Groton Daily Independent

Enrollment Trends
for Northeast Conference and other schools

Frederick: 174

Britton-Hecla: 468:

Langford: 246

Mobridge-Pollock: 596

Roncalli: 516

Sisseton: 954

A.Christian: 170

Milbank: 971

Ipswich: 428

Aberdeen: 4237

Groton: 570

Webster: 535

Warner: 313

Northwestern: 374

Redfield: 498

Doland: 138

Watertown: 3535

Clark: 554

Deuel: 523

Rapid City: 12146

Pierre: 2749

Hamlin: 860

Brookings: 3515

Tea: 2509

SF Christian: 1447

South Dakota: 137313

Harrisburg: 6182

Sioux Falls: 24221

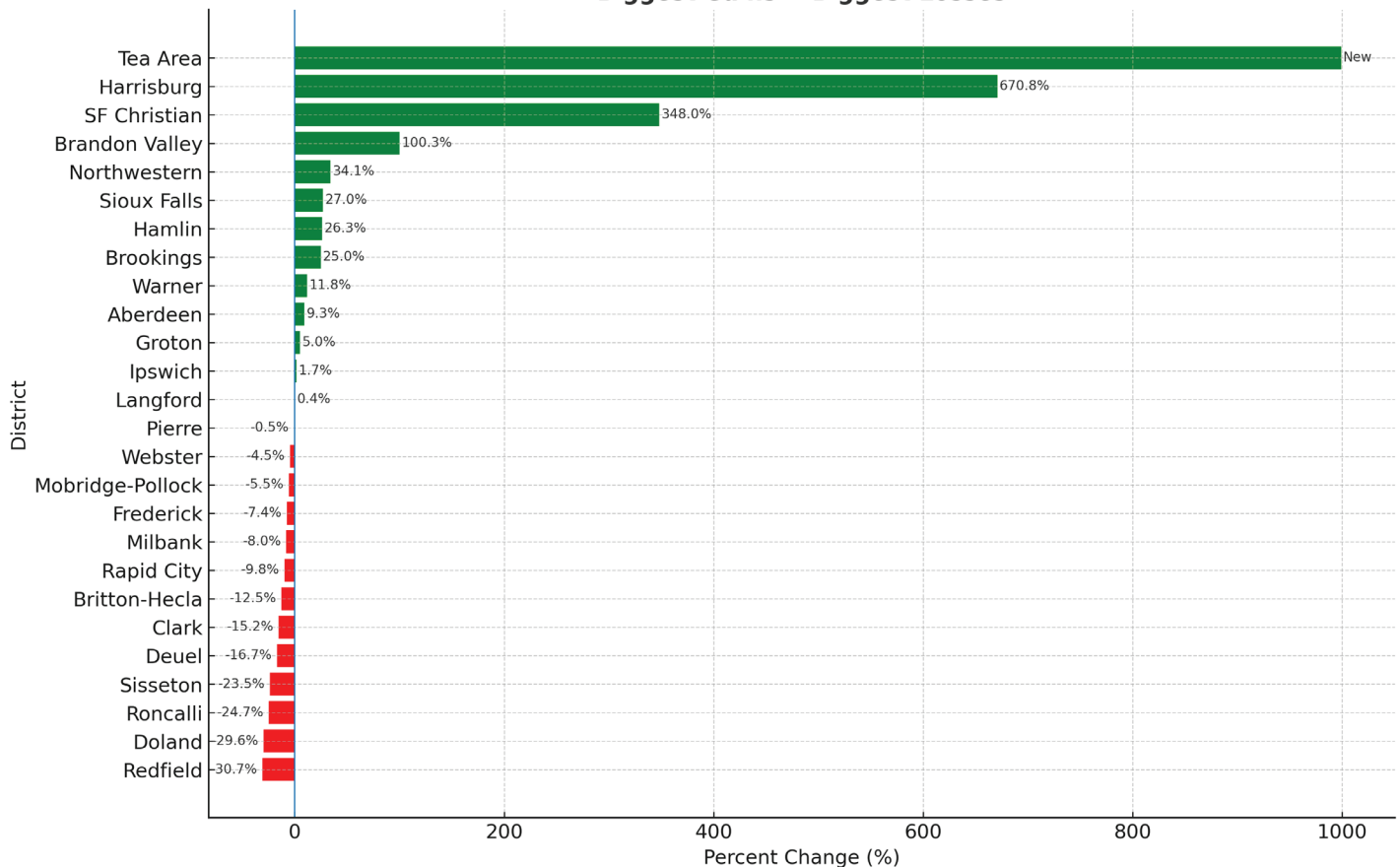North Dakota: 116598

Brandon Valley: 5073

2024 Enrollment Figures
From the South Dakota Department of Education
and the North Dakota Department of Education

The narratives and charts were generated by ChatGPT

South Dakota Enrollment Change by District (2000–01 to 2024–25)
Biggest Gains → Biggest Losses

South Dakota K–12 Enrollment Trends (2000–01 to 2024–25)

Over the past quarter-century, South Dakota's public and participating private school enrollment has seen significant shifts, shaped by rural population changes, metro-area growth, and the opening of new districts.

Early 2000s: Gradual Decline

At the start of the 2000s, statewide enrollment hovered near 128,000 students. From 2000–01 to 2005–06, totals trended downward, with annual drops generally between 0.9% and 1.6%. This decline reflected shrinking rural populations and smaller incoming kindergarten cohorts in many parts of the state.

Late 2000s: Fluctuations and Adjustments

From 2006–07 to 2010–11, enrollment moved up and down modestly, but 2010–11 marked the largest single-year drop in the dataset — more than 15,000 students (-12.6%). This appears linked to district re-classifications or reporting changes rather than a sudden demographic collapse.

2011–12 to 2019–20: Steady Recovery

The years following 2010–11 saw consistent, modest growth. By 2019–20, South Dakota's total enrollment reached 115,510, nearly 9,000 above the post-2010 low. This growth was driven primarily by suburban expansion, especially in fast-growing communities like Harrisburg, Tea Area, and Brandon Valley.

2020–21: The Big Jump

Between 2019–20 and 2020–21, enrollment surged by 20,474 students (+17.7%) — a spike almost certainly tied to changes in data reporting or inclusion of additional schools/programs, rather than a one-year population boom.

2021–22 to 2024–25: Plateau

In the past four years, enrollment has stabilized between 137,000 and 138,000 students, with only minor yearly shifts. Growth in suburban and metro areas continues to offset rural declines.

District-by-District: Biggest Gains and Losses

Top Growth Districts

Tea Area — Opened in 2002, now enrolls 2,509 students after starting from zero. This is one of the most dramatic growth stories in the state.

Harrisburg — From 802 students in 2000–01 to 6,182 today (+671%), fueled by suburban Sioux Falls expansion.

Sioux Falls Christian — From 323 to 1,447 (+348%), reflecting private school growth in metro areas.

Brandon Valley — From 2,533 to 5,073 (+100%), supported by new housing developments.

Northwestern, Sioux Falls, Hamlin, and Brookings — Saw gains of 25–34%, indicating steady, sustained growth.

Stable Districts

Groton (+5%), Aberdeen (+9%), Ipswich (+1.7%), and Langford (+0.4%) have remained essentially steady. Pierre has slipped just 0.5% in 25 years, showing long-term stability.

Largest Declines

Redfield (-30.7%), Doland (-29.6%), Roncalli (-24.7%), and Sisseton (-23.5%) lead in losses, reflecting rural depopulation and smaller graduating classes.

Clark, Deuel, and Britton-Hecla saw drops between 12–17%.

Rapid City — Despite being a major metro, fell by nearly 10% from 2000 to 2024–25.

Key Takeaways

Suburban Boom: Harrisburg, Tea Area, Brandon Valley, and Sioux Falls-area private schools have grown rapidly, benefiting from population shifts toward the Sioux Falls metro.

Rural Decline: Many smaller districts, especially in the northeast and central regions, have seen steady erosion in student numbers due to declining rural populations.

New District Impact — Tea Area's rise from zero to 2,500+ students in just over two decades is a defining feature of the state's education map.

Stable Anchors: A handful of districts — Groton, Aberdeen, Pierre — have held their ground, balancing modest growth and loss.

Statewide Stability — Despite these local shifts, total enrollment in 2024–25 is slightly higher than it was 25 years ago.

The Dakotas

Both Dakotas are bucking the national trend of declining K–12 enrollment in many states.

North Dakota's growth is faster and steadier, while South Dakota's growth is strong but concentrated in specific metro regions and influenced by administrative factors.

In both states, rural areas face ongoing challenges with declining numbers, consolidations, and smaller graduating classes, while metro and suburban areas struggle to keep up with expansion demands.

South Dakota

Enrollment grew from 121,015 in 2008–09 to 137,313 in 2024–25.

Net gain: +16,298 students (+13.5%).

Growth has been uneven, with modest gains most years but a dramatic jump between 2019–20 and 2020–21, when enrollment rose by over 20,000 students — likely due to a shift in reporting or classification that brought additional programs into the count.

North Dakota

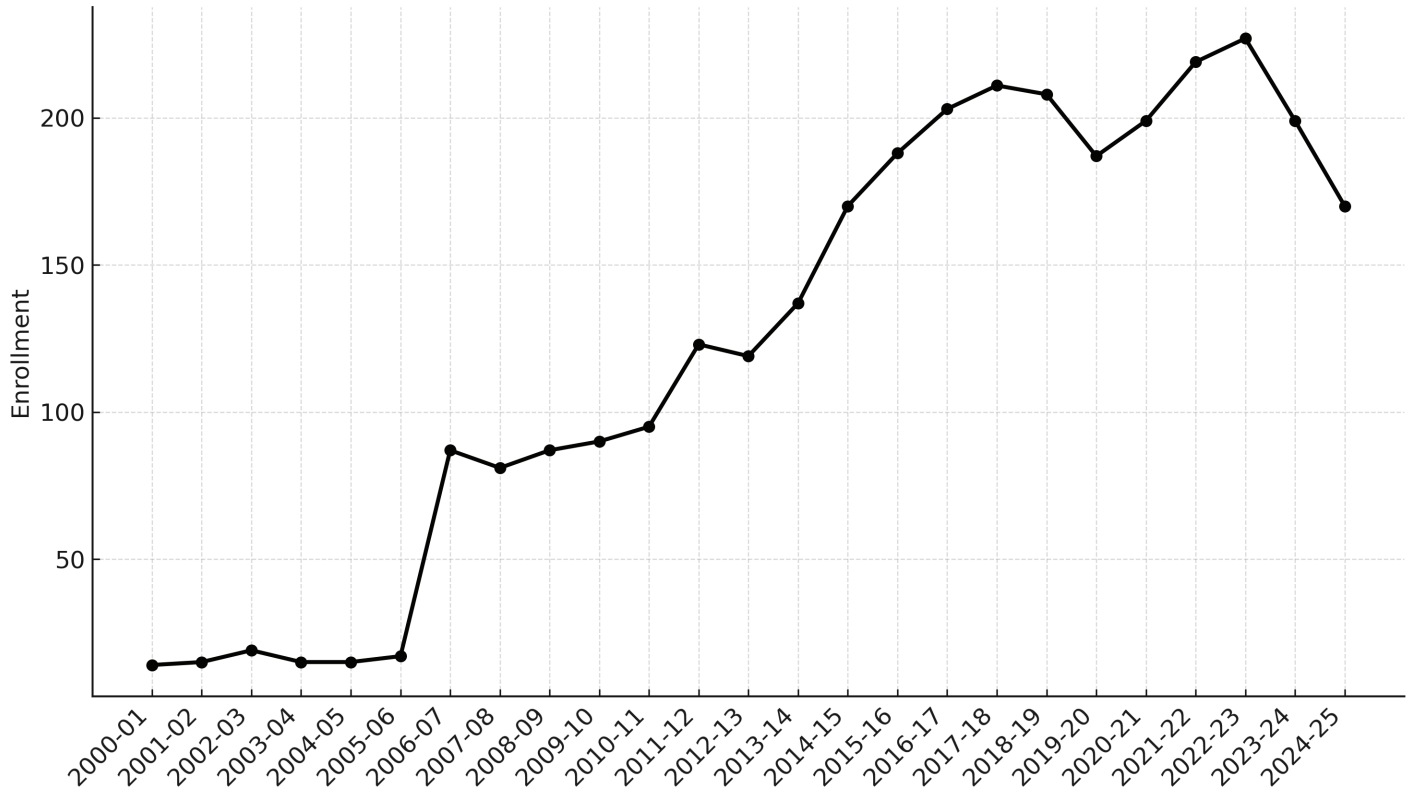Enrollment climbed from 93,406 in 2008–09 to 116,598 in 2024–25.

Net gain: +23,192 students (+24.8%).

Growth has been steady and consistent, averaging about 1,450 students per year since 2008–09, without major spikes or drops.
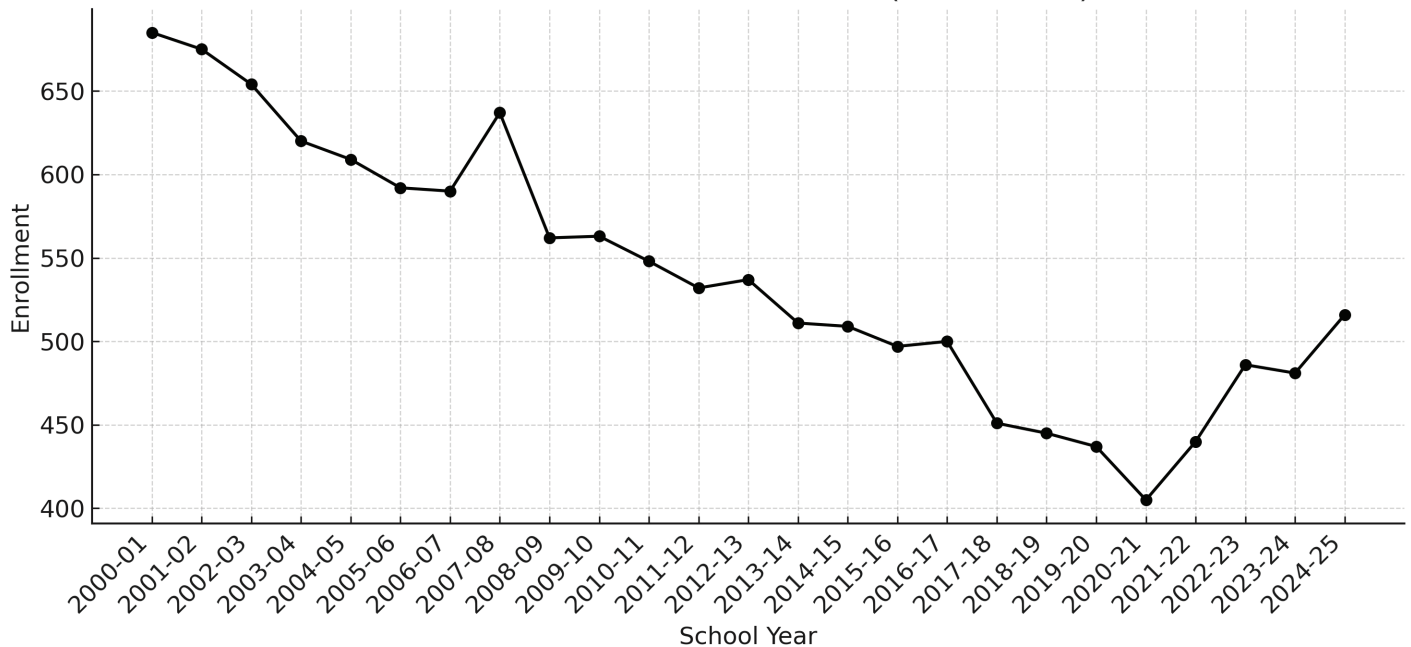
Aberdeen Christian Enrollment

Aberdeen Christian enrollment in 2000-01 was 14 and is now 170 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 227 and the lowest was 14. Overall, the trend shows significant growth from a small base. This growth far exceeds the city's population increase, pointing to a strong rise in interest in the school.

