

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460

AREA CODE (617) 559-9025

Memorandum

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent

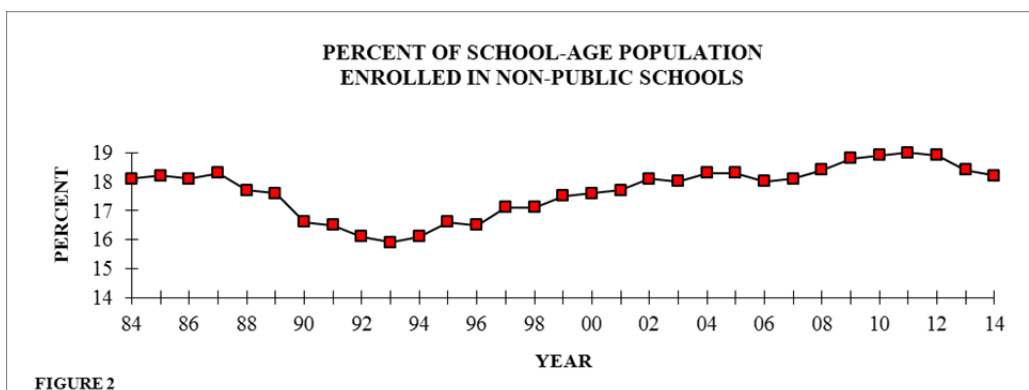
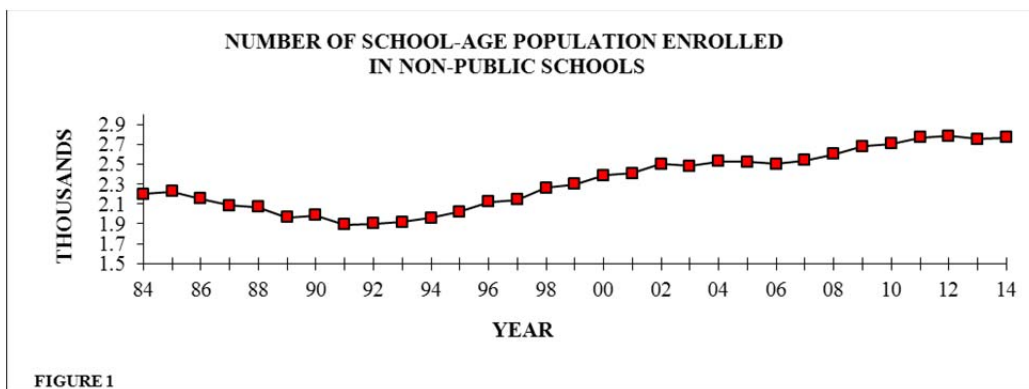
FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 12, 2014

RE: 2013-14 Non-Public School Enrollments

School age children residing in Newton are attending non-public schools at a rate of 18.2% in 2013-14, a decline from last year when 18.4% of school age children attended non-public schools. This percentage decline in enrollment by students in non-public schools has occurred concurrently with a 271 student increase in Newton Public Schools enrollment, the second year of record high enrollment and over 2% growth. There is a small numerical increase of 14 students and a total of 2,766 students enrolled in non-public schools in 2013-14.

A history is presented below of the number and percentage of students enrolled in non-public schools, shown in Figures 1 and 2. The two graphs show similar increases in both the percentage and number of students for most of the past decade that was characterized by growth in both the non-public and public school enrollments. For the past three years, the growth of non-pubic school enrollment has not kept pace with the enrollment growth in Newton Public Schools.



A census of non-public school students is conducted each year, as required by Massachusetts law, and is useful in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the school attendance of Newton’s school-age population who, in addition to attending Newton’s elementary, middle and high schools, are attending private independent schools, private special education schools, other public schools, charter schools or are home schooled. *Special education students placed out by Newton Public Schools are included in the census.* The following chart shows the breakdown of non-public school attendance by type of school in 2013-14.

PERCENT OF NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF SCHOOL

Special Education Collaborative	Charter School	Other Public School	Home Schooled	In-State Private School	Out-of-State Private School
<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	97%	1%

The remainder of the report examines non-public school enrollment at the three grade levels and by school district.

The percentage of the school-age population attending non-public schools at the elementary, middle and high school grade levels is illustrated in Figure 3 below. There is a consistent history of higher rates of enrollment in non-public schools at the secondary grade levels (6-12) where 20% of the school age population is enrolled in non-public schools this year. At the high school level, the percentage of students enrolled in non-public schools at 20% stayed roughly the same as last year. This year, middle school students are enrolled at a rate of 21%. Note that the percentage of enrollment by middle school students in non-public school has been declining since 2011 when the rate of enrollment was 1.6% higher than it is currently. Elementary school students are enrolled in non-public schools at a rate between 15% and 16% as they have been since 2006.

