

Demographic Context & Making Decisions about Schools

To inform decisions about existing and future schools, the North Vancouver School District (NVSD) undertakes extensive demographic research to determine annual enrollment projections. Comprehensive reviews are conducted every five to six years to evaluate prior projections and to revise long-term forecasts.

Using Information from Local Governments and the Ministry of Education

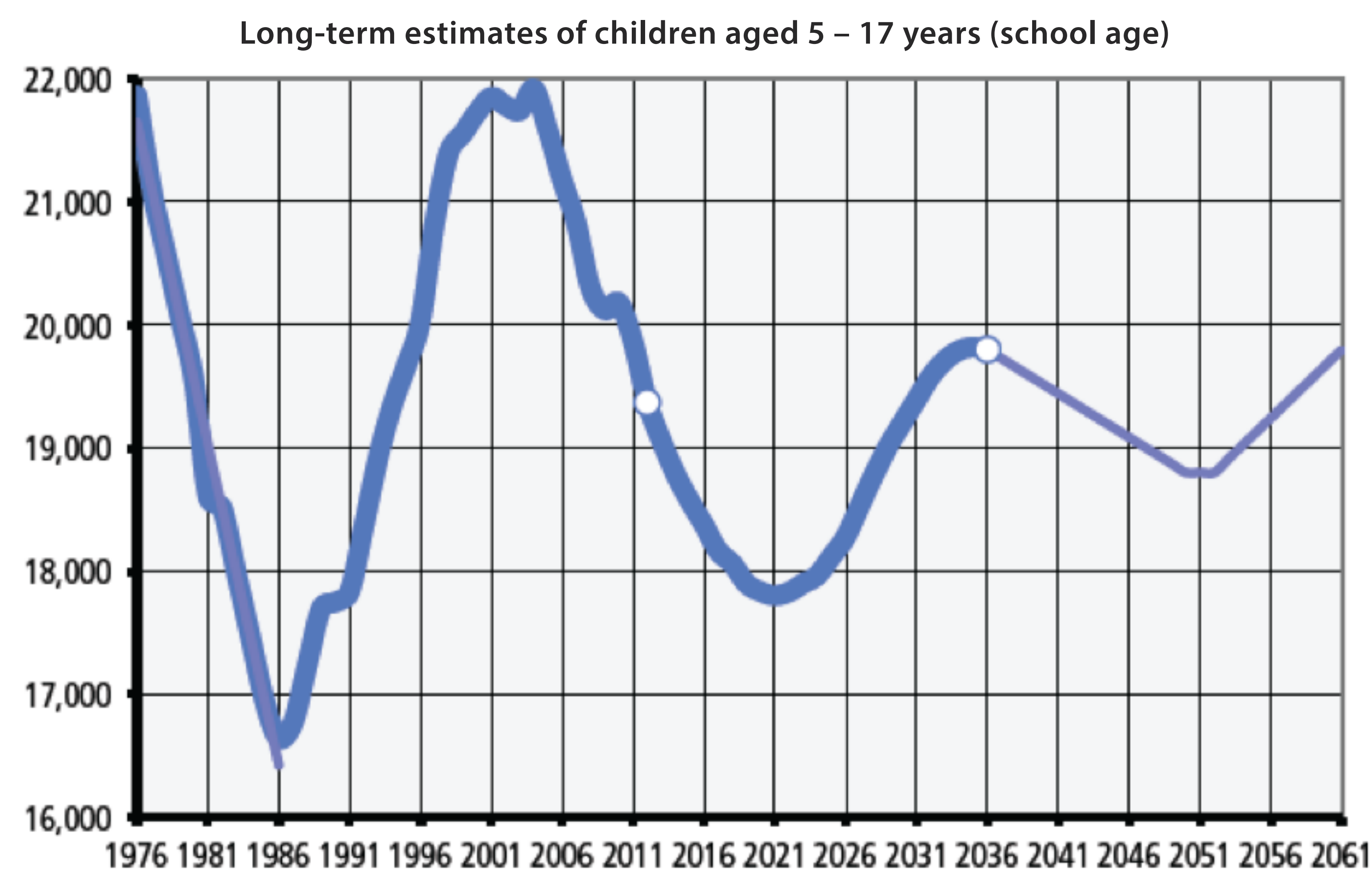
The comprehensive reviews are conducted in consultation with the local municipalities to identify housing projects that are planned or contemplated within their Official Community Plans. This allows the NVSD to determine how demographic changes may impact the accommodation of students and the need for school facilities on the North Shore.

Student demographic data at the local level is collected by the Ministry of Education every September, February, and May. This data is then used by the Ministry to determine the operating grants provided to School Districts each year. The Ministry of Education enrollment projections are updated yearly with short-term three-year projections for budget planning purposes.

Developing Projections

The North Vancouver School District, as well as many other school districts in the province, work with demographic experts to develop projections. All data are calculated as of September 30 of each year, and the projections are calculated effective September 30 of each future year. The following data are collected and analyzed by Baragar Systems, a firm specializing in demographic analysis, projections and reporting:

- **Birth data:** Vital Statistics (birth registry) of the Province is the data source. The School District has recorded the annual number of births since 1990 to the present.
- **Population of Children by single year of age (ages 1 to 17):** Human Resources Canada (Family Allowance database - 1990 to 1992) and Canada Revenue Agency (Child Tax Benefit and Universal Child Care Credit databases - 1993 to 2010) are the data sources.



- **The annual number of children aged 1 to 17 by single year of age (1,2,3,4, etc):** Though Statistics Canada is not the source for these databases, Baragar has performed studies to confirm the database is over 98% accurate in terms of population coverage.
- **Impact of Migration:** Not only is the number of children aged within each age category provided, but from this data, the net impact of migration is measured annually by age group. For example, for the preschool age group, the number of children aged 2 to 5 each year is divided by the number of children aged 1 to 4 the previous year. This quantifies the net impact of migration resulting from new families moving into the area and into new housing as well as used housing, compared with those moving out.
- **Assumptions about future migration by age group form the second part of the projection methodology:** The current population from age 0 to age 17 is "aged" by applying "age group specific" migration rates to the current population. This results in a projection of the number of children for each year of age for each of the next 15 years. Enrollment projections are prepared each year, providing a fifteen year horizon.

Planning and Management of Facilities

Building on the analysis of demographic data and development of projections in consultation with local municipalities, the NVSD works with Matrix - a firm specializing in facilities planning - to plan and manage NVSD facilities. This includes quality assessment and cost-effectiveness of facilities including requirements for upgrades and replacement, within the context of long-term capital plans.