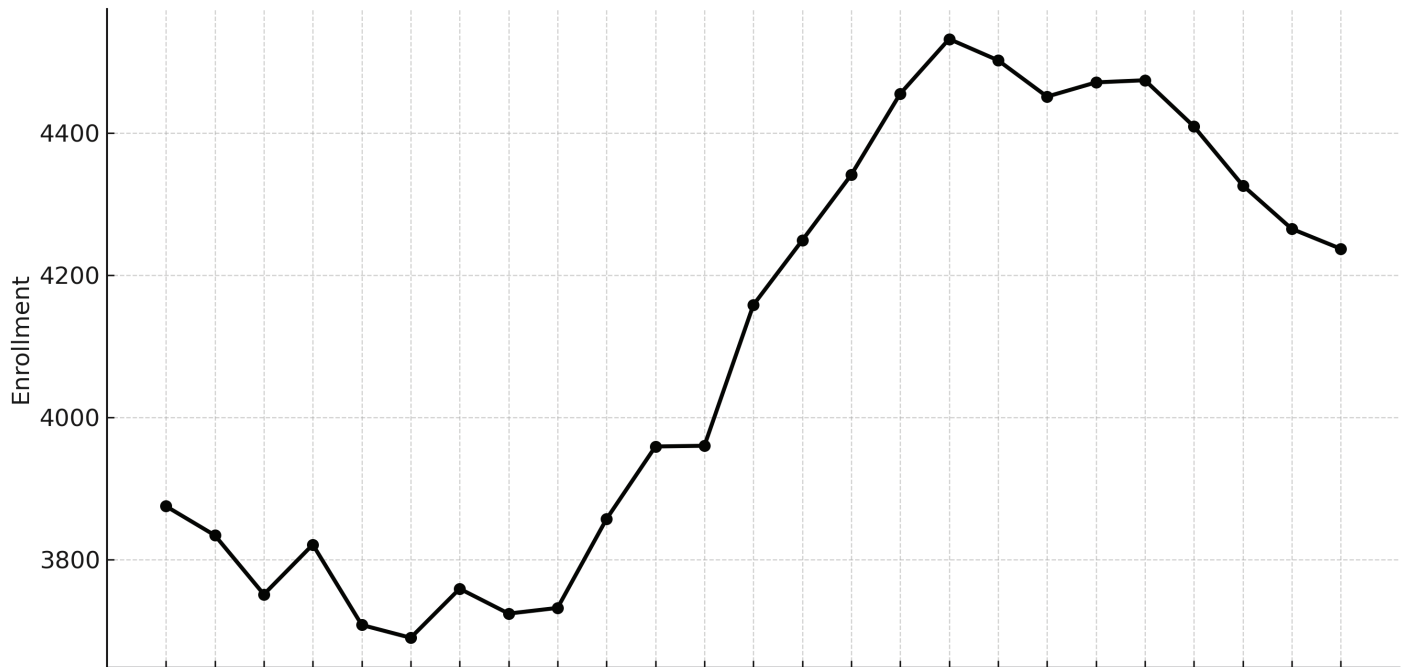| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	170	2012-13	119
2023-24	199	2011-12	123
2022-23	227	2010-11	95
2021-22	219	2009-10	90
2020-21	199	2008-09	87
2019-20	187	2007-08	81
2018-19	208	2006-07	87
2017-18	211	2005-06	17
2016-17	203	2004-05	15
2015-16	188	2003-04	15
2014-15	170	2002-03	19
2013-14	137	2001-02	15
		2000-01	14

Aberdeen Roncalli Enrollment (2000–2025)

Aberdeen Roncalli enrollment in 2000-01 was 685 and is now 516 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 685 and the lowest was 405. Overall, the trend shows an overall decline with some rebounds. The drop in students is somewhat sharper than the city's overall population change.

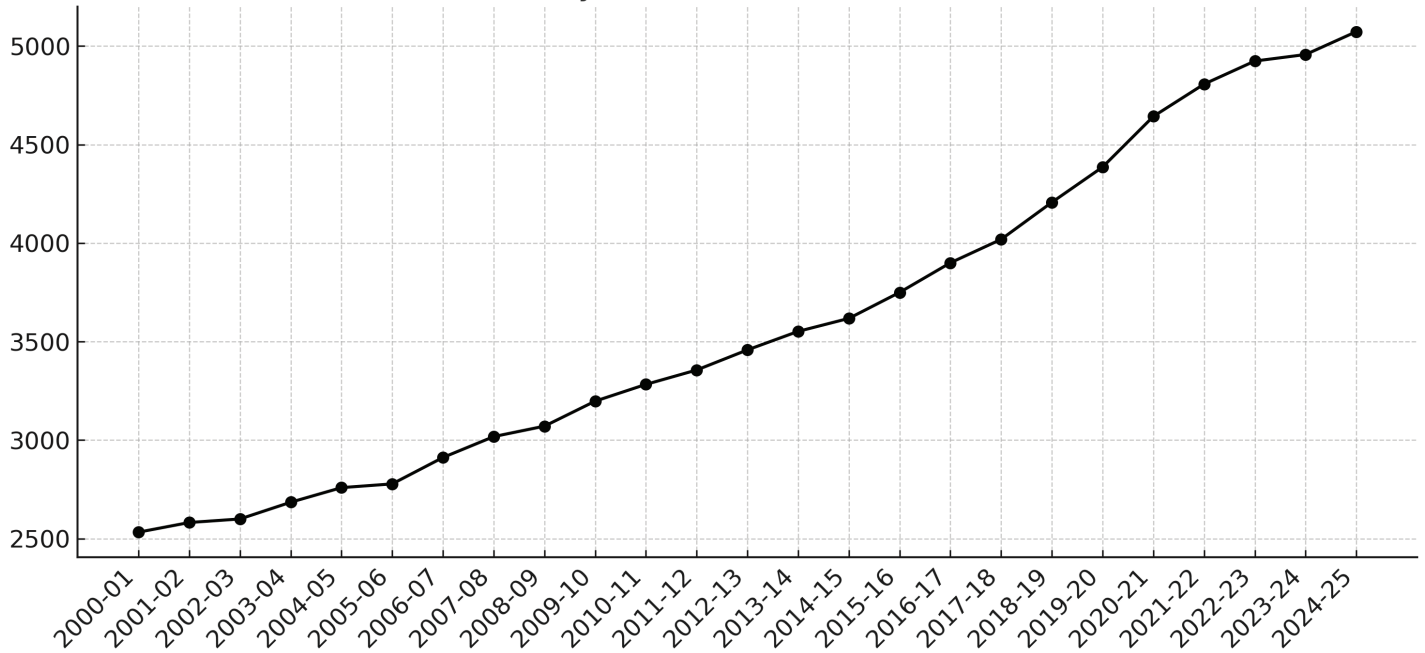| School Year	Enrollment	School Year	Enrollment
2024-25	516	2012-13	537
2023-24	481	2011-12	532
2022-23	486	2010-11	548
2021-22	440	2009-10	563
2020-21	405	2008-09	562
2019-20	437	2007-08	637
2018-19	445	2006-07	590
2017-18	451	2005-06	592
2016-17	500	2004-05	609
2015-16	497	2003-04	620
2014-15	509	2002-03	654
2013-14	511	2001-02	675
		2000-01	685

Aberdeen Public School Enrollment

Aberdeen's K-12 enrollment peaked in the early 2010s but has seen a gradual decline since 2016–17. The district's numbers have generally stayed above 4,200 students for the past decade, with the latest count at 4,237 in 2024–25. While the drop from 2016–17 levels is noticeable, Aberdeen remains one of the state's largest districts and is still well above early-2000s levels. Continued monitoring will determine if the recent stability signals a leveling-off or a potential rebound.

Year	Enrollment		Year	Enrollment
2024-25	4237		2012-13	4158
2023-24	4265		2011-12	3960
2022-23	4326		2010-11	3959
2021-22	4409		2009-10	3857
2020-21	4474		2008-09	3732
2019-20	4471		2007-08	3724
2018-19	4451		2006-07	3759
2017-18	4502		2005-06	3690
2016-17	4532		2004-05	3708
2015-16	4455		2003-04	3821
2014-15	4341		2002-03	3751
2013-14	4249		2001-02	3834
			2000-01	3875

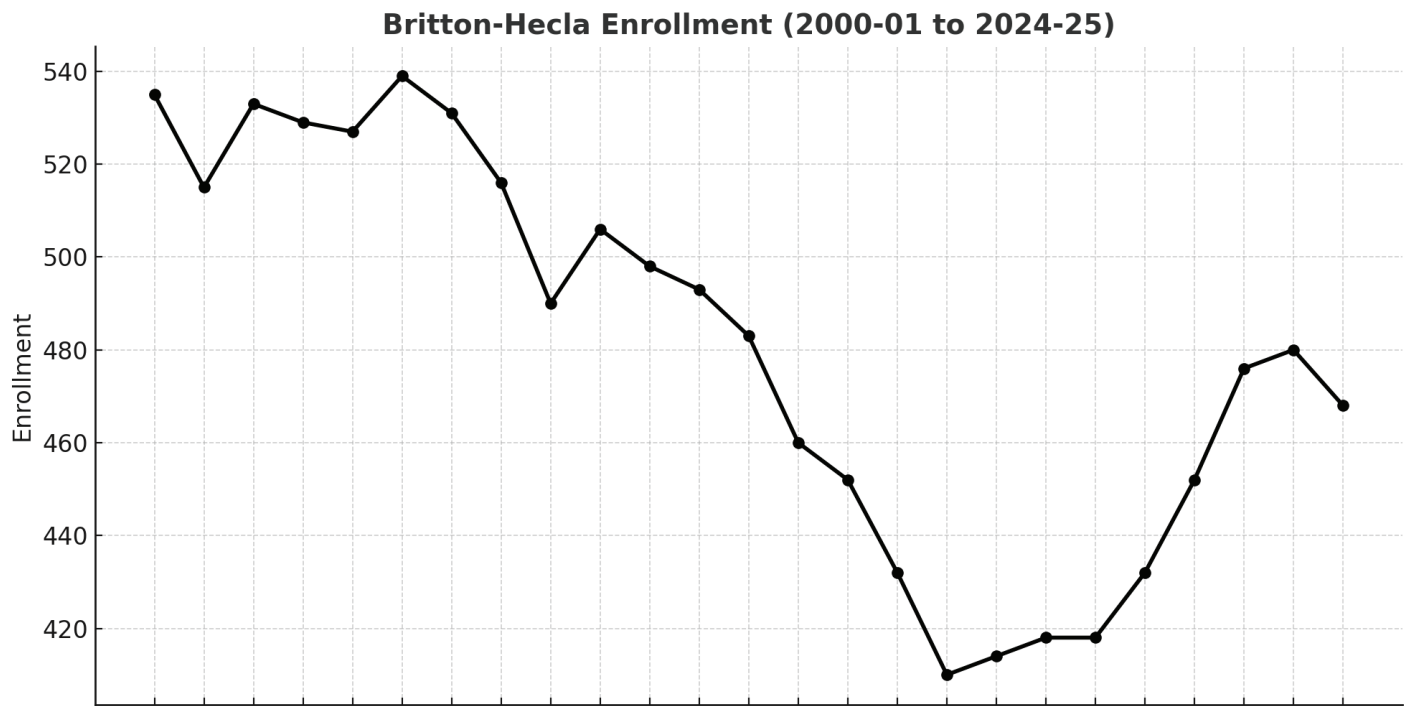### Brandon Valley Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Brandon Valley has experienced strong, sustained enrollment growth, rising from 2,533 students in 2000–01 to 5,073 in 2024–25. The district's largest increases have come in the past decade, driven by both new housing developments and its reputation for quality education. Even in years of broader economic slowdown, Brandon Valley has maintained steady upward momentum in student numbers. Compared to the city's population growth, school enrollment has tracked closely, indicating that new families moving into the community are contributing directly to the district's expansion.

2024-25	5073	2012-13	3458
2023-24	4957	2011-12	3356
2022-23	4924	2010-11	3283
2021-22	4807	2009-10	3198
2020-21	4643	2008-09	3071
2019-20	4386	2007-08	3018
2018-19	4207	2006-07	2912
2017-18	4019	2005-06	2778
2016-17	3900	2004-05	2759
2015-16	3750	2003-04	2685
2014-15	3618	2002-03	2600
2013-14	3552	2001-02	2582
		2000-01	2533

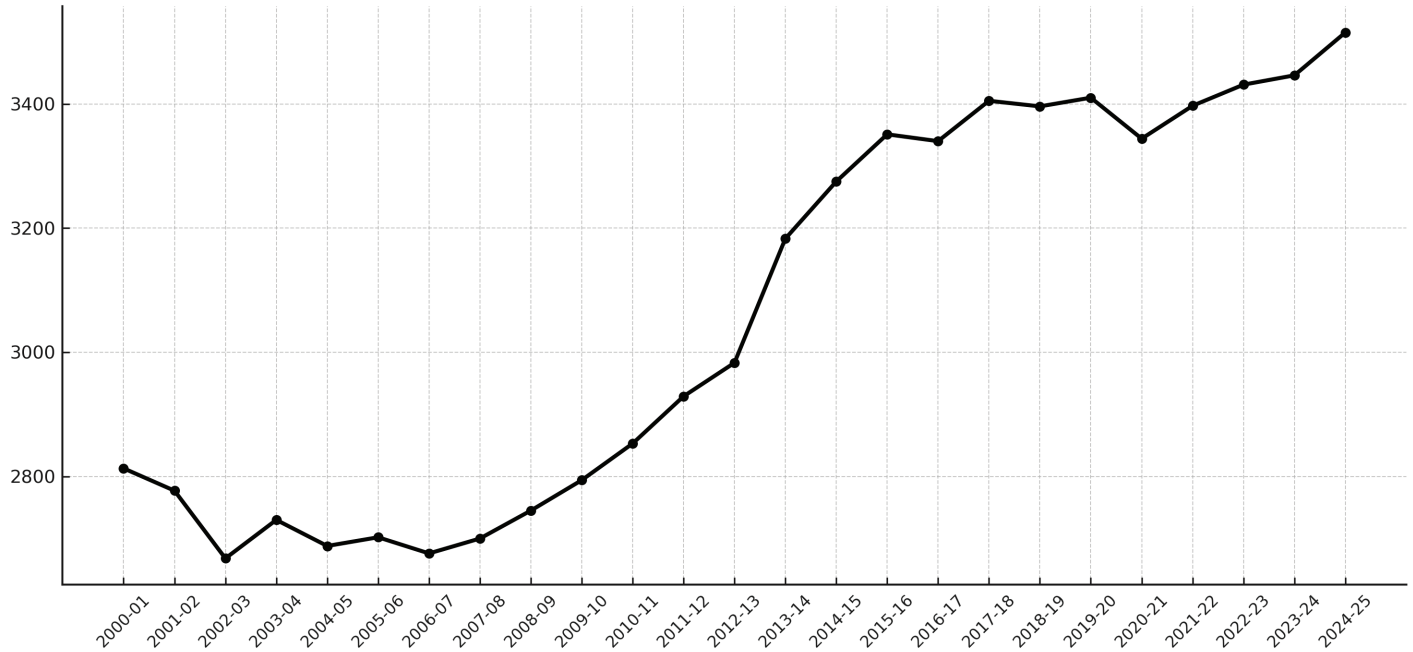**Britton-Hecla Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)**

     Britton-Hecla's enrollment has fluctuated over the years, with a high of 539 in 2005—06 and a low of 410 in 2016—17. The 2024—25 total of 468 represents a modest decrease from last year but remains above the 2016—17 low point. The long-term trend shows resilience despite periodic dips. Maintaining steady enrollment will depend on both local population changes and the ability to attract new families.

