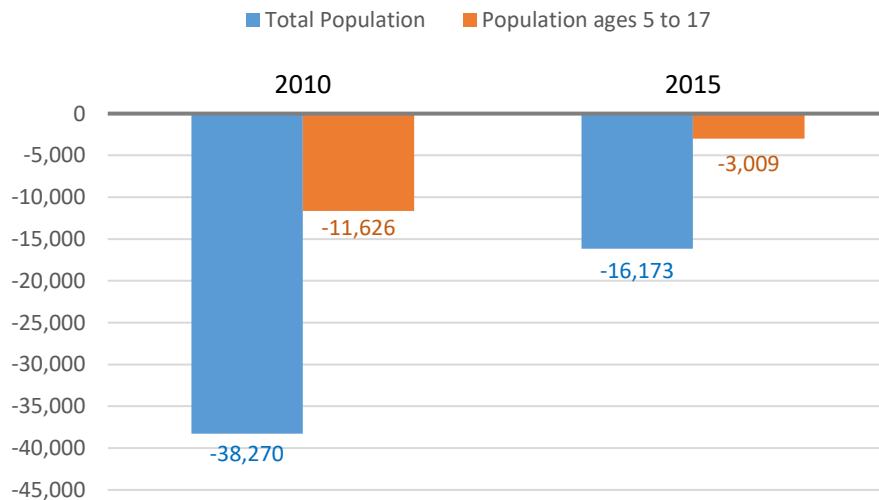
Figure 6  
**Number of births and fertility rates, Southeast Michigan**



**Migration will be the driving factor in population change**

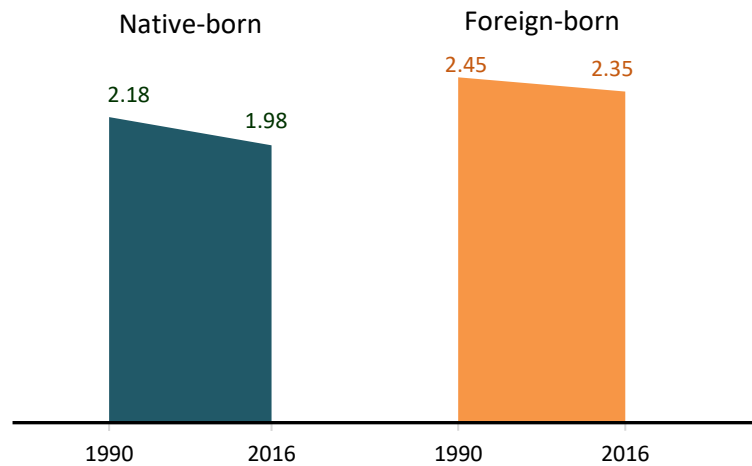
As the fertility rate remains under the population replacement rate, migration is now the driving factor for population growth, including school-age population. Much of loss in child population in the past decade can be attributed to migration of people out of the region due to the economic recession. In 2010, the region lost about 38,000 people to net domestic out-migration, of whom 11,600 people (or 30 percent) were school-age children. The rate of out-migration from the region is slowing down significantly as a result of an improved economy in recent years. In 2015, the region saw more than a 50 percent reduction in net out-migration compared to 2010, losing 16,000 people, about 3,000 (or 18 percent) of whom were school-age children (Figure 7).

Figure 7  
**Net domestic migration, Southeast Michigan**



While domestic migration has been negative for decades in Southeast Michigan, international migration has always contributed to population growth. Furthermore, birth rates are higher for immigrant populations. Since 1990, much of the downward trend in the number of births in the region is driven by native-born women. While the fertility rates are trending downward for both native-born and foreign-born women (aged 15 to 44), foreign-born women have, on average, higher fertility rates than native-born women (Figure 8).

