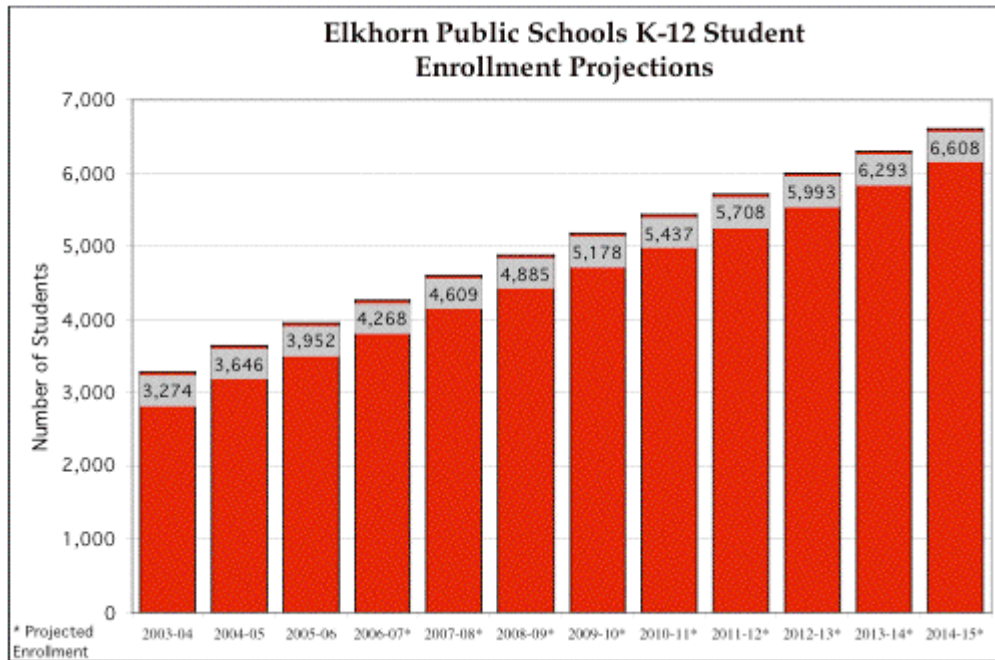


SPECIAL REPORT:
RESPONSE TO ENROLLMENT GROWTH
IN THE ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTRODUCTION: The Elkhorn Public Schools enrollment has grown over 9% per year for the past three years and at a rate of over 6% per year for the past ten years. Projections indicate the growth will continue in the 7 to 8% range per year for the foreseeable future. This will bring an additional 300 to 350 students per year into the Elkhorn Public Schools and soon the construction of new schools.



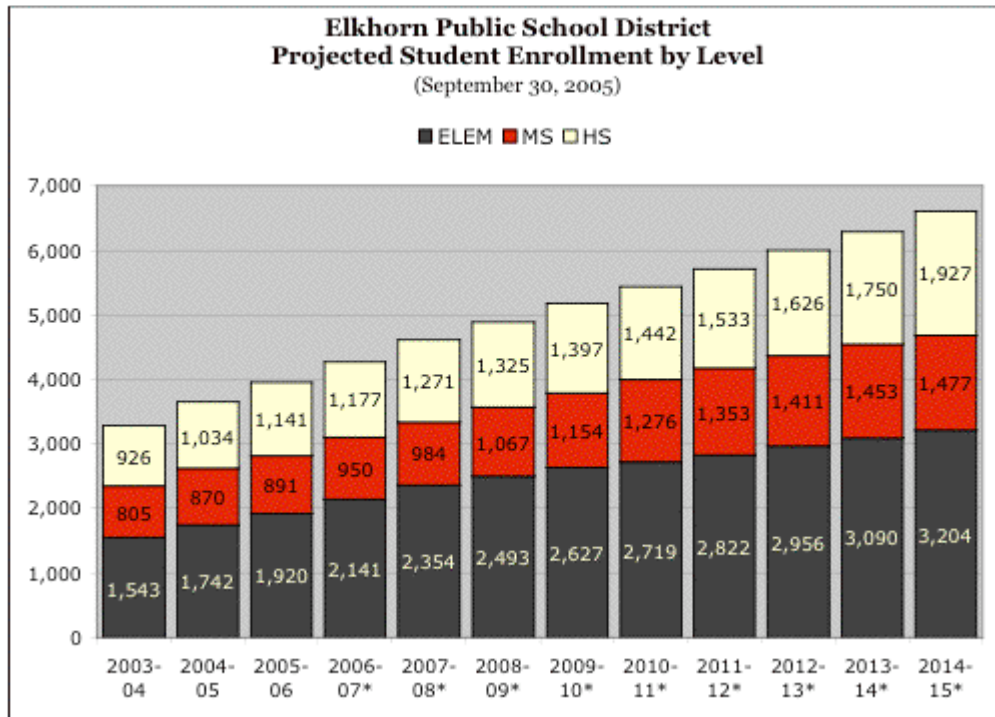
Presently there are over 400 houses under construction in the district in twenty-five actively growing subdivisions. At least five new subdivisions will come on line in the spring of 2006. By that time, the district will have over 2,000 lots available for single home construction. The Elkhorn school district is growing and is poised for continued growth well into the future.