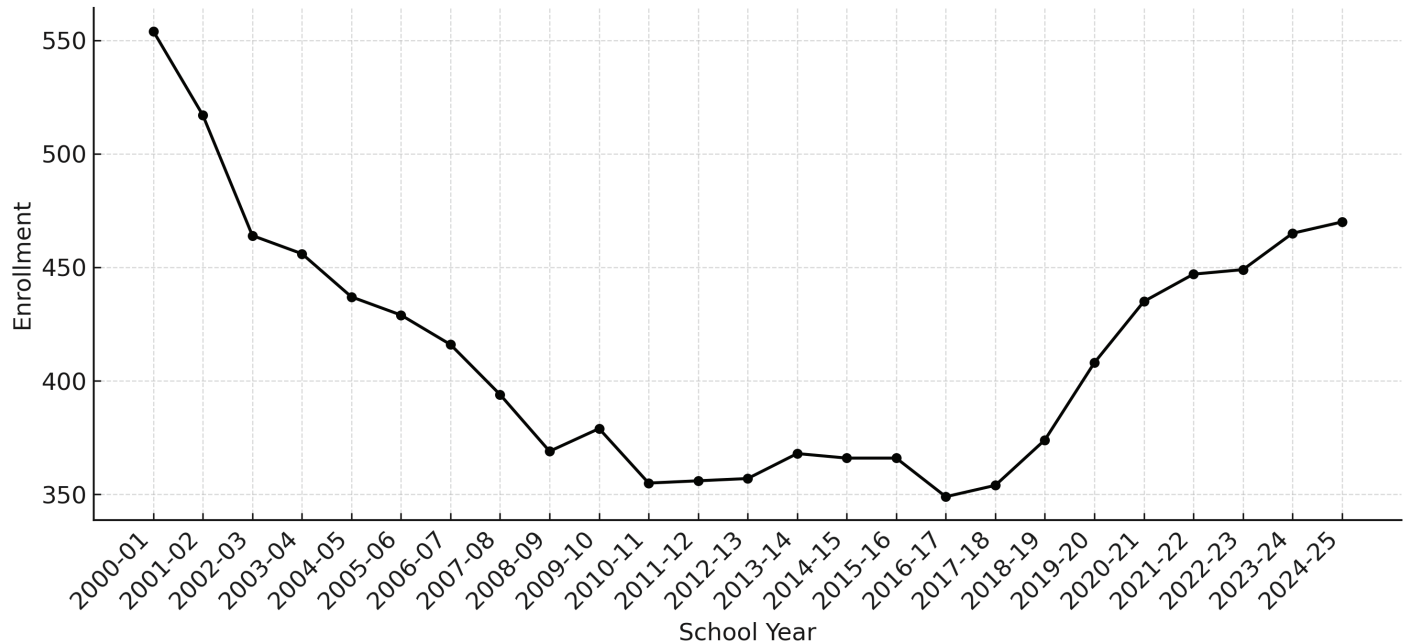| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	468	2012-13	483
2023-24	480	2011-12	493
2022-23	476	2010-11	498
2021-22	452	2009-10	506
2020-21	432	2008-09	490
2019-20	418	2007-08	516
2018-19	418	2006-07	531
2017-18	414	2005-06	539
2016-17	410	2004-05	527
2015-16	432	2003-04	529
2014-15	452	2002-03	533
2013-14	460	2001-02	515
		2000-01	535

Brookings School District Enrollment

   Brookings enrollment grew steadily in the early 2000s, reaching a recent high of 3,515 in 2024–25. While there were small dips in the mid-2010s, the overall trend has been upward. Brookings remains one of the state's larger and faster-growing districts. Strong community growth and higher education influence have contributed to the district's sustained rise.

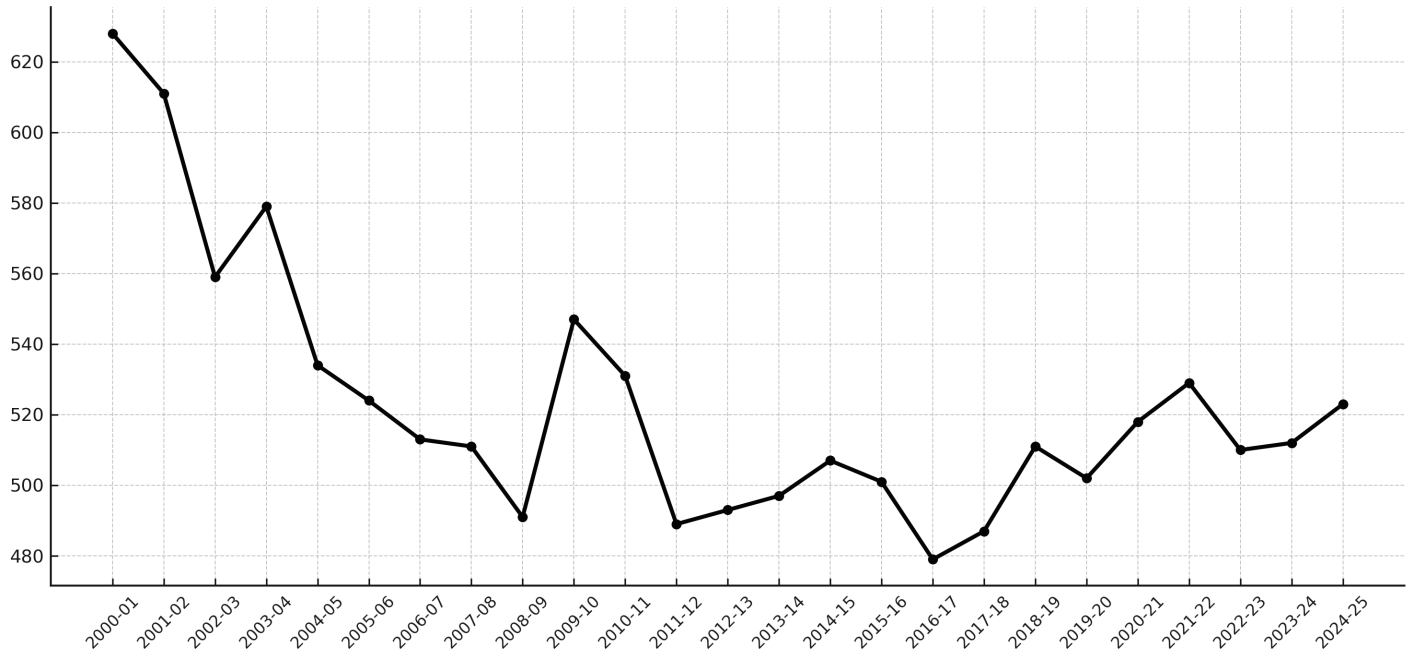| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	3515	2012-13	2983
2023-24	3446	2011-12	2929
2022-23	3431	2010-11	2853
2021-22	3397	2009-10	2794
2020-21	3344	2008-09	2745
2019-20	3410	2007-08	2700
2018-19	3396	2006-07	2676
2017-18	3405	2005-06	2702
2016-17	3340	2004-05	2688
2015-16	3351	2003-04	2730
2014-15	3275	2002-03	2668
2013-14	3183	2001-02	2777
		2000-01	2813

Clark Enrollment 2000-01 to 2024-25

Clark's numbers have trended downward since the early 2000s, when enrollment was over 500. The 2024–25 figure of 470 is higher than the mid-2010s low of 349, showing a rebound in the past decade. Recent stability may point toward a period of steadier enrollment. This recovery suggests that the district has weathered its lowest point and could see modest gains if current trends continue.

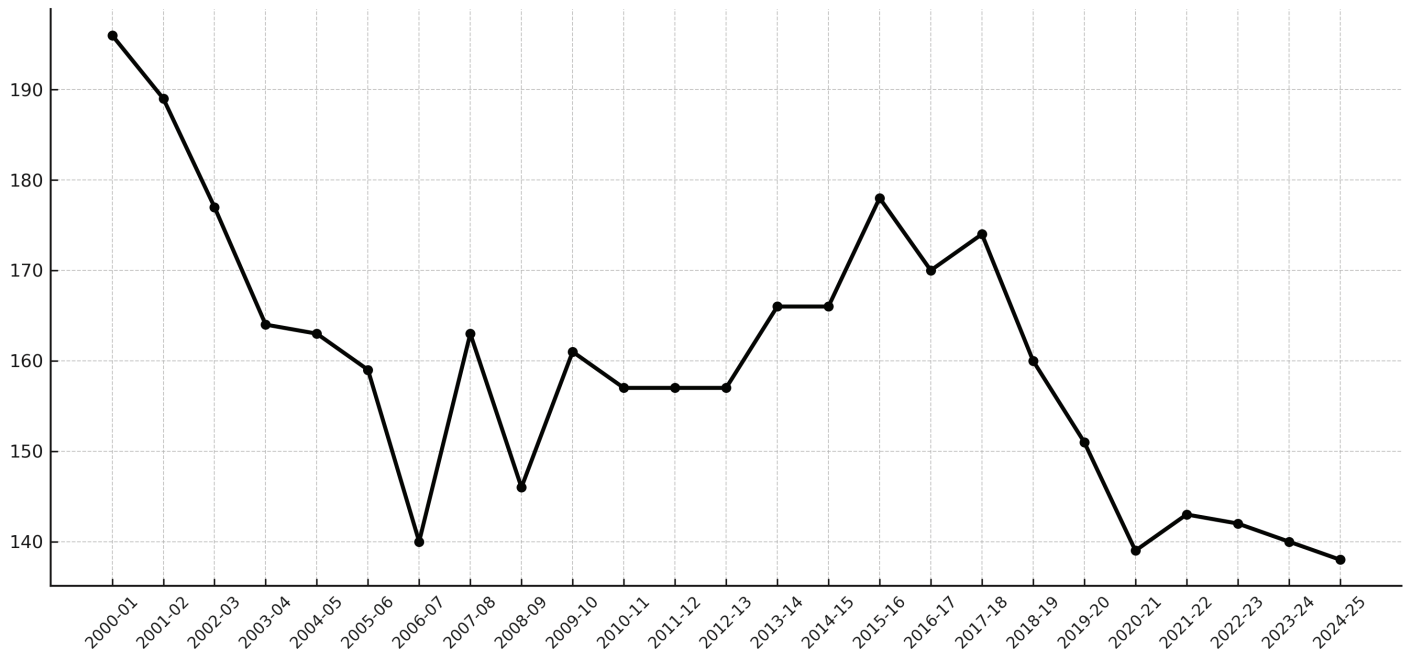| School Year	Enrollment	School Year	Enrollment
2024-25	470	2012-13	357
2023-24	465	2011-12	356
2022-23	449	2010-11	355
2021-22	447	2009-10	379
2020-21	435	2008-09	369
2019-20	408	2007-08	394
2018-19	374	2006-07	416
2017-18	354	2005-06	429
2016-17	349	2004-05	437
2015-16	366	2003-04	456
2014-15	366	2002-03	464
2013-14	368	2001-02	517
		2000-01	554

Deuel School District Enrollment

Deuel's enrollment has seen gradual fluctuations, with the highest total in 2000–01 at 628 and the lowest in 2011–12 at 489. The 2024–25 total of 523 is consistent with the past several years, suggesting a relatively stable trend since the early 2010s. While not returning to early-2000s highs, the district has avoided major declines. Future changes may hinge on regional economic conditions.

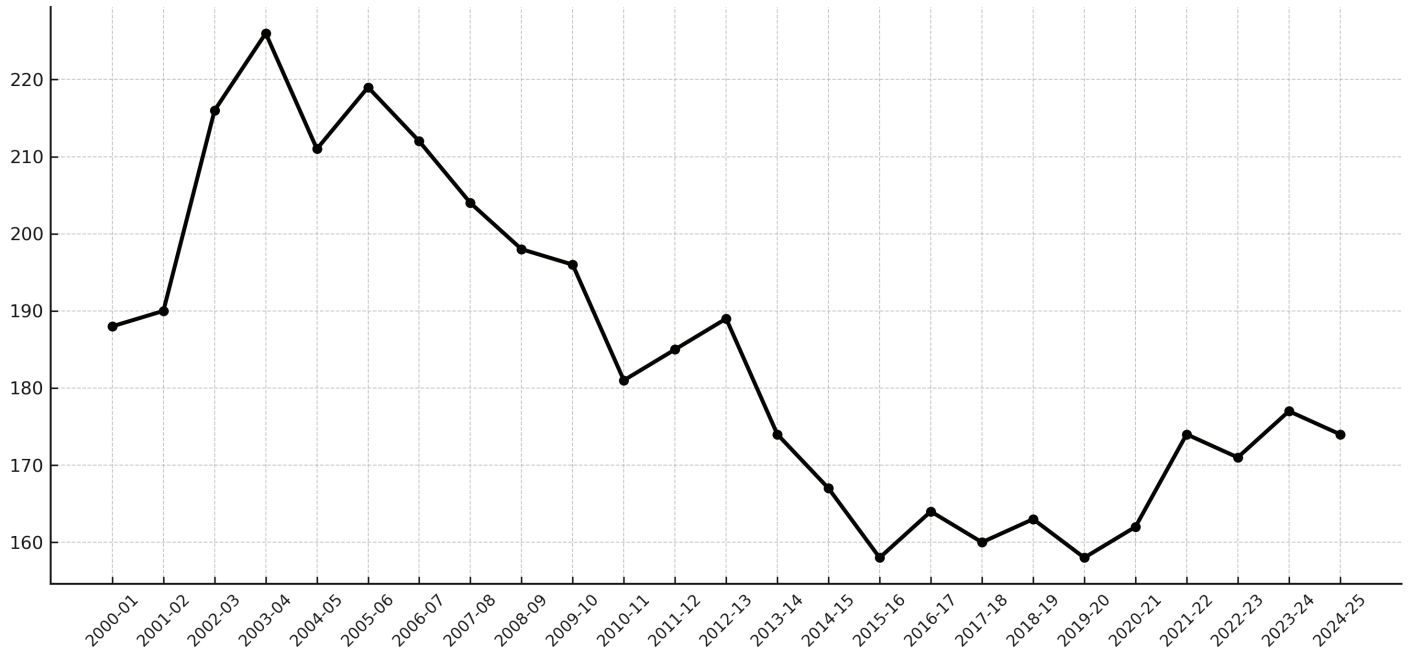| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	523	2012-13	493
2023-24	512	2011-12	489
2022-23	510	2010-11	531
2021-22	529	2009-10	547
2020-21	518	2008-09	491
2019-20	502	2007-08	511
2018-19	511	2006-07	513
2017-18	487	2005-06	524
2016-17	479	2004-05	534
2015-16	501	2003-04	579
2014-15	507	2002-03	559
2013-14	497	2001-02	611
		2000-01	628

Doland School District Enrollment

Doland's enrollment has steadily declined from 196 in 2000–01 to 138 in 2024–25. While the trend is downward, the rate of decline has slowed in the past decade. Small enrollment gains in certain years suggest that fluctuations are still possible. Long-term sustainability will likely depend on maintaining community vitality and attracting young families.