Figure 8  
**Fertility rate by nativity**

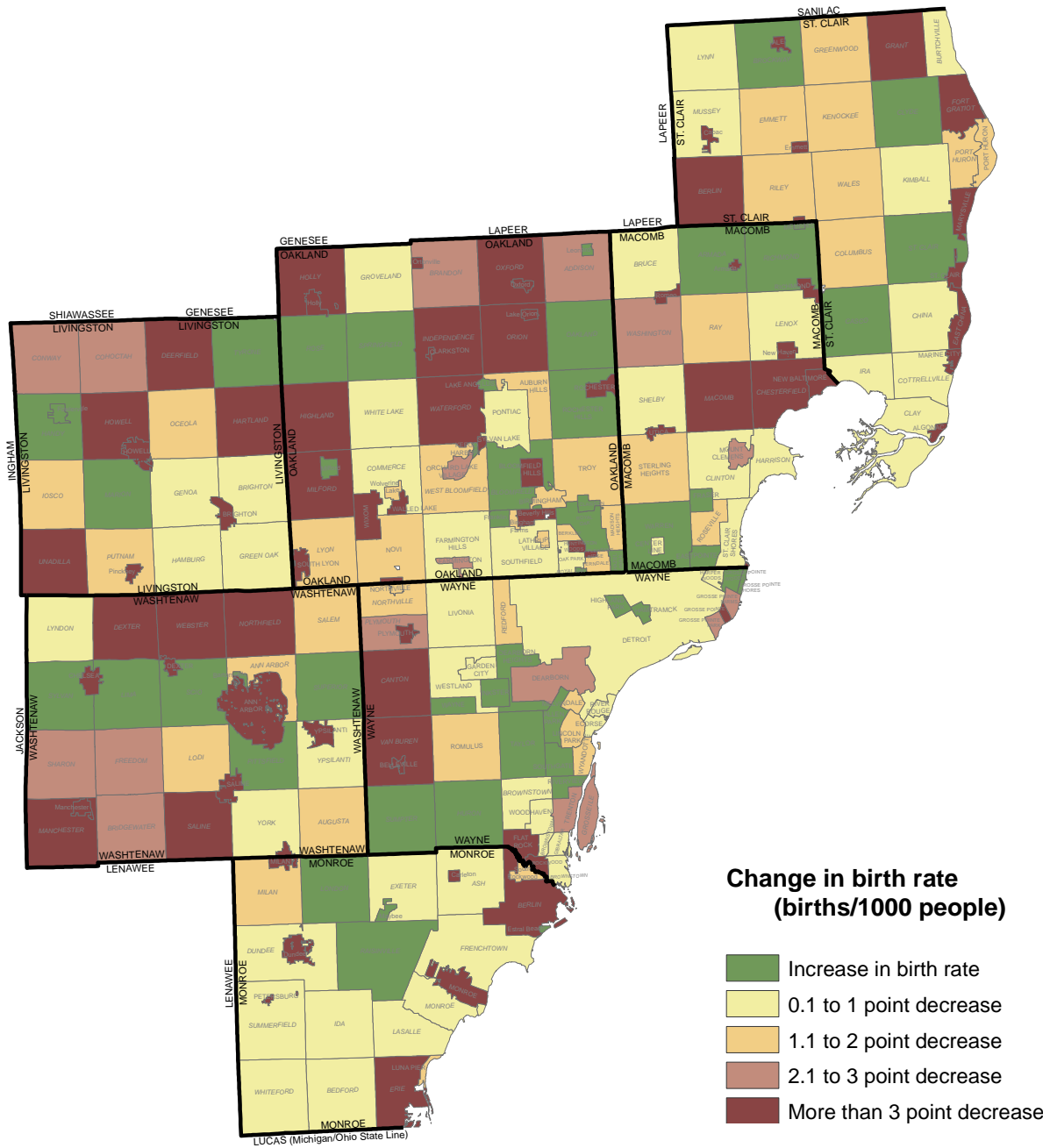


With our aging population and declining fertility rates, migration into the region, both international and domestic, will be the main contributing factor to stabilization and growth in school-age population in the future.

### **Local trends impacting school districts**

While the region is experiencing the trends of aging population and reduced birth rates, the patterns differ among individual communities and school districts. Many of the suburban and rural communities are seeing greater reductions in birth rates compared to urban, inner-ring communities. Three out of every four communities (182 out of 233) in the region saw a decrease in birth rate between 2002 and 2016 (Figure 9).

Figure 9  
**Change in birth rate (per 1,000 people) by community**  
 Southeast Michigan, 2002-2016



Source: SEMCOG analysis of Michigan Department of Community Health vital statistics data

From 2015 to 2025, all intermediate school districts (ISDs) in the region, with the exception of Washtenaw Intermediate School District, will see additional declines in school-age population. Wayne Regional Education Services Agency (Wayne RESA) is projected to have the largest numeric loss of 29,700 children. Washtenaw ISD is projected to have a marginal gain of about 700 children. This will affect school enrollment.

