



# NPS 10 Year Enrollment Projections

July 25, 2019

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# 2019 Milone & MacBroom Update

- Milone & MacBroom – February 2016 Facility Utilization Plan
- Annual Updates for SBB Budget Purposes
- 2019 Long Range (10 Year) Enrollment Projection Update:
  - Incorporates Approved Facilities Master Plan
  - Construction status – As of June 2019
  - District Choice Initiatives
  - K-8 Schools
  - Separate Schools for CGS and P-Tech
  - Updated data on population, births, in/out-migration, persistency ratios, new housing construction, etc.

# Cohort-Survival Projection Method

- Historical Norwalk birth rates and trends
- Historical Norwalk birth to kindergarten ratio
- In-migration
- Out-migration
- Norwalk Persistency ratio
- Economic Conditions & Assumptions:
  - New housing & home sales/price
  - Housing multiplier by housing type
  - Employment/unemployment
  - Population
- Three Scenarios: Low, Medium & High. Milone & MacBroom believes the high growth scenario remains the most likely

# Key Findings

- Norwalk population grew 4.6% from 2010 to 2017
- School enrollment has rebounded from lows in mid-2000's and has continued to grow
- Pre-k – 12 enrollment up 6.2% from a decade ago
- Projected Enrollment over next 10 years – 4.7% overall growth based on High Growth Scenario (deemed most accurate by Milone & MacBroom):
  - PreK – 5            +2.8%
  - 6 – 8                +0.7%
  - 9 – 12               10.5%
- Individual projected school enrollments vary widely – Implications for choice programming, enrollment policy, future capital needs, feeder patterns & potentially neighborhood boundaries

# Projected Enrollment Highlights

## Elementary PreK – 5:

- Overall enrollment dips slightly for three years, then grows modestly by +2.8% over the 10 year period
- Magnet programs assumed to be filled at 95% of enrollment capacity
- New magnet programs at Ponus Lower STEAM school and Norwalk Global Academy draw some students who would otherwise have attended a neighborhood school
- Current over-crowding at some schools is alleviated; Naramake & Wolfpit schools drop below 300 students beginning in 2021-22, suggesting the need for some deliberate action to bolster enrollment at these two schools



# Projected Enrollment Highlights

## Middle School – 6 - 8:

- Overall enrollment remains steady at approximately 2,600
- Projection assumes opening of Ponus STEAM Magnet Upper School and Columbus Pre-K-8 Bank Street Magnet on original schedule
- Magnet programs assumed to be filled at 95% of enrollment capacity
- Based on current feeder pattern and other factors, widely varying enrollments are projected by 2028-29:
  - Roton MS would grow to 750 students
  - Nathan Hale MS would decline to 440 students
  - Ponus Upper School would peak at 708 students in 2024-25

# Projected Enrollment Highlights

## High School – 9 - 12:

- Enrollment grows at a robust 10.5% to approximately 4,000 students
- Projections separate Center for Global Studies and Norwalk P-TECH into two separate schools
- Based on current feeder pattern, by 2028-29 enrollments at the two comprehensive high schools diverge:
  - BMHS would increase to 2,132 students, plus 305 at CGS
  - Norwalk High School would decline to 1,116, plus 391 at P-TECH
- The District will need to take affirmative steps to better distribute students among the available seats

# Implications of Enrollment Report

- Proposed Wolfpit Intergrated Arts Magnet Program would help offset the projected enrollment decline at Wolfpit due to its small and aging attendance area
- Integrated Arts Magnet would feed to Nathan Hale and Norwalk HS, helping to partially offset the enrollment declines projected in these two schools
- Other factors may be impacting projected enrollment at these two schools; District needs to develop a plan to rebalance middle and high school enrollments among the available seats. Options include:
  - Expand choice options
  - Move toward open enrollment at high school level
  - Facility Addition at Roton MS to meet enrollment & IB Middle Years Pathway
  - Review feeder patterns
  - Review neighborhood school boundary lines