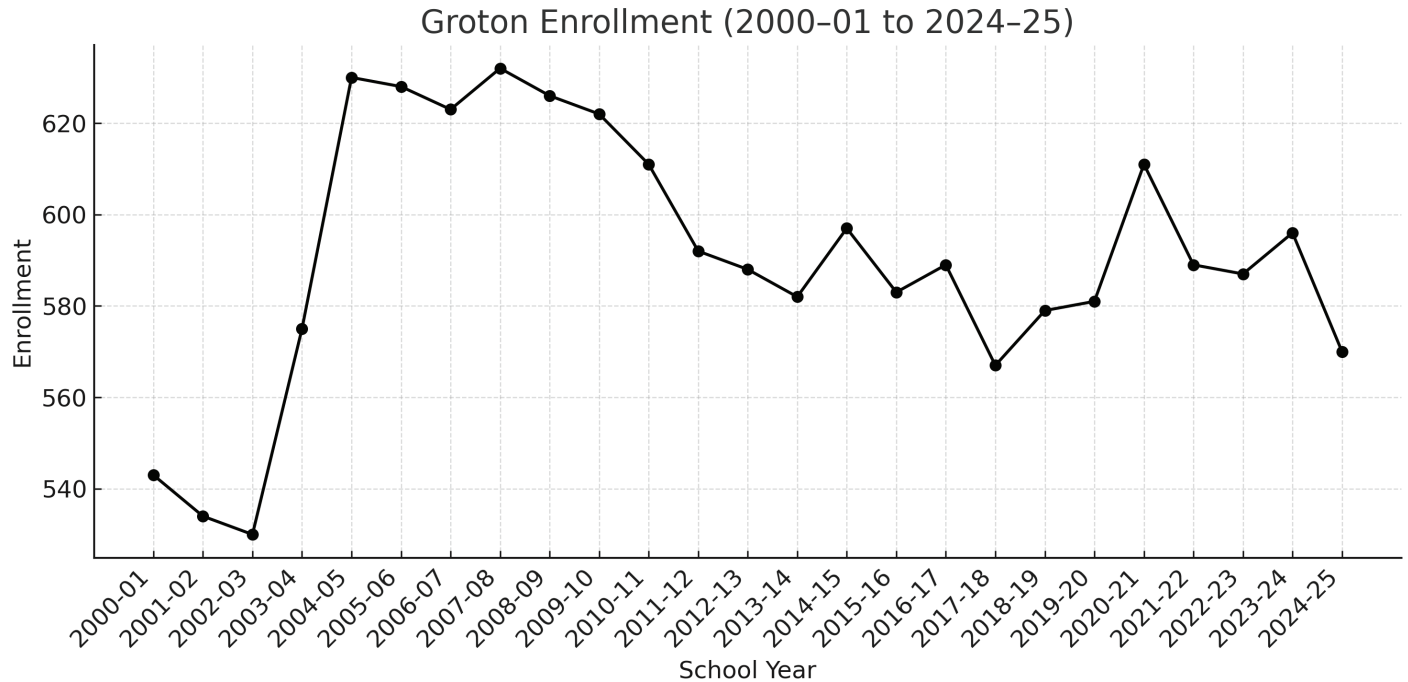| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	138	2012-13	157
2023-24	140	2011-12	157
2022-23	142	2010-11	157
2021-22	143	2009-10	161
2020-21	139	2008-09	146
2019-20	151	2007-08	163
2018-19	160	2006-07	140
2017-18	174	2005-06	159
2016-17	170	2004-05	163
2015-16	178	2003-04	164
2014-15	166	2002-03	177
2013-14	166	2001-02	189
		2000-01	196

Frederick School District Enrollment

Frederick saw its largest enrollment in the early 2000s, peaking at 226 in 2003–04. Since then, numbers have generally trended down, with the 2024–25 figure of 174 representing a modest decrease from last year. The district has held relatively steady in the 160–180 range over the past decade. This consistency indicates a level of stability rare for smaller districts.

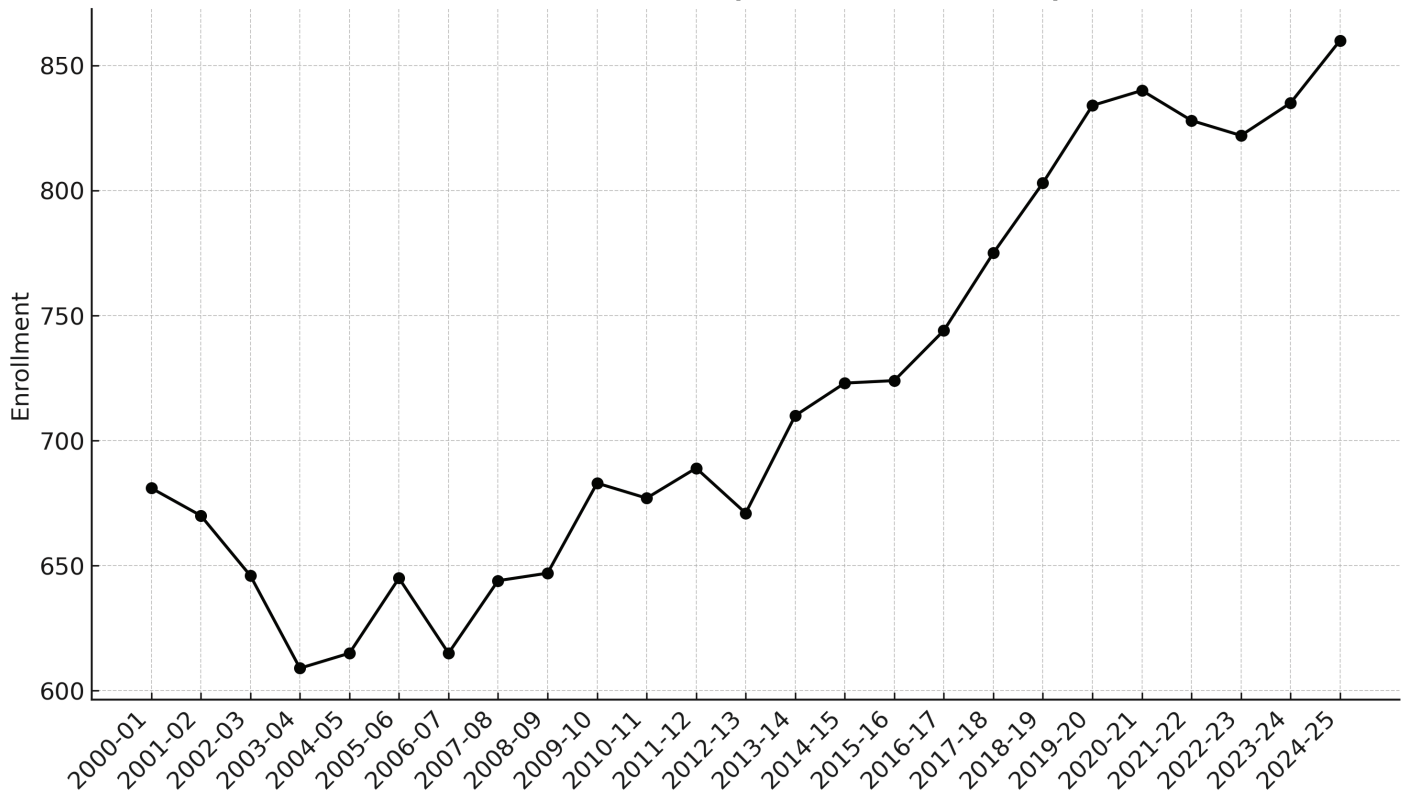| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	174	2012-13	189
2023-24	177	2011-12	185
2022-23	171	2010-11	181
2021-22	174	2009-10	196
2020-21	162	2008-09	198
2019-20	158	2007-08	204
2018-19	163	2006-07	212
2017-18	160	2005-06	219
2016-17	164	2004-05	211
2015-16	158	2003-04	226
2014-15	167	2002-03	216
2013-14	174	2001-02	190
		2000-01	188

Groton Enrollment (2000–01 to 2024–25)

Groton's enrollment has moved in cycles over the past 25 years, peaking at 632 students in 2007—08 and reaching its lowest point in the early 2000s. The 2024—25 figure of 570 marks a decline from recent highs in the early 2020s. While the trend has edged downward since 2020—21, Groton's numbers remain stronger than they were two decades ago. Local growth patterns and retention rates will likely shape whether the district returns to earlier peak levels.

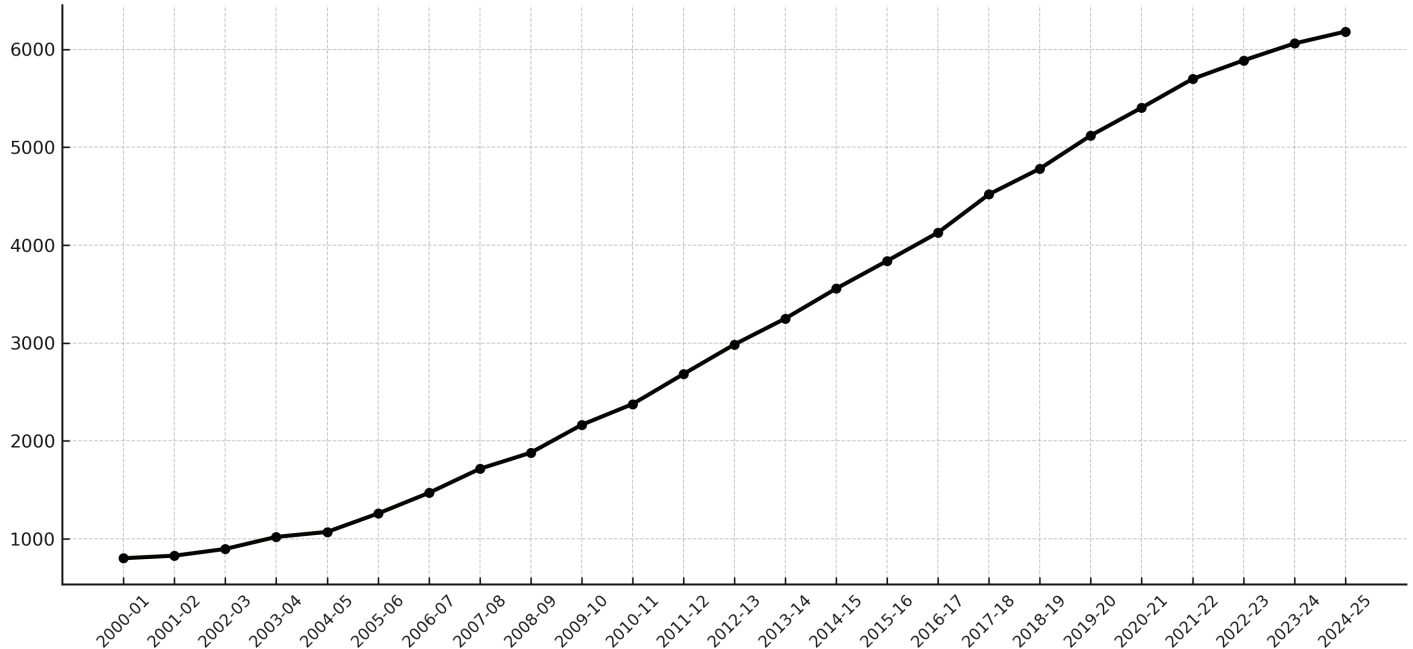| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	570	2012-13	588
2023-24	596	2011-12	592
2022-23	587	2010-11	611
2021-22	589	2009-10	622
2020-21	611	2008-09	626
2019-20	581	2007-08	632
2018-19	579	2006-07	623
2017-18	567	2005-06	628
2016-17	589	2004-05	630
2015-16	583	2003-04	575
2014-15	597	2002-03	530
2013-14	582	2001-02	534
		2000-01	543

Hamlin Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Hamlin has experienced strong long-term growth, climbing from 681 in 2000–01 to 860 in 2024–25. While there were a few dips along the way, particularly in the early 2010s, the overall pattern remains upward. Hamlin is among the state's steadily expanding districts. Its growth is likely tied to both community development and proximity to larger population centers.

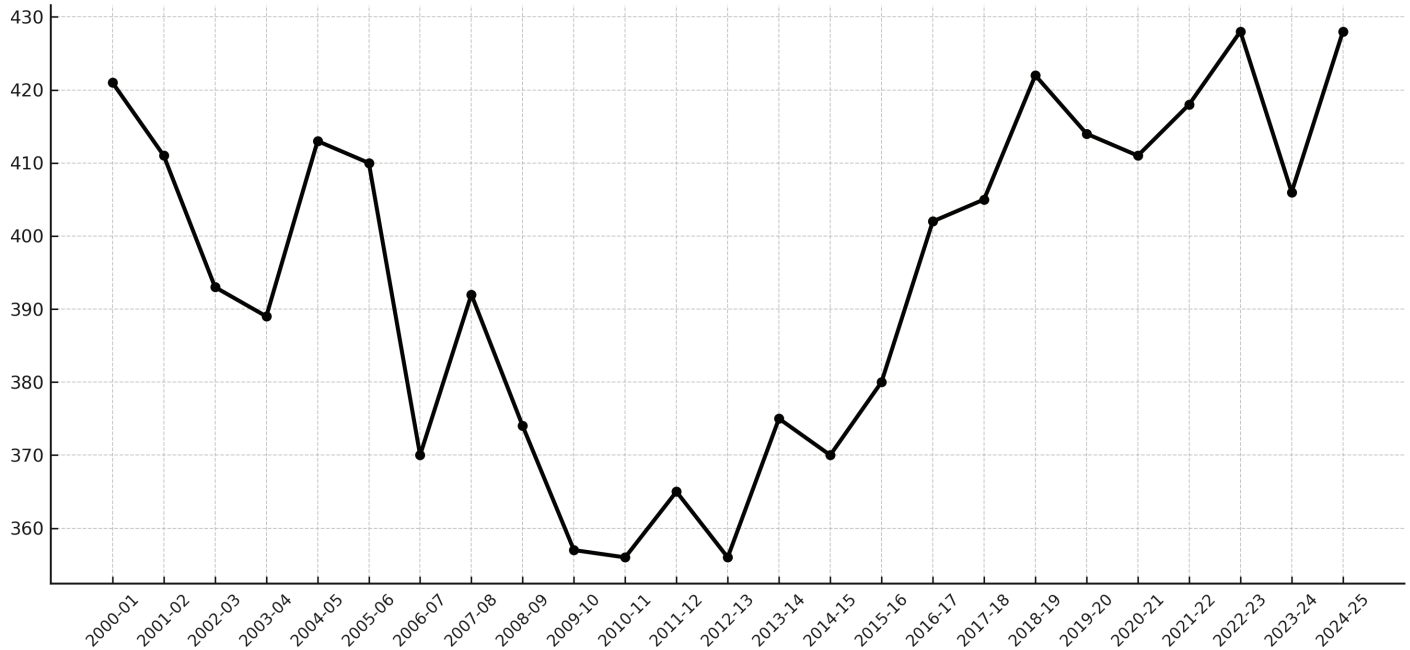| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	860	2012-13	671
2023-24	835	2011-12	689
2022-23	822	2010-11	677
2021-22	828	2009-10	683
2020-21	840	2008-09	647
2019-20	834	2007-08	644
2018-19	803	2006-07	615
2017-18	775	2005-06	645
2016-17	744	2004-05	615
2015-16	724	2003-04	609
2014-15	723	2002-03	646
2013-14	710	2001-02	670
		2000-01	681

Harrisburg School District Enrollment

Harrisburg has seen explosive growth, increasing from 802 in 2000–01 to 6,182 in 2024–25. This makes it one of the fastest-growing districts in South Dakota. The trend shows no signs of slowing, with consistent year-over-year increases for more than two decades. Much of this growth is fueled by suburban expansion and family in-migration.