Following are the forecast changes in school-age population in each of the seven ISDs in Southeast Michigan:

- Livingston ESA – loss of 3,600 (-13%)
- Macomb ISD – loss of 16,000 (-11%)
- Monroe ISD – loss of 4,500 (-19%)
- Oakland Schools – loss of 23,500 (-12%)
- St. Clair ISD – loss of 4,000 (-16%)
- Washtenaw ISD – gain of 700 (+1%)
- Wayne RESA – loss of 29,700 (-10%)

All ISDs in the region are projected to experience some growth in school-age population after 2030.

At the individual school district level, all but 12 of the 112 school districts in the region are forecast to experience declines in school-age children between 2015 and 2025 (Figure 10).

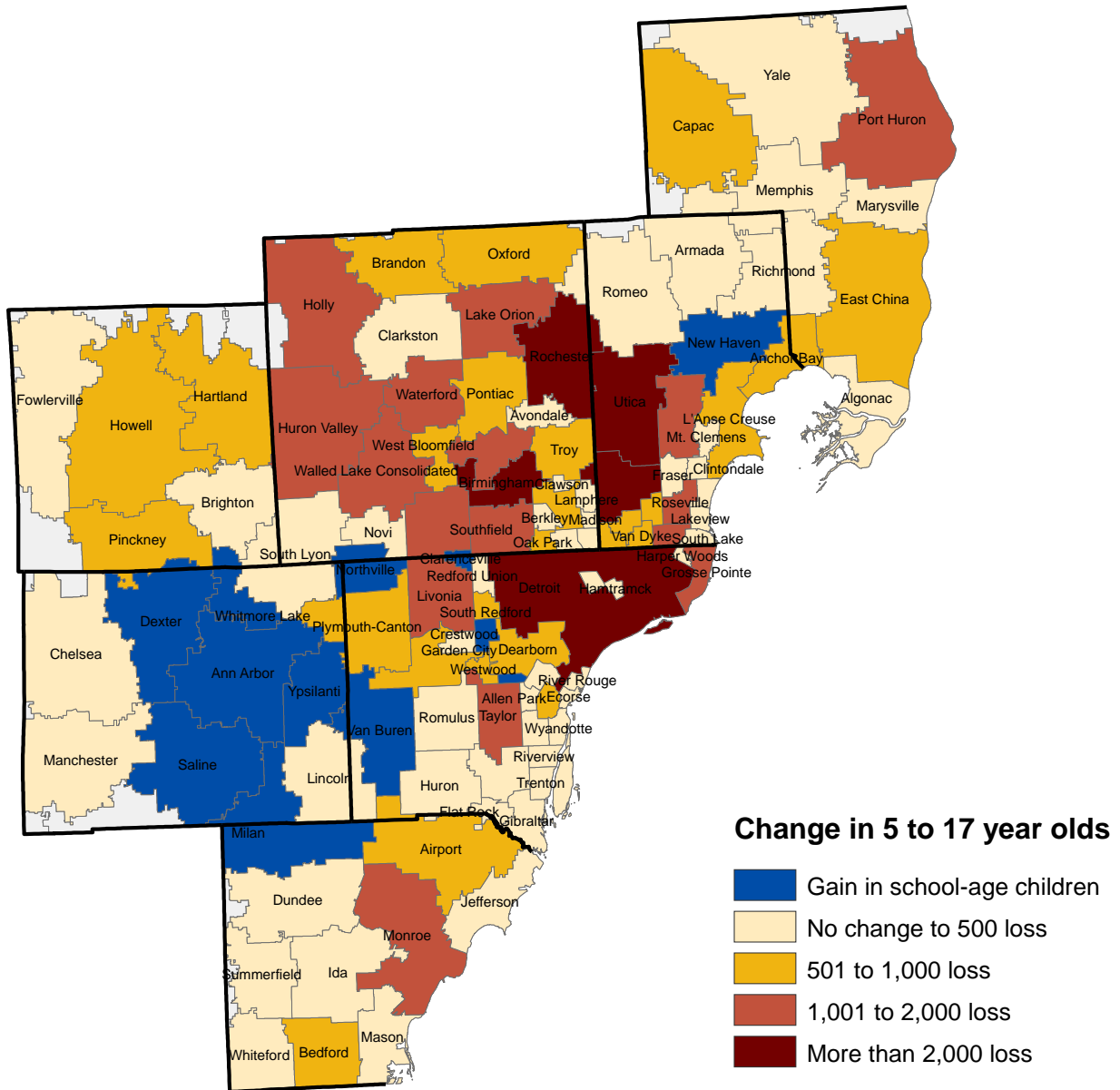
### **Conclusion**

As school districts across Southeast Michigan have been grappling with the declining enrollments for the past several years, the trends going forward will be less dramatic. However, the forecast growth in the future will be extremely modest due to several demographic factors including the aging of population, declining birth rates, and lack of in-migration.