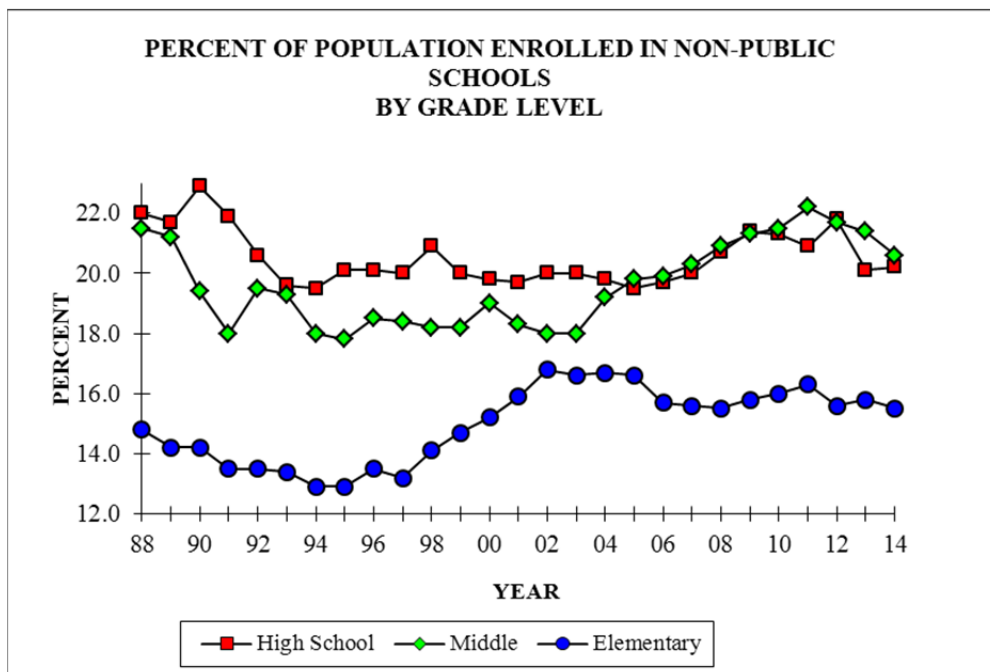


FIGURE 3

The following chart shows the non-public school enrollment rates of students in the Newton North and Newton South districts since 2005-06. The Newton North district has consistently lower non-public school attendance rates than Newton South, typically two or three percentage points lower. Both high school districts are experiencing stable enrollment rates in the non-public schools this year.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
North High	17.8%	18.4%	19.4%	20.1%	19.4%	18.7%	20.3%	18.9%	18.8%
South High	21.8%	21.9%	22.0%	22.7%	23.3%	23.2%	23.4%	21.5%	21.8%

There are several tables that follow at the end of this document. Table 1 shows non-public school enrollment by grade and Table 2 presents the information further delineated by districted school. Table 3 shows Newton Public School students who are placed out-of-district due to the special education needs of the students. Highlights are as follows:

- There is an increase in the number of grade 1 and grade 5 students enrolled in non-public schools, but all other elementary grades have decreased enrollment, with a net decrease of 22 students (-2%).
- Last year, the increase in the non-public school kindergarten enrollment paralleled the growth in the public school kindergarten, which reached a thirty year high of 934 students in 2012-13. This year, the kindergarten enrollment rose again to another record high of 958 students but the non-public school kindergarten enrollment dropped by 28 students and 15%.
- Nine elementary school districts have non-public school enrollments of greater than 15% of the school age children residing in the district, with four school districts enrolling more than 20% of children. The remaining six elementary school districts have average rates of enrollment below 15%.
- There is a net increase of 36 non-public school students (2%) at the secondary school level, concentrated mostly at the high school level (+39 students), offset by middle school enrollment (-3 students).
- Grade 6 and Grade 9, both transition years in Newton, show increases in the number of students enrolled at non-public schools, +27 students and +33 students respectively. Last year, these grades showed enrollment decreases of -32 and -56 students respectively.
- Bigelow and Day Middle School districts have the greatest shifts this year in enrollment of non-public school students. Enrollment from the Bigelow district has decreased by 28 students and the Day district has increased by 28 students. Note that this change aligns with the middle school boundary adjustment, approved by School Committee for 2013-14, to district all of Cabot Elementary School students to Day Middle School when previously the Cabot district was split between Day and Bigelow.
- The largest change in enrollment is seen at the high school level with an increase of 39 non-public school students, a 4% increase in the population over last year. The Newton North district has 15 additional students and the Newton South district has 24 additional non-public students.
- Enrollment of students with special education placements attending private schools, special education collaborative programs or other public schools has decreased from 155 to 141 students, a 9% decline in one year.