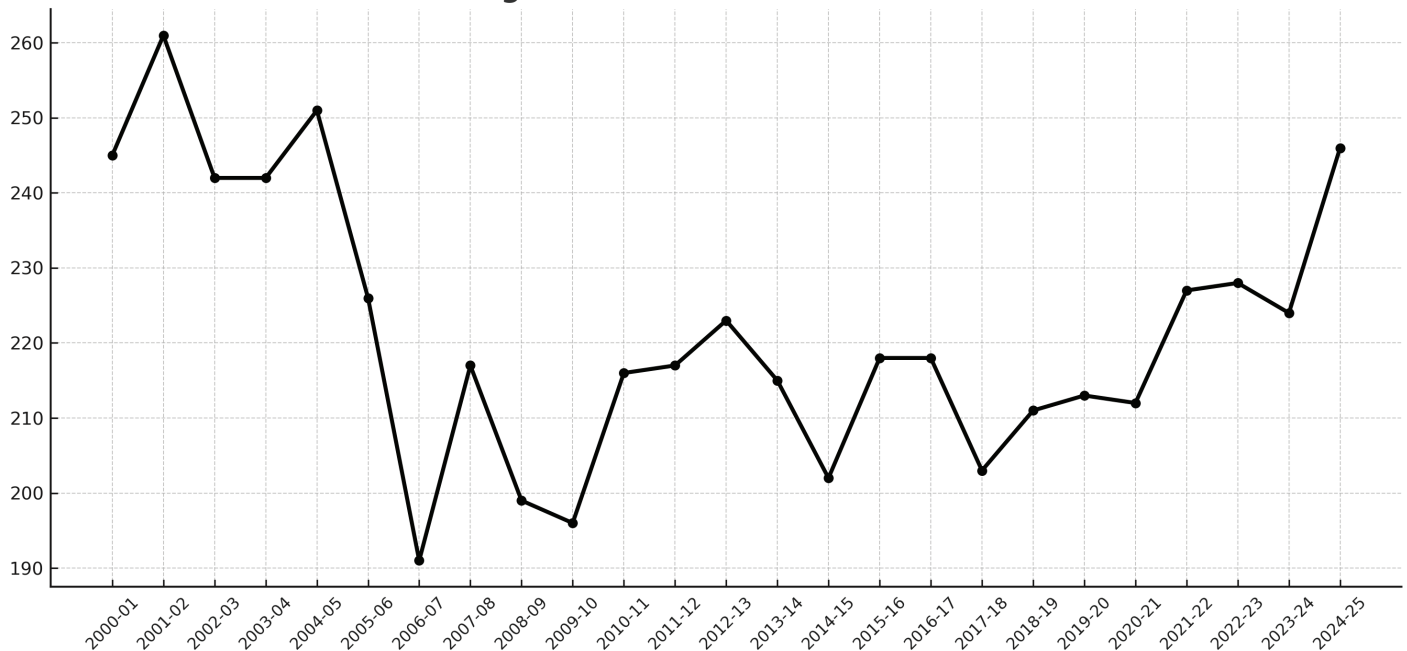|			
2024-25	6182	2012-13	2986
2023-24	6061	2011-12	2684
2022-23	5888	2010-11	2377
2021-22	5699	2009-10	2165
2020-21	5405	2008-09	1880
2019-20	5121	2007-08	1716
2018-19	4782	2006-07	1470
2017-18	4520	2005-06	1259
2016-17	4129	2004-05	1071
2015-16	3840	2003-04	1020
2014-15	3557	2002-03	897
2013-14	3251	2001-02	828
		2000-01	802

Ipswich School District Enrollment

Ipswich's enrollment has fluctuated between 350 and 430 for most of the past 25 years. The 2024—25 count of 428 is near the upper end of that range. The district's numbers have been generally stable over the past decade. Stability at this level suggests a balance between graduations, new enrollments, and local retention.

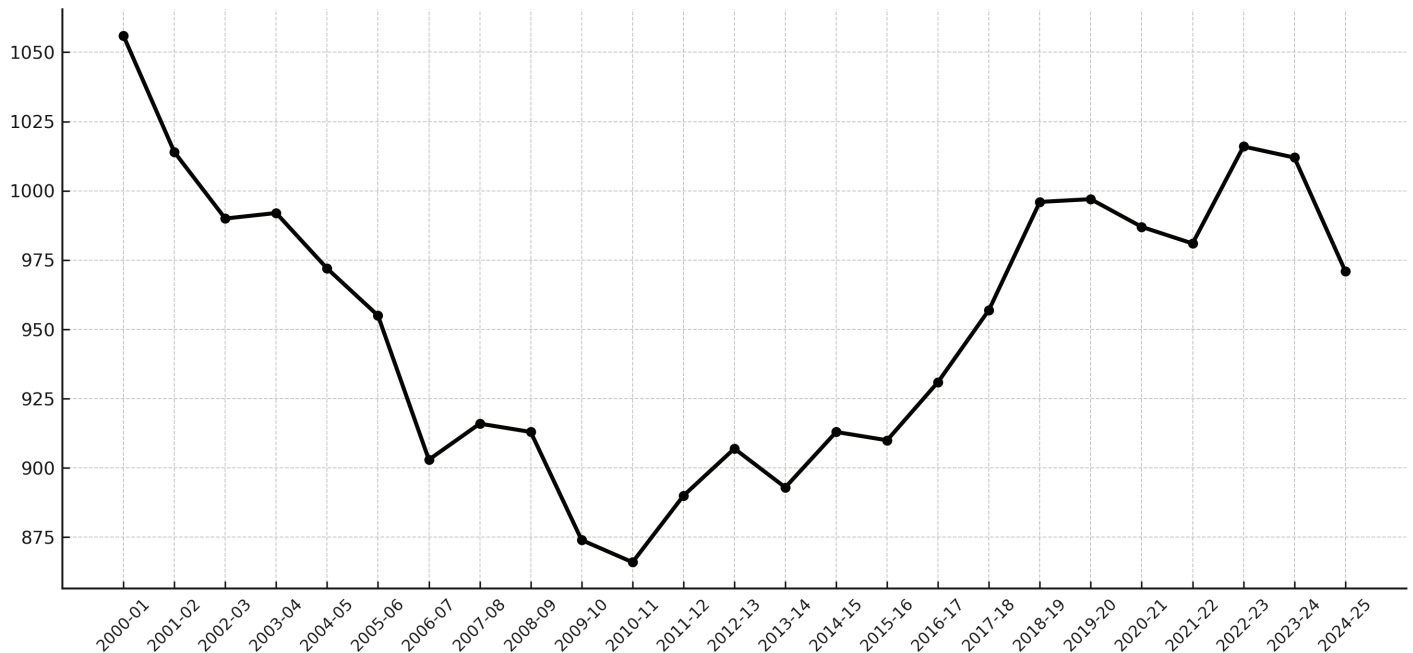| Year	Count	Year	Count
2024-25	428	2012-13	356
2023-24	406	2011-12	365
2022-23	428	2010-11	356
2021-22	418	2009-10	357
2020-21	411	2008-09	374
2019-20	414	2007-08	392
2018-19	422	2006-07	370
2017-18	405	2005-06	410
2016-17	402	2004-05	413
2015-16	380	2003-04	389
2014-15	370	2002-03	393
2013-14	375	2001-02	411
		2000-01	421

Langford School District Enrollment

Langford's enrollment has remained relatively steady in the low-200s over the past 15 years. The 2024—25 figure of 246 is the highest since 2004—05. This represents a notable increase from the low point of 191 in 2006—07. Sustained improvement could indicate the start of a gradual upward trend.

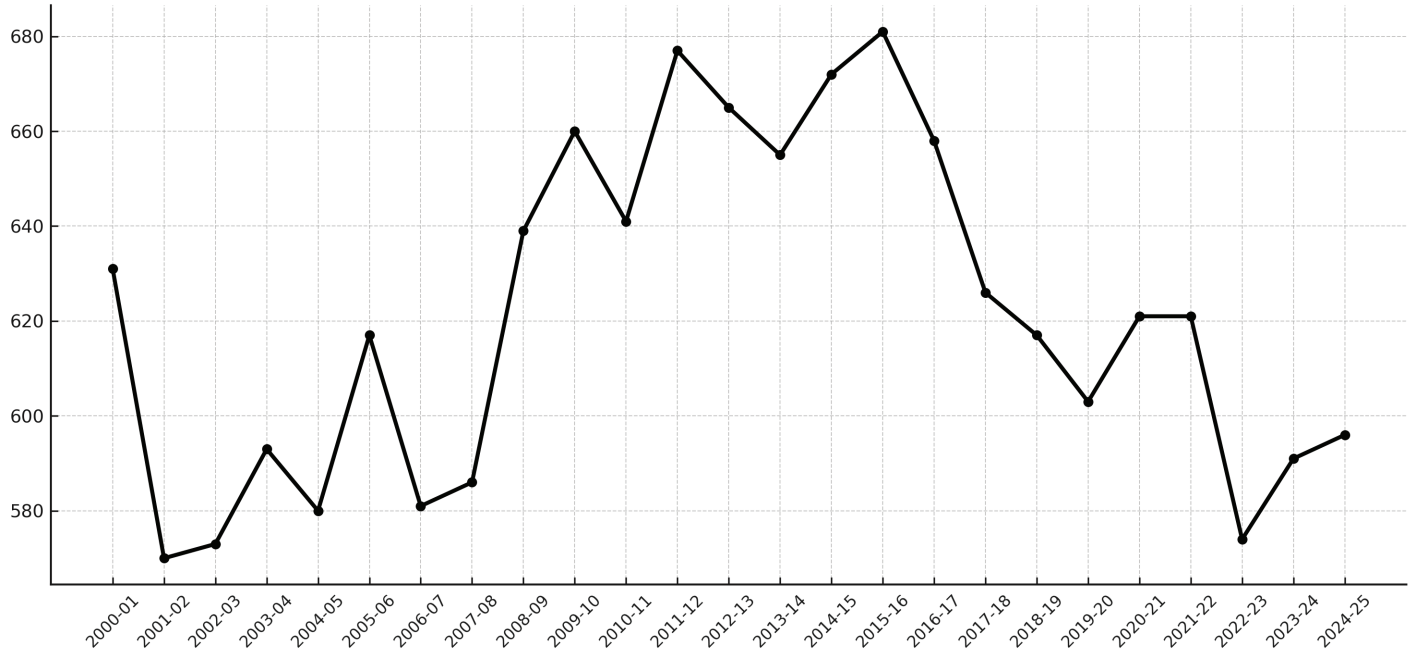| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	246	2012-13	223
2023-24	224	2011-12	217
2022-23	228	2010-11	216
2021-22	227	2009-10	196
2020-21	212	2008-09	199
2019-20	213	2007-08	217
2018-19	211	2006-07	191
2017-18	203	2005-06	226
2016-17	218	2004-05	251
2015-16	218	2003-04	242
2014-15	202	2002-03	242
2013-14	215	2001-02	261
		2000-01	245

Milbank School District Enrollment

Milbank's enrollment peaked at 1,056 in 2000–01 and has trended downward since, though the past decade has been more stable. The 2024–25 figure of 971 is slightly below last year's total but well within the district's typical range for the past ten years. The district has maintained a relatively consistent base enrollment despite earlier declines. Future stability may depend on continued local economic support.

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	971	2012-13	907
2023-24	1012	2011-12	890
2022-23	1016	2010-11	866
2021-22	981	2009-10	874
2020-21	987	2008-09	913
2019-20	997	2007-08	916
2018-19	996	2006-07	903
2017-18	957	2005-06	955
2016-17	931	2004-05	972
2015-16	910	2003-04	992
2014-15	913	2002-03	990
2013-14	893	2001-02	1014
		2000-01	1056

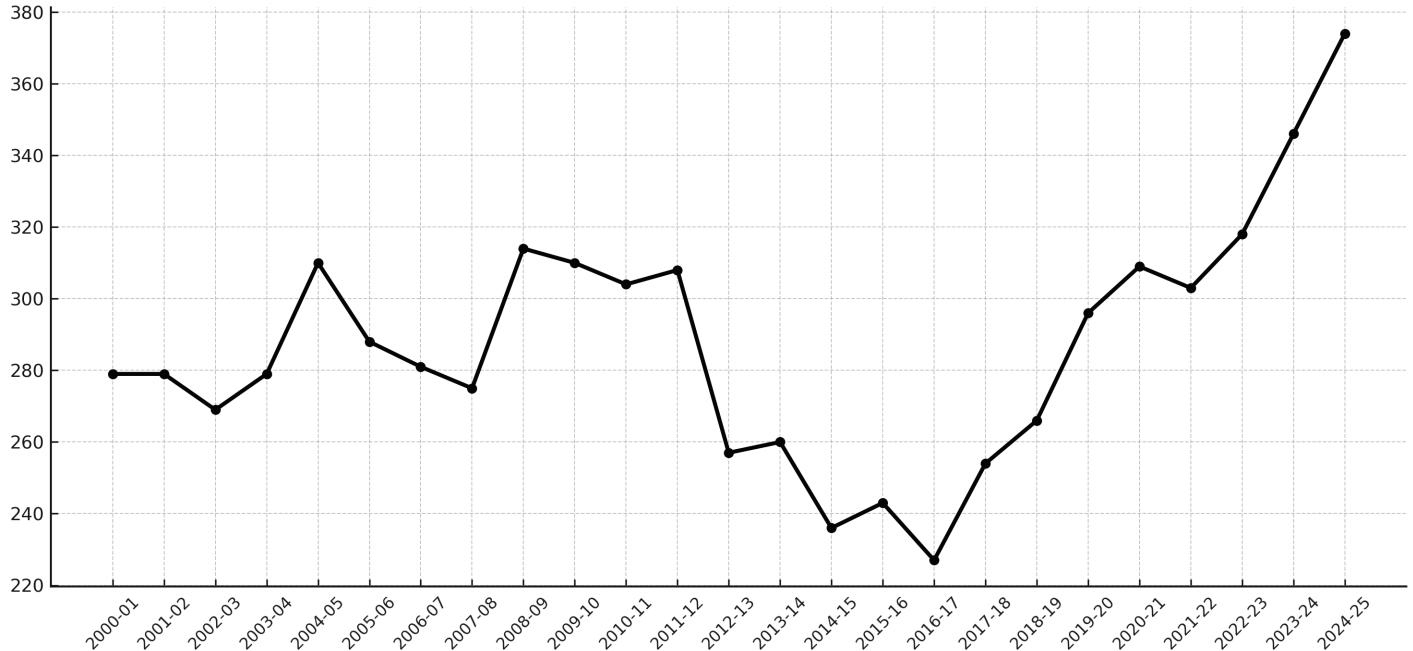### Mobridge-Pollock School District Enrollment

   Mobridge-Pollock's enrollment has varied over time, peaking at 681 in 2015–16. The 2024–25 count of 596 is slightly higher than the early 2000s but lower than the mid-2010s peak. The past five years have shown general stability. Maintaining this level may depend on both economic conditions and student retention.

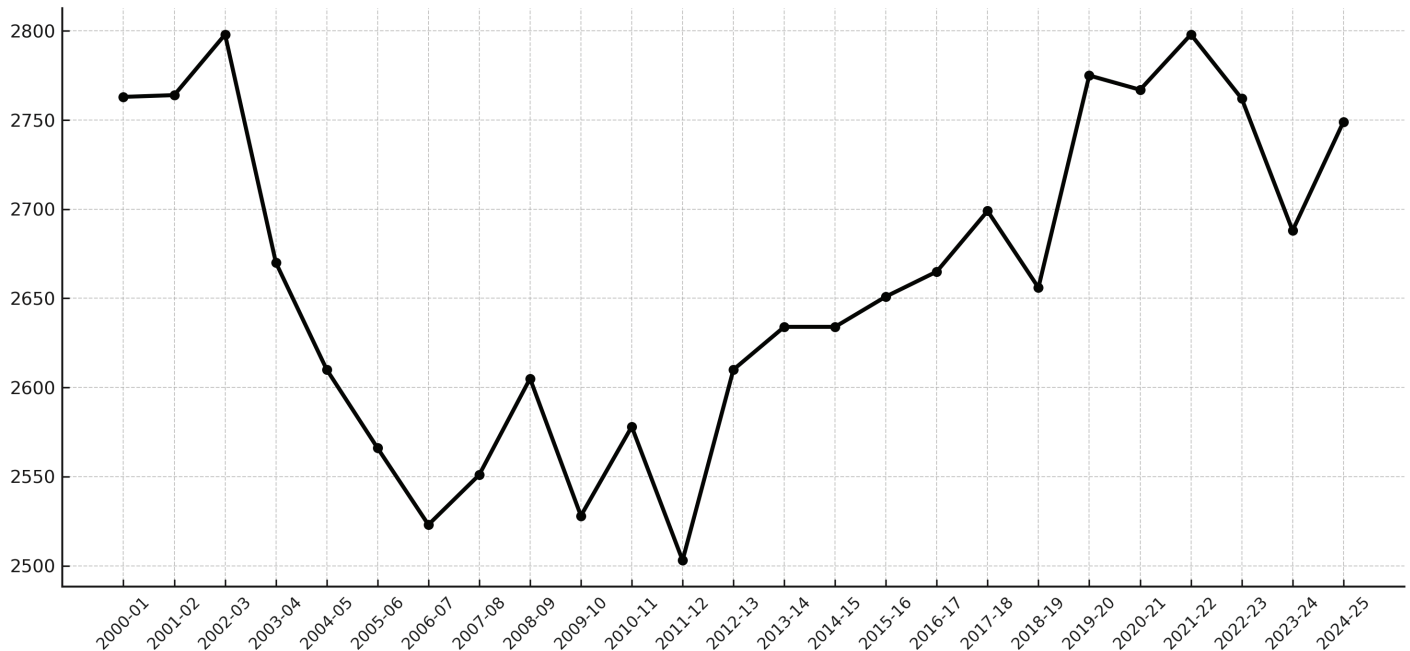| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	596	2012-13	665
2023-24	591	2011-12	677
2022-23	574	2010-11	641
2021-22	621	2009-10	660
2020-21	621	2008-09	639
2019-20	603	2007-08	586
2018-19	617	2006-07	581
2017-18	626	2005-06	617
2016-17	658	2004-05	580
2015-16	681	2003-04	593
2014-15	672	2002-03	573
2013-14	655	2001-02	570
		2000-01	631

Northwestern School District Enrollment

Northwestern's enrollment has grown significantly in the past decade, rising from 227 in 2016—17 to 374 in 2024—25. This marks a major turnaround from the declines of the 2000s and early 2010s. The recent trend is sharply upward. Such growth in a rural district is notable and may serve as a model for other small schools.