Beyond school enrollments, these shifting age dynamics will require local communities to focus their planning efforts beyond school grounds. As most of these places are also the ones that are either experiencing rapid increases in senior population or already have larger share of senior populations, communities will be required to put greater emphasis on planning for facilities that will cater to the aging population but also retain and attract younger populations.



Figure 10  
**Change in school-age population by school district**  
 Southeast Michigan, 2015-2025



## Accessing the data

Table 1 provides SEMCOG's 2045 school-age population forecast by individual school district. Additional data by each school district can be accessed through SEMCOG's interactive Forecast Explorer tool located at <https://maps.semco.org/SchoolDistrictForecast>

This map allows users to view SEMCOG's detailed long-range forecast of population and households for each ISD and school district in the seven-county Southeast Michigan region. In addition to viewing the forecast data in map form, one can also view a detailed report of total population, population by age cohort, and household change for each district in the region.

Additional notes:

- School districts are each public school district that is a member of the larger intermediate school district agency (ISD) associated with each of the seven counties in Southeast Michigan. In total, 112 public school districts are members of the seven county ISDs.
- Eight of these districts stretch across the boundary of the Southeast Michigan region: Fowlerville Community Schools in Livingston County; Whiteford Agricultural Schools in Monroe County; Brandon School District and Oxford Community Schools in Oakland County; Capac Community School District and Yale Public Schools in St. Clair County; and Chelsea School District and Manchester Community Schools in Washtenaw County. While a large majority of these areas is within the region, the forecast results for these districts includes only the portion of the district within the SEMCOG region.
- An additional 16 public school districts that are members of county ISDs located outside the region cover parcels within the region. SEMCOG does not produce forecast results for these districts as only a small percentage of these areas are within the region.

**Table 1**  
**School-age population (age 5 through 17) by school district, 2015-2045**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2015	2025	2035	2045	CHANGE 2015-2045	% CHANGE 2015-2045
<b>Livingston Educational Services Agency</b>	<b>28,541</b>	<b>24,941</b>	<b>30,460</b>	<b>30,381</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
Brighton Area Schools	6,592	6,102	7,325	7,356	764	11.6%
Fowlerville Community Schools	2,889	2,413	3,114	2,954	65	2.2%
Hartland Consolidated Schools	5,171	4,421	5,232	5,367	196	3.8%
Howell Public Schools	9,626	8,633	10,695	10,497	871	9.0%
Pinckney Community Schools	4,263	3,372	4,094	4,207	-56	-1.3%
<b>Macomb Intermediate School District</b>	<b>141,805</b>	<b>125,753</b>	<b>127,322</b>	<b>123,934</b>	<b>-17,871</b>	<b>-12.6%</b>
Anchor Bay Schools	6,481	5,931	5,790	5,660	-821	-12.7%
Armada Area Schools	1,335	1,150	1,040	1,026	-309	-23.1%
Center Line Public Schools	3,105	2,377	2,252	2,193	-912	-29.4%
Chippewa Valley Schools	17,102	15,999	16,300	15,616	-1,486	-8.7%
Clintondale Community Schools	2,552	2,434	2,588	2,503	-49	-1.9%
East Detroit Public Schools	7,566	5,940	5,803	5,644	-1,922	-25.4%
Fitzgerald Public Schools	2,855	2,248	2,216	2,089	-766	-26.8%
Fraser Public Schools	4,225	3,908	3,806	3,694	-531	-12.6%
Lake Shore Public Schools	3,325	2,977	3,010	2,917	-408	-12.3%
Lakeview Public Schools	2,744	2,348	2,315	2,353	-391	-14.2%
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools	11,602	10,923	11,306	11,286	-316	-2.7%
Mt. Clemens Community School District	3,141	2,776	2,742	2,789	-352	-11.2%
New Haven Community Schools	2,923	3,722	4,171	4,641	1,718	58.8%
Richmond Community Schools	2,193	1,873	1,974	1,948	-245	-11.2%
Romeo Community Schools	6,196	6,095	6,854	6,448	252	4.1%
Roseville Community Schools	7,355	5,823	5,572	5,352	-2,003	-27.2%
South Lake Schools	2,608	2,389	2,278	2,283	-325	-12.5%
Utica Community Schools	30,873	27,234	27,417	26,263	-4,610	-14.9%
Van Dyke Public Schools	3,757	2,787	2,723	2,595	-1,162	-30.9%
Warren Consolidated Schools	16,879	14,600	15,013	14,564	-2,315	-13.7%
Warren Woods Public Schools	2,988	2,249	2,152	2,070	-918	-30.7%
<b>Monroe Intermediate School District</b>	<b>23,864</b>	<b>19,414</b>	<b>20,795</b>	<b>20,813</b>	<b>-3,051</b>	<b>-12.8%</b>
Airport Community School District	3,367	2,830	2,955	2,925	-442	-13.1%
Bedford Public Schools	5,393	4,658	5,036	5,176	-217	-4.0%
Dundee Community Schools	1,434	1,057	1,285	1,233	-201	-14.0%
Ida Public Schools	1,189	1,073	1,024	1,009	-180	-15.1%
Jefferson Schools	2,330	1,926	2,010	2,036	-294	-12.6%
Mason Consolidated Schools	1,063	760	857	837	-226	-21.3%
Monroe Public Schools	7,776	6,144	6,619	6,577	-1,199	-15.4%
Summerfield Schools	731	471	461	488	-243	-33.2%
Whiteford Agricultural School District	581	495	548	532	-49	-8.4%

