



Franklin Public Schools

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Franklin Public Schools Enrollment Summary – October 1, 2025

To: Franklin School Committee

From: Lucas Giguere, Superintendent of Schools

Date: October 24, 2025

Re: October 1, 2025 Enrollment Report

Overview

As of October 1, 2025, Franklin Public Schools' total enrollment stands at 4,384 students. This represents a reduction from previous years, as anticipated, and mirrors regional and statewide demographic trends tied to lower birth rates, single-family home turnover, and smaller grade-level cohorts progressing through the system.

This year marks the first full year of implementation for the district's K–8 reorganization, establishing two partner complexes—Lincoln Street (K–2 / 3–5) and Washington Street (K–2 / 3–5)—along with a unified Franklin Middle School (Grades 6–8). These structural shifts are yielding improved balance in class sizes, more efficient use of space, and a more coherent program continuum across grades.

Elementary (K–5)

Elementary enrollment totals 1,880, a decline from last year but aligned to forecast levels with students above projections, signaling demographic stabilization in the early grades.

- Lincoln Street Complex (K–5): 1,060 students total (507 K–2; 553 Grades 3–5)
- Washington Street Complex (K–5): 820 students total (415 K–2; 405 Grades 3–5)

With matching grade configurations, both complexes are settling into the school year with a shared goal of creating balance, connection, and continuity in how students learn and grow from the early years onward.

Middle Level (6–8)

Enrollment stands at 1,008 students, a decline of 75 from last year and 98 students below the projection. This reduction reflects smaller grade-level groups transitioning upward.

The consolidation of Grades 6–8 into one middle school provides opportunities for balanced enrollment, aligned academic programming, enhance collaboration, and shared resources, laying a strong foundation for the new Franklin Middle School in the years to come. .

High School (9–12)

Franklin High School reports 1,388 students which a decrease of 42 students from last year. This trend mirrors statewide patterns and as was previously stated it is also tied to smaller entering cohorts.

Despite this, Franklin High maintains strong enrollment relative to peer districts and remains within forecasted projections.

Strategic scheduling and elective offerings preserve academic and co-curricular opportunities while maintaining efficient staffing and budget alignment.

Preschool (ECDC)

Enrollment in PreK programs totals 116 students, below the forecasted 154. This shift reflects fee increases related to fiscal challenges, facility expansion and program transitions. We experienced capacity limits before expanding ECDC between two sites (224 Oak Street and 551 Pond Street).

The district anticipates enrollment shifts and potential increases in FY26 as the new Pond Street classrooms become settled and students continue to enroll as they become eligible at age 3; this will expand access for families and special education placements.

Demographic Overview

Franklin’s demographics continue to evolve toward greater diversity and inclusion, while core student-support metrics remain stable or improving.

Category	2024	2025	Change
Free / Reduced Meals	22%	15%	↓ 7 pts
Students with Disabilities (IEP)	20%	21%	+1 pt
504 Plans	7%	7%	—
English Language Learners	149 (3%)	156 (4%)	+7

Race & Ethnicity (2025):

- Caucasian: **76%** (steady)
- African American: **4%** (+1%)
- Asian: **10%** (+1%)
- Hispanic/Latino: **8%** (+1%)
- Multiracial (non-Hispanic): **3%** (steady)

Franklin’s schools reflect a broader range of diverse backgrounds and experiences each year, strengthening the inclusive culture that defines our learning community.

Students Attending Other Schools

Out-of-district enrollment trends remain steady, with declines in charter participation and incremental increases in vocational enrollment—reflecting strong family confidence in FPS and increased interest in vocational education. With the construction of the new Tri-County Vocational High School, the district anticipates modest growth in vocational participation next year.

Category	2023–24	2024–25	Change
Charter Schools	207	200	↓7
Vocational (Tri-County RVTHS)	181	191	+10
Private / Parochial (in-state)	84	86	+2
Private / Parochial (out-of-state)	27	27	—
Homeschool	42	45	+3

Key Observations and Highlights

1. Enrollment Stabilization: Franklin’s elementary enrollment is forecasted to begin stabilizing and shows signs of gradual growth over the long-term forecasts, demonstrating steady progress and sustained stability.
2. Strategic Reorganization Impact: The new K–8 configuration has stabilized class sizes and maximized structural alignment.
3. Growing Diversity: A slow increase in multilingual and racially diverse learners enriches the school culture.
4. Sustained Family Confidence: Declines in charter enrollment and stable parochial participation reflect interest in FPS programs through the reorganization, despite our fiscal challenges.
5. Future Readiness: With a stabilizing K–5 pipeline and a PreK–12 structure that includes multiple sections at each grade level, the district is well-positioned to absorb and sustain enrollment shifts over time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucas Giguere

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