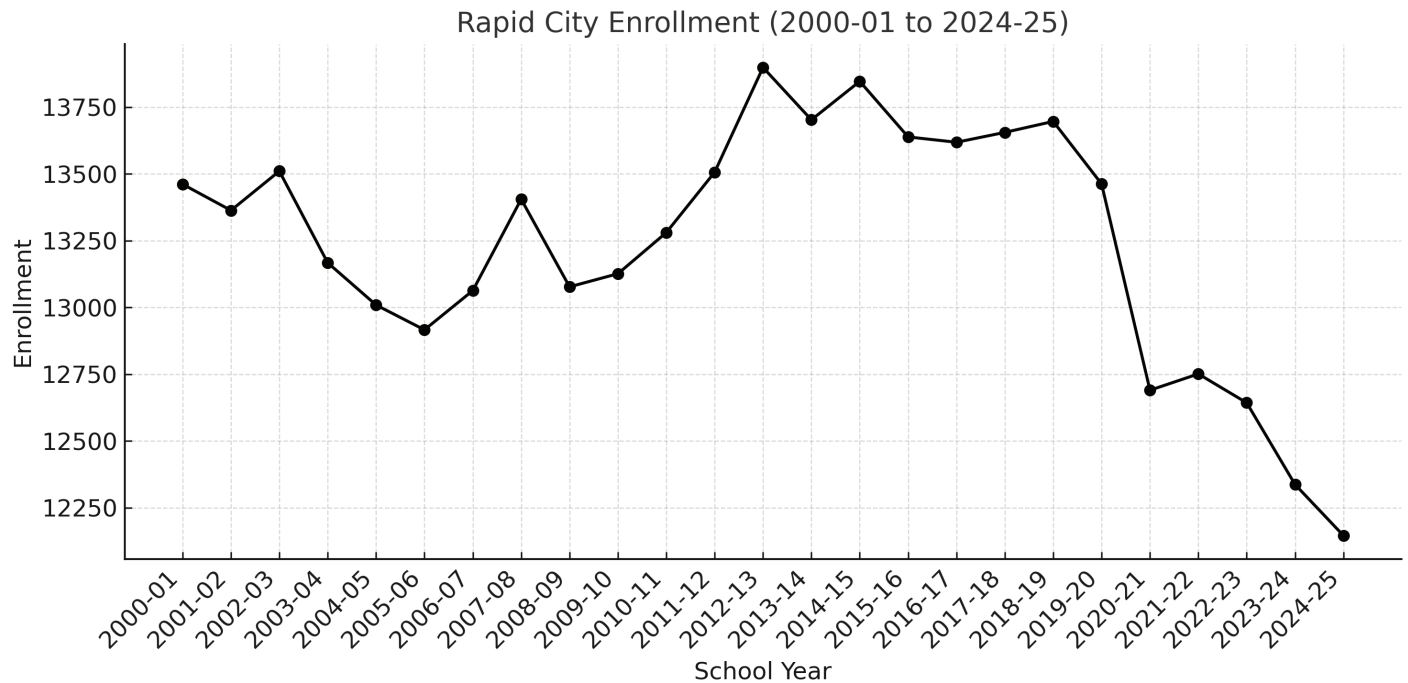| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	374	2012-13	257
2023-24	346	2011-12	308
2022-23	318	2010-11	304
2021-22	303	2009-10	310
2020-21	309	2008-09	314
2019-20	296	2007-08	275
2018-19	266	2006-07	281
2017-18	254	2005-06	288
2016-17	227	2004-05	310
2015-16	243	2003-04	279
2014-15	236	2002-03	269
2013-14	260	2001-02	279
		2000-01	279

Pierre School District Enrollment

Pierre's enrollment has stayed fairly stable over the past 25 years, ranging between 2,500 and 2,800 students. The 2024–25 total of 2,749 is consistent with the district's long-term average. Small fluctuations have occurred, but no sustained growth or decline is evident. This stability provides a predictable planning environment for district operations.

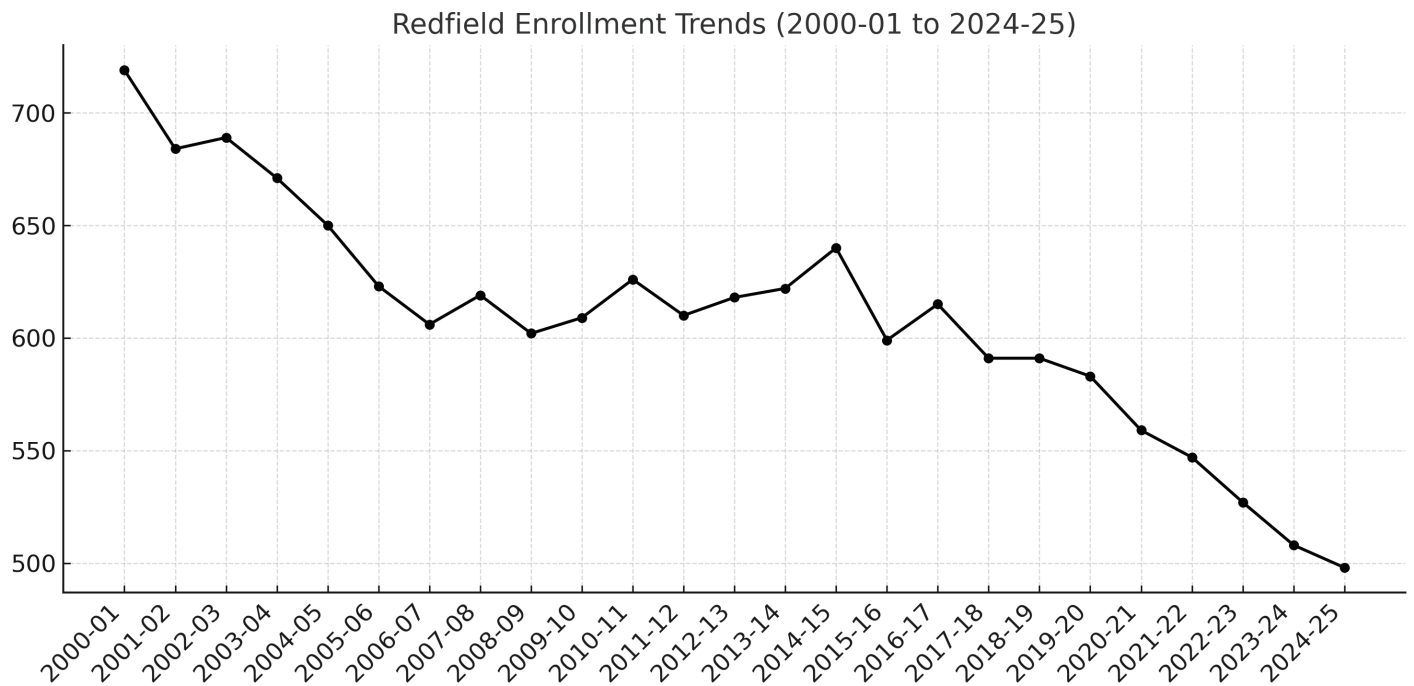| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	2749	2012-13	2610
2023-24	2688	2011-12	2503
2022-23	2762	2010-11	2578
2021-22	2798	2009-10	2528
2020-21	2767	2008-09	2605
2019-20	2775	2007-08	2551
2018-19	2656	2006-07	2523
2017-18	2699	2005-06	2566
2016-17	2665	2004-05	2610
2015-16	2651	2003-04	2670
2014-15	2634	2002-03	2798
2013-14	2634	2001-02	2764
		2000-01	2763

Rapid City Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Rapid City enrollment in 2000-01 was 13,461 and is now 12,146 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 13,898 and the lowest was 12,146. Overall, the trend shows declining enrollment since the early 2010s. This decline is sharper than the overall population change, suggesting fewer families with school-aged children.

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	12146	2012-13	13898
2023-24	12337	2011-12	13506
2022-23	12643	2010-11	13280
2021-22	12751	2009-10	13126
2020-21	12690	2008-09	13077
2019-20	13462	2007-08	13405
2018-19	13696	2006-07	13063
2017-18	13655	2005-06	12916
2016-17	13618	2004-05	13009
2015-16	13638	2003-04	13167
2014-15	13846	2002-03	13510
2013-14	13702	2001-02	13363
		2000-01	13461

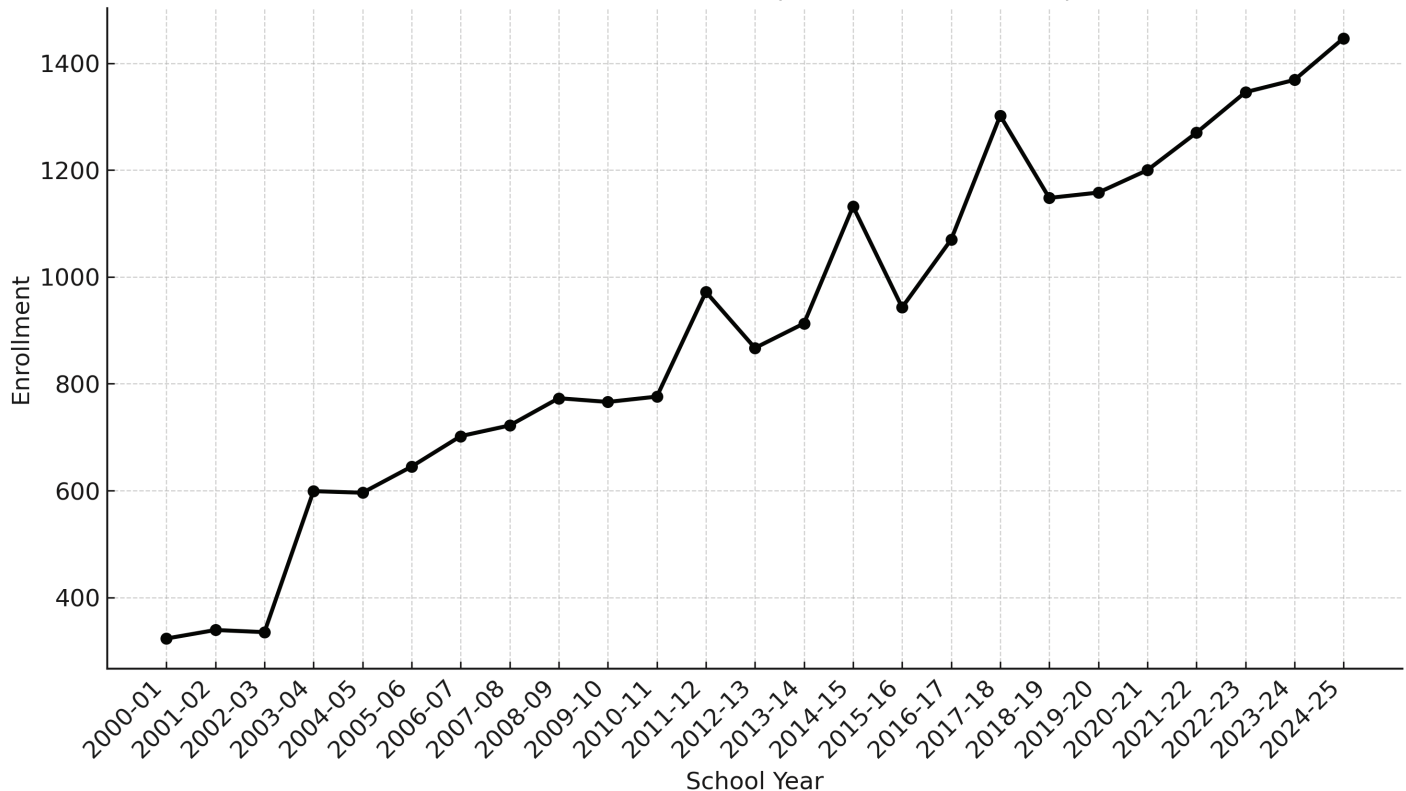### Redfield Enrollment Trends (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Redfield enrollment in 2000-01 was 719 and is now 498 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 719 and the lowest was 498. Overall, the trend shows a consistent decline over the years. Enrollment has dropped faster than the surrounding population, indicating a possible shift toward other districts or private schooling.

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	498	2012-13	618
2023-24	508	2011-12	610
2022-23	527	2010-11	626
2021-22	547	2009-10	609
2020-21	559	2008-09	602
2019-20	583	2007-08	619
2018-19	591	2006-07	606
2017-18	591	2005-06	623
2016-17	615	2004-05	650
2015-16	599	2003-04	671
2014-15	640	2002-03	689
2013-14	622	2001-02	684
		2000-01	719

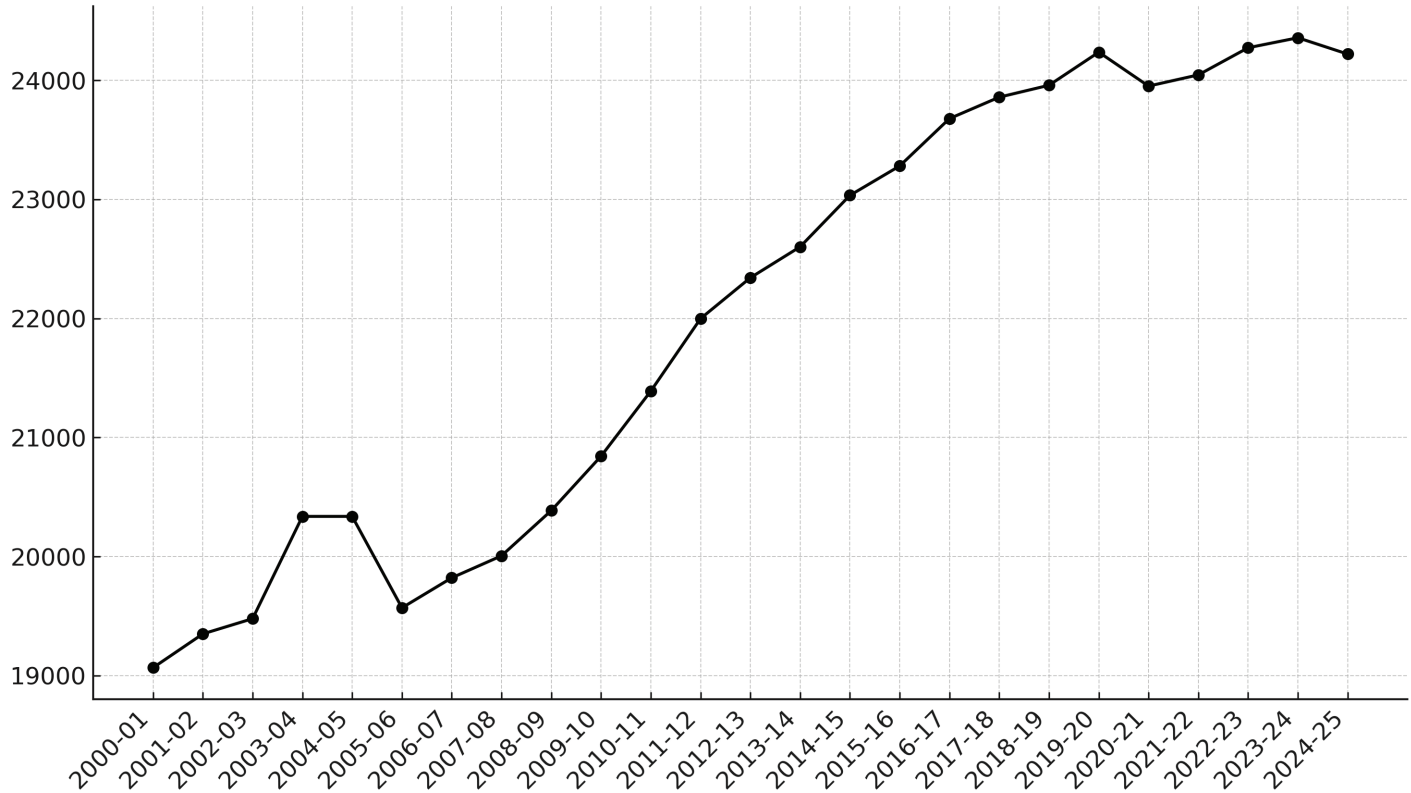### SF Christian Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

SF Christian – SF Christian enrollment in 2000-01 was 323 and is now 1,447 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 1,447 and the lowest was 323. Overall, the trend shows steady and strong growth. This increase has outpaced Sioux Falls' population growth, suggesting increasing preference for private Christian education.