<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2045</b>	<b>CHANGE 2015-2045</b>	<b>% CHANGE 2015-2045</b>
<b>Oakland Schools</b>	<b>201,726</b>	<b>178,245</b>	<b>182,642</b>	<b>184,703</b>	<b>-17,023</b>	<b>-8.4%</b>
Avondale School District	4,008	3,933	3,982	4,113	105	2.6%
Berkley School District	3,906	3,508	3,473	3,379	-527	-13.5%
Birmingham City School District	10,680	8,283	8,445	8,619	-2,061	-19.3%
Bloomfield Hills School District	5,946	4,318	4,404	4,741	-1,205	-20.3%
Brandon Schools	3,186	2,420	2,469	2,391	-795	-25.0%
Clarenceville Schools	1,431	1,593	1,625	1,501	70	4.9%
Clarkston Community Schools	8,019	7,552	7,849	7,778	-241	-3.0%
Clawson School District	1,427	1,175	1,184	1,219	-208	-14.6%
Farmington Public School District	12,018	10,177	10,457	10,794	-1,224	-10.2%
Ferndale School District	2,954	2,713	2,676	2,709	-245	-8.3%
Hazel Park City School District	3,206	2,905	2,839	2,594	-612	-19.1%
Holly Area Schools	5,195	4,076	4,229	4,211	-984	-18.9%
Huron Valley Schools	10,162	8,638	9,138	9,423	-739	-7.3%
Lake Orion Community Schools	8,782	7,468	7,517	7,684	-1,098	-12.5%
Lamphere Schools	2,564	2,121	2,022	1,946	-618	-24.1%
Madison Public Schools	1,764	1,446	1,412	1,412	-352	-20.0%
Novi Community School District	6,711	6,430	6,610	6,729	18	0.3%
Oak Park Public Schools	4,432	3,682	3,648	3,490	-942	-21.3%
Oxford Community Schools	4,587	3,795	3,908	3,975	-612	-13.3%
Pontiac School District	12,695	12,030	11,580	11,698	-997	-7.9%
Rochester Community School District	16,166	14,160	15,174	15,455	-711	-4.4%
School District City of Royal Oak	6,324	5,719	5,873	5,939	-385	-6.1%
South Lyon Community Schools	8,060	7,937	8,822	8,739	679	8.4%
Southfield Public Schools	11,317	10,190	10,224	10,402	-915	-8.1%
Troy School District	11,431	10,432	10,694	10,734	-697	-6.1%
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools	16,749	15,601	16,075	16,404	-345	-2.1%
Waterford School District	12,339	11,227	11,449	11,721	-618	-5.0%
West Bloomfield School District	5,667	4,716	4,864	4,903	-764	-13.5%
<b>St. Clair Regional Educational Service Agency</b>	<b>24,513</b>	<b>20,528</b>	<b>22,809</b>	<b>22,927</b>	<b>-1,586</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>
Algonac Community School District	1,942	1,645	1,652	1,752	-190	-9.8%
Capac Community School District	1,967	1,444	1,547	1,368	-599	-30.5%
East China Schools	4,639	3,966	4,372	4,323	-316	-6.8%
Marysville Public Schools	2,274	1,956	2,240	2,310	36	1.6%
Memphis Community Schools	1,007	760	781	797	-210	-20.9%
Port Huron Area School District	10,796	9,180	10,561	10,675	-121	-1.1%
Yale Public Schools	1,888	1,577	1,656	1,702	-186	-9.9%