PLANNING FOR GROWTH: Since 1991, the school district has used a facilities master plan process to maximize existing facilities and to project the need for future school buildings. This process includes a systematic study of each facility and is based on district standards for learning environments, class sizes and building size. The district has requested, and community voters have approved, six bond issues (1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004) totaling over \$61,000,000 under the facilities master plan. These bond issues have added three elementary schools, a middle school, classroom modifications and additions at six existing buildings and constant facility upgrades to maintain effective learning environments in all district facilities.

Class Size and Building Size - Smaller classes and smaller school buildings are consistently cited as reasons families move into the Elkhorn school district. Smaller classes and buildings are correlated with improved student achievement and parental involvement. Preferred class sizes and building sizes also are key assumptions for guiding building responses to enrollment growth. The Elkhorn Public Schools preferred class size averages are under 22 for grades K-3, and under 24 for grades 4-12. Building sizes (based on an architectural capacity of 25 students per classroom) are 450 students per (3-unit) elementary school, 600 student middle schools, and high schools of around 1,000

students. These building sizes are efficient not only in terms of staffing, but also create effective due class sizes that allow for a comprehensive curriculum to be offered to all K-12 students.

Revised Facilities Master Plan - The school district conducted a comprehensive study of all present and projected facilities in 2005. This process involved an extensive examination of the present condition and future uses of each school building. The master plan incorporated projections regarding the extent of future enrollment growth in the school district and the possible location of future schools. Issues considered in the planning process included moving grade levels, changing attendance boundaries, increasing class size, increasing building size, comparability of facilities across the district and the use of portable classroom buildings. This study was incorporated into a Revised Facilities Master Plan completed in the spring of 2005. This revision will guide district responses to enrollment growth for the next decade. The Facilities Master Plan sets recommendations for additional facilities based on "enrollment growth triggers." Using these triggers and looking at projected enrollment growth, the following conclusions can be made:



High School Classrooms - Present enrollment of 1,141, and present capacity of 1,250 mean that temporary additional classrooms will be needed by 2006 or 2007 with permanent classrooms (or a second high school) needed by 2009 or 2010.

Middle School Classrooms - Present enrollment of two middle schools combined is 891, and present capacity of 1,200 means that additional classrooms (or a third middle school) will be needed by 2010 or 2011.

Elementary School Classrooms - Present enrollment of the six elementary schools (the sixth will be added in August 2006) combined is 1,920, and present capacity of 2,484 means that temporary additional classrooms will be needed by 2008 or 2009 and permanent classrooms (or up to two additional elementary schools) will be needed by 2011 or 2012.

Sites - The district presently owns a middle school site and a high school site near the intersection of Highway 31 and West Pacific Road. Additional elementary school sites both north and south of West Dodge Road will be needed soon.

Timelines - The school district can only build new school buildings after the passage of a bond issue. It takes approximately two to three years to design and build a high school. It takes approximately two years to build a middle school and one and one-half to two years to build an elementary school.

HIGH SCHOOL SIZE - How big should the district high school or high schools become? Student capacity, curriculum offerings, staffing ratios and activities participation are all functions of building size. Elkhorn High School (EHS) has an architectural capacity (25 students per classroom with full utilization) of 1,250 students. The existing core facilities of the high school (commons, cafeteria space, hall ways, rest rooms, media space, parking space and office space) can support up to 1,250 students. The problem with the existing high school occurs in going to the next step, a capacity of 1,500 to 1,600 students and beyond. This next step would require considerable expansion of the core facilities, plus additional classrooms. This option would crowd the existing site and be costly on a classroom square footage basis. Beyond 1,500 to 1,600, a separate stand-alone building would be needed at the existing EHS site. This option would also likely involve the purchase of more land adjacent to the existing high school.