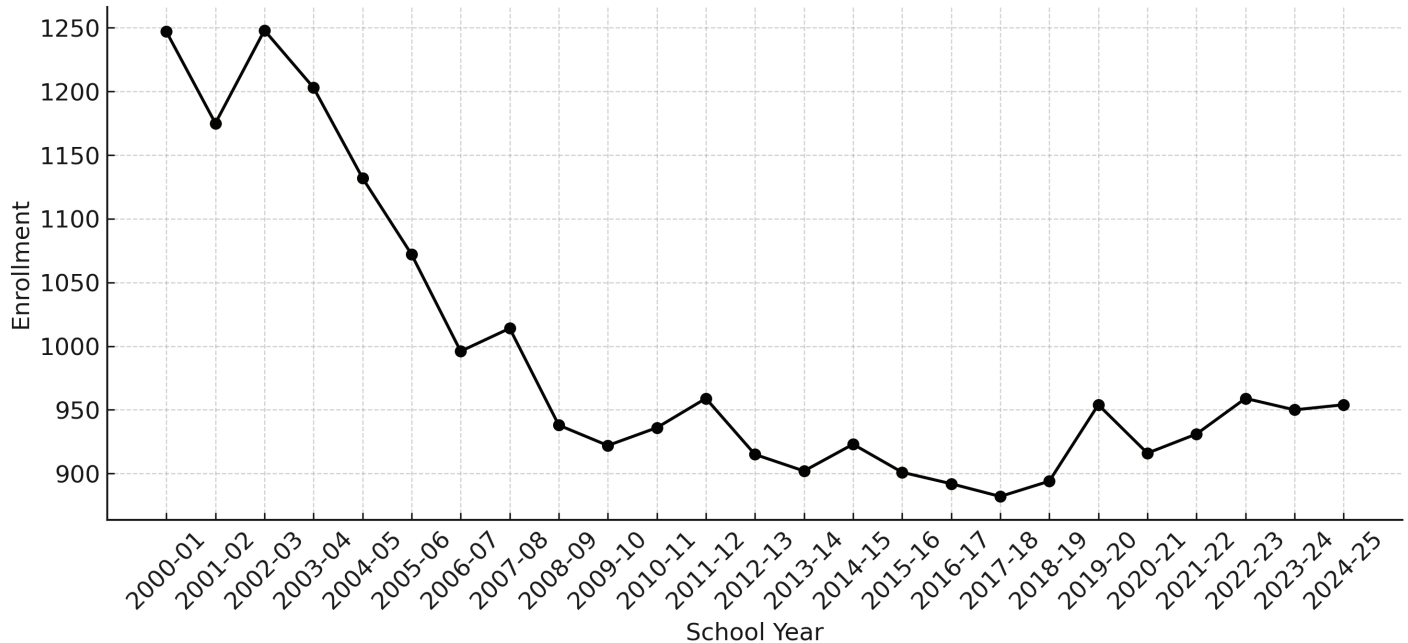| School Year	Enrollment	School Year	Enrollment
2024-25	1447	2012-13	867
2023-24	1369	2011-12	972
2022-23	1346	2010-11	776
2021-22	1270	2009-10	766
2020-21	1200	2008-09	773
2019-20	1158	2007-08	722
2018-19	1148	2006-07	702
2017-18	1302	2005-06	645
2016-17	1070	2004-05	596
2015-16	943	2003-04	599
2014-15	1132	2002-03	335
2013-14	913	2001-02	339
		2000-01	323

Sioux Falls Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Sioux Falls Public Schools enrollment in 2000-01 was 19,066 and is now 24,221 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 24,358 and the lowest was 19,066. Overall, the trend shows a steady increase in enrollment. Growth in school numbers closely mirrors the city's rapid population growth, with both showing strong upward momentum.

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	24221	2012-13	22342
2023-24	24358	2011-12	21999
2022-23	24274	2010-11	21390
2021-22	24046	2009-10	20843
2020-21	23952	2008-09	20386
2019-20	24237	2007-08	20006
2018-19	23959	2006-07	19821
2017-18	23859	2005-06	19569
2016-17	23679	2004-05	20337
2015-16	23281	2003-04	20337
2014-15	23034	2002-03	19478
2013-14	22602	2001-02	19350
		2000-01	19066

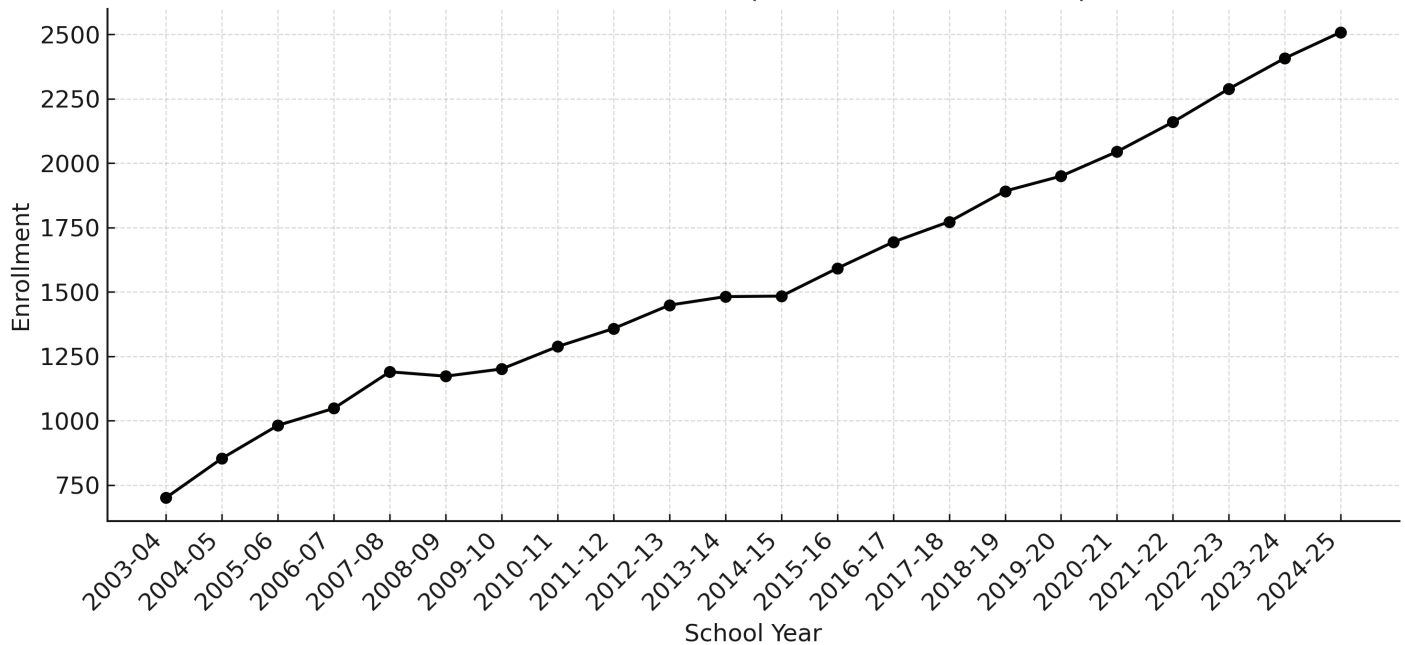### Sisseton Enrollment Trends (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Sisseton enrollment in 2000-01 was 1,247 and is now 954 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 1,248 and the lowest was 882. Overall, the trend shows a long-term decline with minor fluctuations. Enrollment decline has outpaced the general population decline, suggesting other contributing factors.

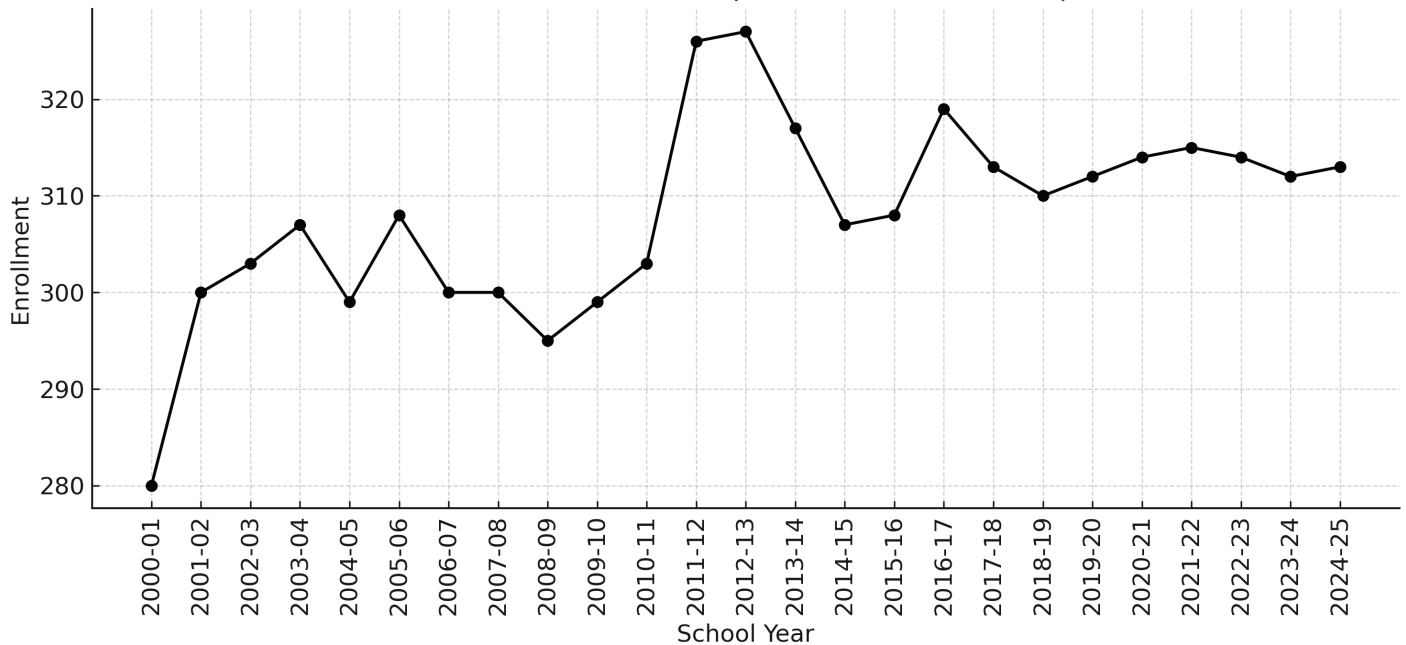| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	954	2012-13	915
2023-24	950	2011-12	959
2022-23	959	2010-11	936
2021-22	931	2009-10	922
2020-21	916	2008-09	938
2019-20	954	2007-08	1014
2018-19	894	2006-07	996
2017-18	882	2005-06	1072
2016-17	892	2004-05	1132
2015-16	901	2003-04	1203
2014-15	923	2002-03	1248
2013-14	902	2001-02	1175
		2000-01	1247

Tea Area Enrollment (2003-04 to 2024-25)

Tea Area enrollment in 2003-04 when the school was opened was 701 and is now 2,509 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 2,509 and the lowest was 701. Overall, the trend shows rapid and consistent growth. School growth has been even faster than the community's population boom, reflecting its appeal to young families.

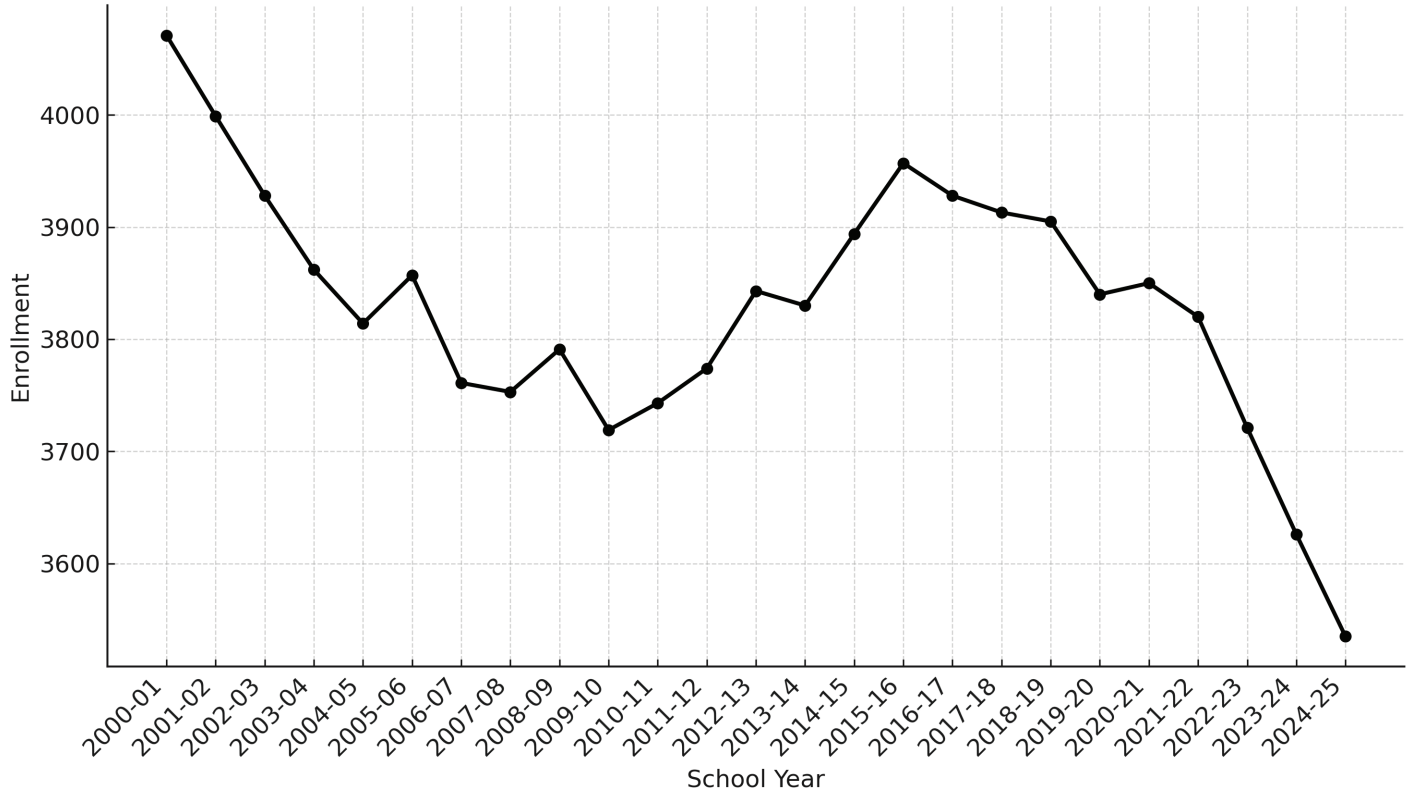| School Year	Enrollment	School Year	Enrollment
2024-25	2509	2012-13	1449
2023-24	2408	2011-12	1358
2022-23	2289	2010-11	1288
2021-22	2160	2009-10	1201
2020-21	2045	2008-09	1173
2019-20	1950	2007-08	1190
2018-19	1892	2006-07	1048
2017-18	1773	2005-06	982
2016-17	1694	2004-05	854
2015-16	1592	2003-04	701
2014-15	1484		
2013-14	1482		

Warner Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Warner enrollment in 2000-01 was 280 and is now 313 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 327 and the lowest was 280. Overall, the trend shows mostly stability with slight growth. This is roughly in line with the community's slow population changes.