<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2045</b>	<b>CHANGE 2015-2045</b>	<b>% CHANGE 2015-2045</b>
<b>Washtenaw Intermediate School District</b>	<b>51,059</b>	<b>51,789</b>	<b>55,581</b>	<b>56,328</b>	<b>5,269</b>	<b>10.3%</b>
Ann Arbor Public Schools	21,013	21,892	22,876	23,054	2,041	9.7%
Chelsea School District	2,303	2,114	2,343	2,520	217	9.4%
Dexter Community School District	4,063	4,087	4,367	4,266	203	5.0%
Lincoln Consolidated Schools	5,957	5,755	6,141	6,091	134	2.2%
Manchester Community Schools	1,113	1,080	1,154	1,165	52	4.7%
Milan Area Schools	2,255	2,280	2,672	2,752	497	22.0%
Saline Area Schools	4,797	4,798	5,675	5,544	747	15.6%
Whitmore Lake Public Schools	1,484	1,596	1,737	1,940	456	30.7%
Ypsilanti School District	8,074	8,187	8,616	8,996	922	11.4%
<b>Wayne Regional Educational Services Agency</b>	<b>310,875</b>	<b>281,180</b>	<b>278,939</b>	<b>288,058</b>	<b>-22,817</b>	<b>-7.3%</b>
Allen Park Public Schools	2,878	2,540	2,470	2,523	-355	-12.3%
Crestwood School District	4,887	4,937	4,941	5,173	286	5.9%
Dearborn Heights School District #7	1,893	2,093	2,052	2,100	207	10.9%
Dearborn Public Schools	22,646	21,741	21,907	23,108	462	2.0%
Detroit Public Schools	125,490	107,913	104,971	110,448	-15,042	-12.0%
Ecorse Public Schools	1,331	1,178	1,057	1,041	-290	-21.8%
Flat Rock Community Schools	1,801	1,614	1,653	1,653	-148	-8.2%
Garden City Public Schools	3,833	3,358	3,528	3,434	-399	-10.4%
Gibraltar School District	3,670	3,231	3,247	3,452	-218	-5.9%
Grosse Ile Township Schools	1,509	1,270	1,355	1,389	-120	-8.0%
Grosse Pointe Public Schools	9,450	7,791	7,463	7,487	-1,963	-20.8%
Hamtramck Public Schools	5,049	4,787	4,614	4,816	-233	-4.6%
Harper Woods School District	1,608	1,325	1,366	1,354	-254	-15.8%
Highland Park Public Schools	2,157	1,747	1,444	1,422	-735	-34.1%
Huron Schools	2,229	1,921	2,282	2,539	310	13.9%
Lincoln Park Public Schools	6,510	5,962	5,772	5,856	-654	-10.0%
Livonia Public Schools	15,505	14,374	14,304	14,960	-545	-3.5%
Melvindale-North Allen Park Schools	3,133	2,903	2,855	2,838	-295	-9.4%
Northville Public Schools	7,347	7,613	7,776	7,848	501	6.8%
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	22,339	21,544	22,051	21,760	-579	-2.6%
Redford Union School District	3,858	3,441	3,355	3,336	-522	-13.5%
River Rouge School District	1,356	1,045	943	887	-469	-34.6%
Riverview Community School District	1,624	1,579	1,663	1,651	27	1.7%
Romulus Community Schools	4,785	4,546	4,458	4,639	-146	-3.1%
South Redford Schools	3,564	2,989	2,972	2,920	-644	-18.1%
Southgate Community School District	3,956	3,877	3,967	4,181	225	5.7%
Taylor Public Schools	10,945	9,664	9,555	9,449	-1,496	-13.7%
Trenton Public Schools	2,411	2,171	2,178	2,327	-84	-3.5%
Van Buren Public Schools	7,634	8,145	8,961	9,182	1,548	20.3%
Wayne-Westland Community School District	13,505	13,002	12,662	13,080	-425	-3.1%
Westwood Community Schools	3,499	2,925	3,031	2,915	-584	-16.7%
Woodhaven School District	5,239	4,841	5,011	5,003	-236	-4.5%
Wyandotte City School District	3,234	3,113	3,075	3,287	53	1.6%

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