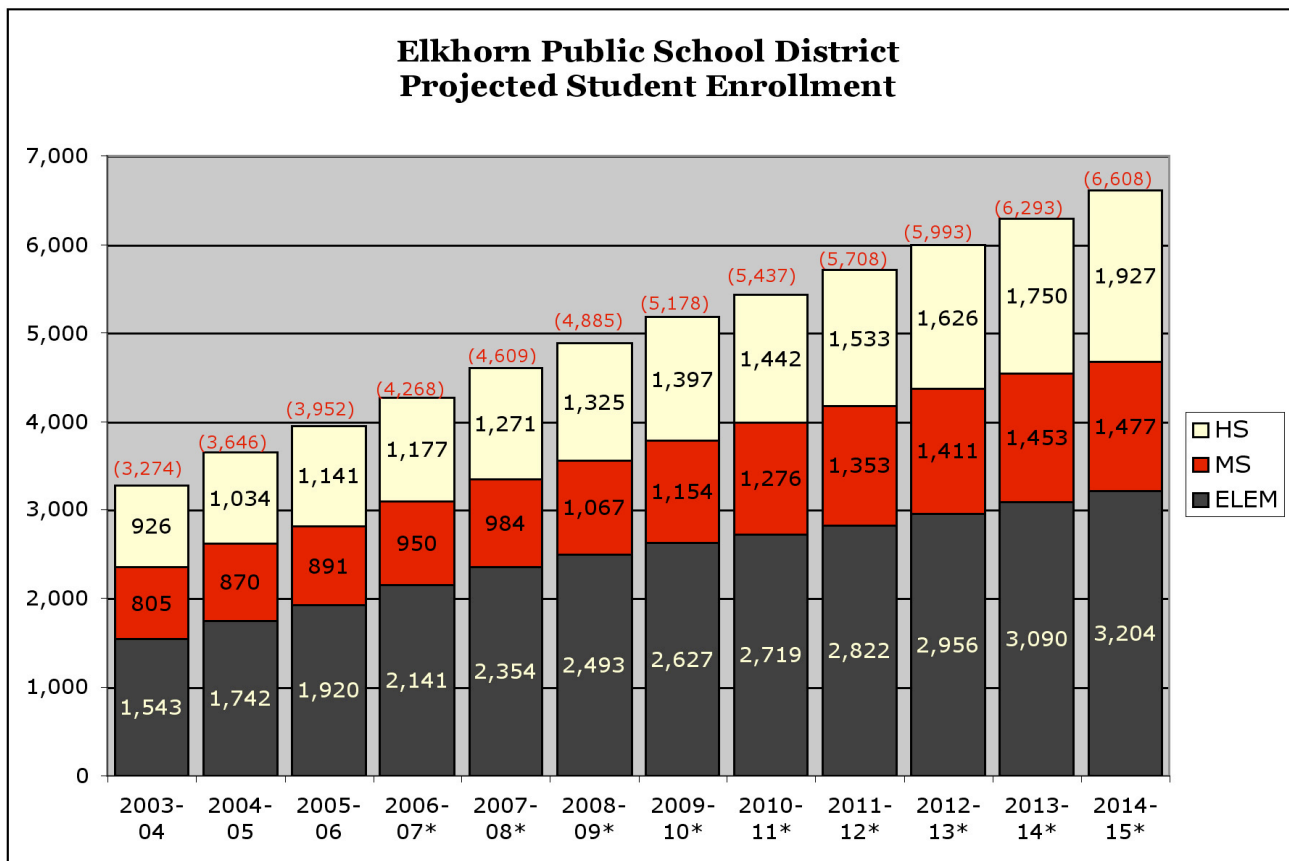
An alternative plan would be to acquire a separate site and seek to build a second high school when the EHS approaches 1,200 (in 2006). The district would use portable buildings to house enrollment beyond 1,200 and up to 1,400, then open a new high school and split the student body between the two sites. The cost to build a second high school programmed for 1,000 students would be approximately \$45,000,000. The district already owns a site suitable for this high school south of 204th and Pacific.

THE NEXT STEPS: During the 2005-06 school year, the superintendent will be meeting with parent and community groups to discuss growth options and responses. Your questions and input are welcome. Meetings will be posted on this website and via school newsletters. A possible bond issue is being considered for November of 2006 or early in 2007. Continued enrollment growth and a healthy construction climate in the district will be key factors in deciding the timing of the bond issue. At this time a bond issue to allow the district to remain slightly ahead of enrollment growth would be in the \$90,000,000 range. This bond issue would allow the district over the next five years to build a new high school, a third middle school and two elementary schools, and to upgrade some district support facilities.

Enrollment Growth Presentations

Date	Location	Time
Monday, January 30th	Spring Ridge Elementary	7:00 PM
Monday, February 6th	Fire Ridge Elementary	7:00 PM
Tuesday, February 7th	Skyline Elementary	5:00 PM
Thursday, February 9th	Elkhorn Middle School	7:00 PM
Wednesday, February 15th	Elkhorn High School	7:30 PM
Monday, February 20th	Hillrise Elementary	7:00 PM
Tuesday, February 21st	Elkhorn Ridge Middle School	7:00 PM
Monday, February 27th	Westridge Elementary	7:00 PM

Response to Growth Input Sought



RESPONSE TO GROWTH INPUT SOUGHT

Superintendent Roger Breed will be meeting with school parent groups (click link below to see schedule) in the next thirty days to detail enrollment projections and potential building needs. The district completed a facilities master plan revision last spring. Elkhorn schools have gained over 1,000 students in the past three years and similar growth in the next three years is expected. Presently, in the dead of winter, over 400 houses are under construction in the district in over 20 growing subdivisions. Six new subdivisions will begin adding new homes to the district next spring. It is estimated that between 1,000 and 1,100 new homes will be built in the Elkhorn school district during 2006. The district will open Manchester Elementary School in August of 2006 and presently has a high school site and a middle school site for future buildings. The facilities and growth questions before the district include the following:

- 1) How large do you want Elkhorn High School to become before a second high school is built in the district?
- 2) When will an additional middle school be needed?
- 3) When will district elementary schools reach capacity?
- 4) Where are appropriate sites for additional schools?
- 5) Boundaries, programs, and other facilities needs?

Presentations will provide background for each of these questions but your input is important in helping the district set a timeline to move forward. Please attend one of the scheduled meetings.