TABLE 1
NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AS PERCENT OF
TOTAL SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION
BY GRADE

Grade	N 2012-13	% of School-Age Population	N 2013-14	% of School-Age Population	Change from Prior Year (N, %)	
K	186	16.6%	158	14.2%	-28	-15.1%
1	160	14.6%	179	15.5%	19	11.9%
2	154	13.8%	152	13.9%	-2	-1.3%
3	184	15.7%	169	14.7%	-15	-8.2%
4	203	17.7%	201	16.8%	-2	-1.0%
5	202	16.5%	208	18.1%	6	3.0%
Total	1,089	15.8%	1,067	15.5%	-22	-2.0%
6	219	19.5%	246	20.1%	27	12.3%
7	259	21.9%	233	20.0%	-26	-10.0%
8	263	22.8%	259	21.6%	-4	-1.5%
Total	741	20.7%	738	20.6%	-3	-0.4%
9	202	17.7%	235	19.5%	33	16.3%
10	246	21.4%	205	17.7%	-41	-16.7%
11	230	20.0%	267	22.6%	37	16.1%
12	244	21.3%	254	21.0%	10	4.1%
Total	922	19.4%	961	20.2%	39	4.2%
Grand Total	2,752	18.4%	2,766	18.2%	14	0.5%

Note: Students that are special education and beyond grade 12 are reported as grade 12.

TABLE 2

**NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
AS PERCENT OF TOTAL SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION
BY DISTRICTED SCHOOL AND GRADE LEVEL**

Elementary District	2012-13		Grade						2013-14	
	N	% of School Age Population	K	1	2	3	4	5	N	% of School Age Population
Angier	73	15.2%	14	8	10	15	14	13	74	15.1%
Bowen	94	16.5%	9	10	14	7	20	14	74	12.8%
Burr	17	3.9%	11	2	1	2	3	3	22	4.9%
Cabot	96	18.6%	10	14	12	11	20	16	83	16.5%
Countryside	87	15.4%	15	13	9	12	19	20	88	16.1%
Franklin	34	7.9%	5	7	5	6	6	8	37	8.7%
Horace Mann	41	9.4%	9	8	7	9	7	2	42	9.0%
Lincoln-Eliot	29	8.3%	4	3	9	5	5	6	32	8.9%
Mason-Rice	143	24.6%	16	19	16	18	18	31	118	20.5%
Memorial-Spaulding	116	20.0%	19	22	14	32	14	20	121	22.0%
Peirce	87	20.5%	11	19	9	15	20	20	94	23.2%
Underwood	63	16.9%	4	10	16	9	13	10	62	15.9%
Ward	135	31.0%	19	25	21	19	26	26	136	32.0%
Williams	26	7.9%	3	7	3	1	4	7	25	7.6%
Zervas	48	12.9%	9	12	6	8	12	12	59	15.7%
Total Elementary	1,089	15.8%	158	179	152	169	201	208	1,067	15.5%
						6	7	8		
Bigelow Middle	161	23.3%				45	38	50	133	20.2%
Brown Middle	222	24.1%				72	61	77	210	22.0%
Day Middle	186	17.5%				71	81	62	214	18.4%
Oak Hill Middle	172	21.8%				58	53	70	181	22.2%
Total Middle School	741	21.4%				246	233	259	738	20.6%
					9	10	11	12		
Newton North	451	18.9%			111	95	132	128	466	18.8%
Newton South	471	21.5%			124	110	135	126	495	21.8%
Total High School	922	20.1%			235	205	267	254	961	20.2%
GRAND TOTAL	2,752	18.4%							2,766	18.2%

Notes

- 1) Students that are special education and beyond grade 12 are reported as grade 12.
- 2) Students residing in buffer zones are assigned a districted school according to the attendance percentages of currently enrolled buffer zone resident students.
- 3) The Newton School Committee approved changes to the Day Middle School and Bigelow Middle School district boundaries in 2013-14 to make 100% of the Cabot Elementary School district part of the Day Middle School district when previously the district was split between Day and Bigelow.

TABLE 3

**SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS
TUITIONED-OUT TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BY DISTRICTED SCHOOL AND GRADE LEVEL**

Elementary	Total As of 4/1/2013	Grade							Total As of 4/1/2014
		PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	
Angier	3								0
Bowen	1								0
Burr	0								0
Cabot	2								0
Countryside	6		1			1	2	1	5
Franklin	1							1	1
Horace Mann	1			1		2			3
Lincoln-Eliot	1	1	1	1					3
Mason-Rice	3					1		1	2
Memorial-Spaudling	1		1	1	1				3
Peirce	0								0
Underwood	0								0
Ward	2							1	1
Williams	0							1	1
Zervas	2								0
Total Elementary	23	1	3	3	1	4	2	5	19
						6	7	8	
Bigelow Middle	11					2	3	1	6
Brown Middle	4					4		3	7
Day Middle	10					5	5	3	13
Oak Hill Middle	7					5	3	6	14
Total Middle School	32					16	11	13	40
					9	10	11	12	
Newton North	57				12	4	11	17	44
Newton South	43				2	7	10	19	38
Total High School	100				14	11	21	36	82
Grand Total	155								141

Note: Students that are special education and beyond grade 12 are reported as grade 12.