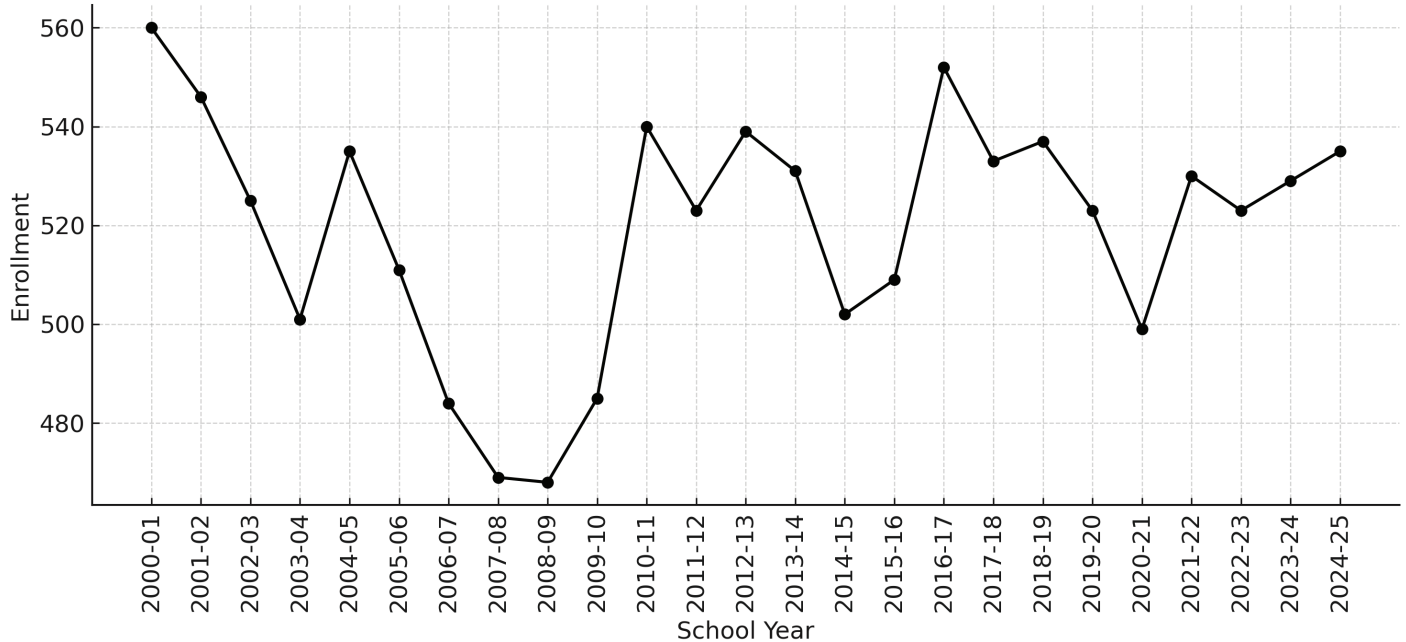| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	313	2012-13	327
2023-24	312	2011-12	326
2022-23	314	2010-11	303
2021-22	315	2009-10	299
2020-21	314	2008-09	295
2019-20	312	2007-08	300
2018-19	310	2006-07	300
2017-18	313	2005-06	308
2016-17	319	2004-05	299
2015-16	308	2003-04	307
2014-15	307	2002-03	303
2013-14	317	2001-02	300
		2000-01	280

Watertown Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Watertown enrollment in 2000-01 was 4,071 and is now 3,535 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 4,071 and the lowest was 3,535. Overall, the trend shows a gradual long-term decline. This decrease has been sharper than the city's modest population changes, suggesting demographic shifts within the community.

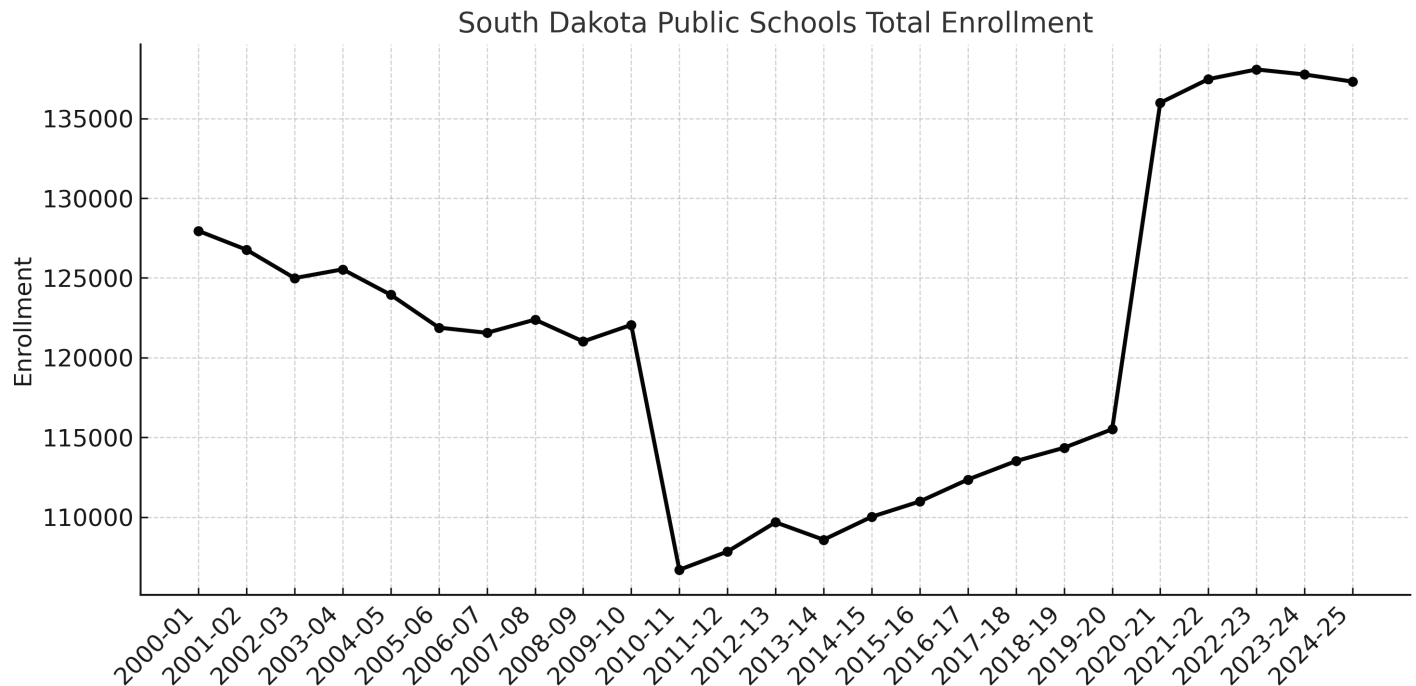| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	3535	2012-13	3843
2023-24	3626	2011-12	3774
2022-23	3721	2010-11	3743
2021-22	3820	2009-10	3719
2020-21	3850	2008-09	3791
2019-20	3840	2007-08	3753
2018-19	3905	2006-07	3761
2017-18	3913	2005-06	3857
2016-17	3928	2004-05	3814
2015-16	3957	2003-04	3862
2014-15	3894	2002-03	3928
2013-14	3830	2001-02	3999
		2000-01	4071

Webster Enrollment (2000-01 to 2024-25)

Webster enrollment in 2000-01 was 560 and is now 535 in 2024-25. The highest enrollment was 560 and the lowest was 468. Overall, the trend shows relative stability with slight decreases. Enrollment trends appear consistent with the town's modest population decline.

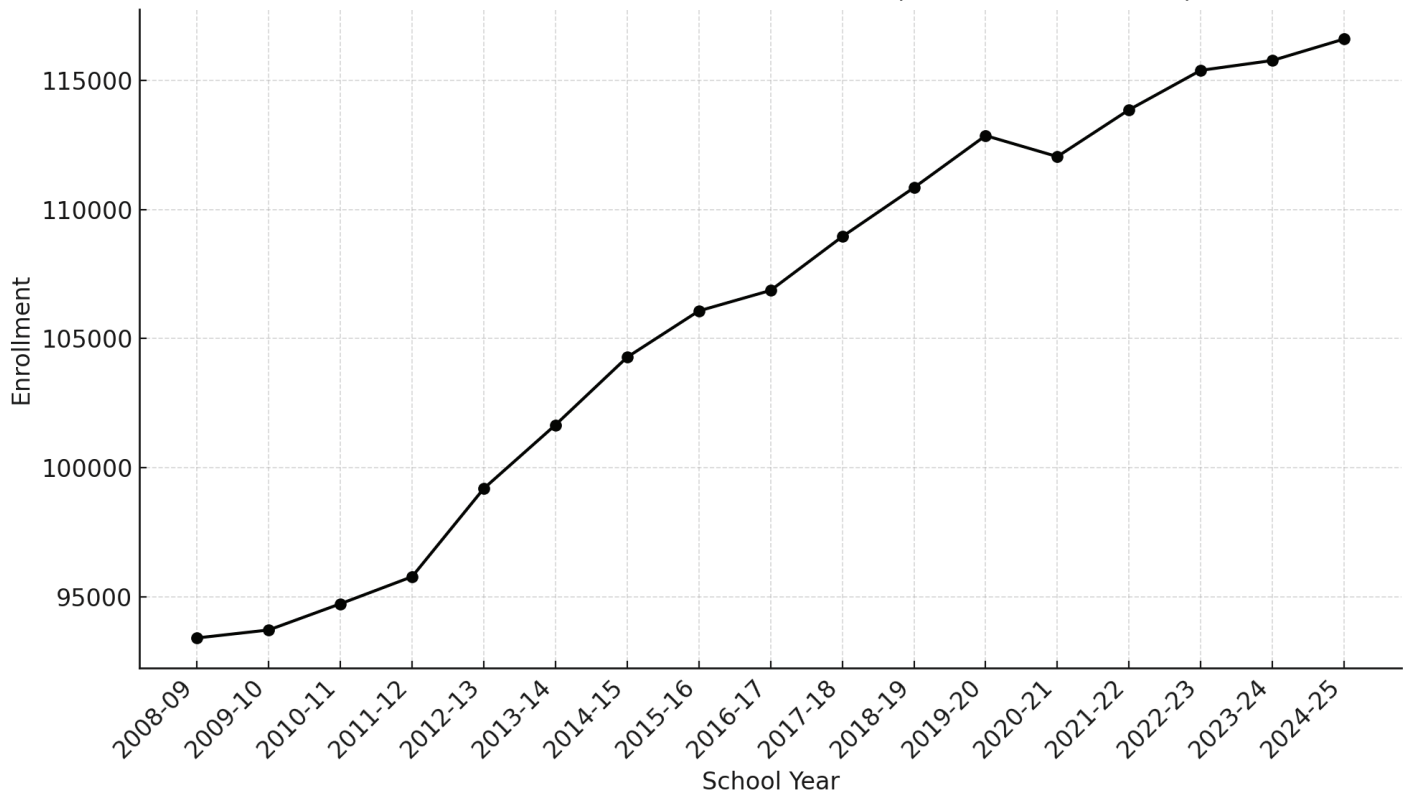| Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	535	2012-13	539
2023-24	529	2011-12	523
2022-23	523	2010-11	540
2021-22	530	2009-10	485
2020-21	499	2008-09	468
2019-20	523	2007-08	469
2018-19	537	2006-07	484
2017-18	533	2005-06	511
2016-17	552	2004-05	535
2015-16	509	2003-04	501
2014-15	502	2002-03	525
2013-14	531	2001-02	546
		2000-01	560

South Dakota Public Schools Total Enrollment

   South Dakota's public school enrollment has shown steady long-term growth since 2000–01, when it stood at 127,950 students. Enrollment dipped slightly in the early 2010s, reaching a low of around 106,693 in 2010–11, but began a sustained rebound afterward. By 2024–25, the total reached 137,313, marking a net gain of more than 9,000 students over 25 years. Compared to the state's overall population growth, school enrollment has grown at a slower pace, suggesting that while the state is adding residents, the proportion of school-aged children has remained relatively stable.

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
2024-25	137313	2012-13	109674
2023-24	137759	2011-12	107837
2022-23	138075	2010-11	106693
2021-22	137468	2009-10	122055
2020-21	135984	2008-09	121015
2019-20	115510	2007-08	122384
2018-19	114348	2006-07	121558
2017-18	113512	2005-06	121883
2016-17	112354	2004-05	123940
2015-16	110980	2003-04	125539
2014-15	110020	2002-03	124988
2013-14	108580	2001-02	126769
		2000-01	127950

North Dakota Public School Enrollment (2008-09 to 2024-25)

North Dakota's public school enrollment has grown steadily since 2008–09, when numbers were at 93,406. The state saw consistent year-over-year increases, surpassing 100,000 students in 2013–14 and reaching 110,000 by 2018–19. Even during the 2020–21 school year, when many states experienced significant drops due to the pandemic, North Dakota maintained strong numbers and quickly returned to growth. By 2024–25, enrollment hit 116,598 — an increase of over 23,000 students in 17 years, reflecting a 25% rise. This growth rate outpaces North Dakota's overall population growth, indicating strong retention of families and possibly an influx of younger households into the state.

School Year	Enrollment	School Year	Enrollment
2024-25	116598	2012-13	99192
2023-24	115767	2011-12	95778
2022-23	115385	2010-11	94729
2021-22	113858	2009-10	93715
2020-21	112045	2008-09	93406
2019-20	112858		
2018-19	110842		
2017-18	108945		
2016-17	106863		
2015-16	106070		
2014-15	104278		
2013-14	101656		

WORLD OF EXPERIENCE

By Paul Irvin Kosel

What did it take to produce the graphs and information for last weeks population edition and today's enrollment edition? Working with ChatGPT has been a challenge, to say the least.

The population ones were not bad as AI (Artificial Intelligence) was able to pull the data from the US Census Bureau. The enrollment figures - well - that was a different story. AI told me I had to pull the data and create a spread sheet and then feed the data, school by school, into AI where it would create the graph and commentary.

So for hours on end, I ended up pulling up 25 years worth of spreadsheets for 28 schools and the state totals. Oh, make that 50 spread sheets as there were separate files for the public schools and the private schools like Roncalli, Aberdeen Christian and Sioux Falls Christian.

The population ones were nicely done through AI with a table on top, a graph under it and commentary at the bottom. Trying to do that with enrollment through AI - not so much. It would maintain no consistency in design. It would be good for a bit, then it would wander off in another direction. I finally gave up on the one sheet design and told it just to generate the graph. And even that proved to be a challenge. It would be good for a while. Then all of a sudden it created a blue lined graph and I wanted black line. One graph had just the dots and no line intersecting them. Then it would have the dates vertical instead of at an angle like the others were.   A few times it would list every five years on the date part instead of every year. It seemed like there was always something I was tweaking.

At one point it said we had been chatting for a while and should we take a break. I was trying to figure out who needed the break - me or AI?

I hope you have enjoyed these special editions. It's been fun and challenging doing them.

GDILIVE interview into a story via AI

I did an interview with Coach Waner Saturday morning and posted it online through GDIlive.com. Then I came up with the idea of, "I wonder if I could take that interview and have a story for the paper. So I asked ChatGPT if that would be possible, and of course, it said yes. Then it proceeded to tell me the step-by-step process.

So basically I took my video, loaded into my program, stripped the audio out of it, took that audio and uploaded it to a program that would make a transcript out of it. I copied the transcript, plopped it into ChatGPT and it made the newspaper story for me. All of that done in about half an hour, which wasn't bad as it was my first time doing this. Future interviews could be done in as little as 10-15 minutes.

I hate to say it, but it came out, I thought, absolutely great. It's fascinating what you can do with AI technology today.