




SANDRA "SAM" HIMMEL – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

*"Where Learning is the Expectation
And Caring is a Commitment"*

Planning and Growth Management Department

TO: Citrus County School Board and Long Range Planning Committee

FROM: Chuck Dixon, AICP, Planning Director 

DATE: January 26, 2024

RE: Summary of School Capacity – Year End 2023
and adoption of 2024-25 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan

THOMAS KENNEDY
DISTRICT 1 – HERNANDO

VIRGINIA BRYANT
DISTRICT 2 – CRYSTAL
RIVER

DOUGLAS A. DODD
DISTRICT 3 – FLORAL CITY

SANDRA COUNTS
DISTRICT 4 – LECANTO

JOSEPH C. FAHERTY
DISTRICT 5 - INVERNESS

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In accordance with the provisions of Chapter **1003.03 Maximum class size.** —F.S. each school district is required to review its facility utilization each year to determine if the district is in compliance with the maximum class size requirements and to determine how to address capacity issues.

Each year, the Planning and Growth Management Department takes a snapshot of the schools' capacity from the previous December and reports this information to the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC).

It is noted that the recommendation will focus primarily on attendance boundaries, but it may also include options to pursue land for new facilities, build new facilities, add student stations to existing facilities, or pursue programmatic changes.

Enrollment data from the last five years is included in order to gauge changes that may indicate trends and for general information.

The Controlled Open Enrollment Plan enables the District to consider student assignment based on parental preference when requested by the parent as defined by Florida Statutes. It is being considered as part of the End of Year Report because it can also have a significant impact on the utilization of facilities. The proposed 2024-25 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan is attached to this report for consideration and adoption by the School Board.

Updates to the 2024-25 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan include the following:

1. Section I **Provision for a parent to request placement of siblings within the same school** – clarification that the preference to enroll siblings in an out of zone school is subject to school capacity.
2. **Section K Availability of transportation** – based on the ongoing bus driver shortage and high growth; it is recommended that transportation to an out of zone school be limited to students who are enrolled in school specific special programs.
3. Section L **Automatic approval process for students that move out of zone** – This provision is being updated to require the schools to confirm that the student has changed their address before a zone waiver is processed.

By the end of 2023 overall K-12 enrollment increased from 15,210 in December of 2022 to 15,341 in December of 2023. This is a 0.9 percent increase as compared to 3.3 percent last year.

The 5 Year Work Plan has been updated for two years in a row to reflect accelerated growth in the Central Ridge Area including first plans for additional elementary school student stations at a new elementary school at the Pine Ridge School Site in the mid-term and now some additional elementary student stations at Rock Crusher Elementary School possibly before a new school can be constructed to accommodate growth in the Lecanto Area. This is necessary because of increased development activity, both housing starts as well as development projects in various phases of the review process in Southwest Citrus County.

The Suncoast Parkway connection to SR-44 has accelerated new single family home construction in the Central Ridge Area including Citrus Springs, Pine Ridge, Beverly Hills, and Hernando/Citrus Hills, as well as new subdivisions and proposed multi-family housing projects in the Lecanto and Rock Crusher Road areas.

The DOE Approved Floral City Elementary Expansion is planned for 2023-24 and the additional student stations that had been assigned to the final phase of this project have been shifted to Rock Crusher Elementary pending enough enrollment growth to warrant a twelfth elementary school.

Although the, FDOE COFTE projections do not warrant a new school in the 5 Year planning period, development activity has remained strong and proposed residential projects in the Beverly Hills and Lecanto areas indicate that additional student stations will be needed in both parts of the County following attendance boundary modifications that can be approved in the future to balance the enrollment between the elementary schools.

The Pine Ridge School Site was acquired by the School Board on November 17, 2011 so this site is available for elementary expansion when a new facility is warranted. The proposed Tuscan Project in Beverly Hills is currently under review as a Planned Unit

Development and this project will probably trigger the need for a 12th elementary school within the next decade. Currently, schools in this general (Central Ridge) area are running at 100 percent capacity on average compared to 97 percent last year. The projected average capacity for this area drops to 99 percent but Citrus Springs Elementary and Hernando Elementary will likely be at or above 104 percent.

The following is a snapshot of school capacity as of December 18, 2023:

High Schools

In summary, the total (combined) FISH capacity for all three high schools is 4,960 student stations with 4,484 students enrolled on December 18, 2023. This leaves a surplus of 476 student stations, or approximately 10 percent excess capacity.

As of the reporting date all portable/temporary classrooms have been removed from the high schools.

As a result of the most recent high school rezoning in 2013-14, approximately 125 students were relocated from Lecanto High School to Crystal River High School to more fully utilize the new facilities at Crystal River High School and help balance out the utilization rates between the high schools.

The following is a summary of the current capacity conditions as compared with last year's conditions:

Current Excess Capacity Estimate by High School:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| • Lecanto High School | 0% | (last year was 6%) |
| • Citrus High School | 17% | (last year was 15%) |
| • Crystal River High School | 13% | (last year was 16%) |

Middle Schools

The total (combined) FISH capacity for all four middle schools is 4,321 student stations with 3,487 students enrolled on December 18, 2023. This leaves a surplus of 834 student stations, or approximately 19 percent excess capacity. No middle school has less than 8 percent excess capacity at the current time. No new middle school student stations are planned at this time. Higher growth at Citrus Springs Middle School was addressed by rezoning an area of Citrus Springs to Crystal River Middle School for the 2017-18 school year. This was done in phases by “grandfathering” students from two grade levels, 7th and 8th grade, instead of one. The target capacity at Citrus Springs Middle School was 85 percent for the 2019-20 school year and it is currently at 90 percent.

The current Work Plan does not indicate a need for additional middle school student stations within the 5-year planning term.

The following is a summary of the current capacity conditions as compared with last year's conditions:

Current Excess Capacity Estimate by Middle School:

- **Citrus Springs Middle School** **10%** **(last year was 6%)**
- **Crystal River Middle School** **26%** **(last year was 28%)**
- **Inverness Middle School** **26%** **(last year was 26%)**
- **Lecanto Middle School** **8%** **(last year was 6%)**

Elementary Schools

The total (combined) FISH capacity for all eleven elementary schools is 7,783 student stations with 7,370 students enrolled on December 18, 2023. This leaves a surplus of 413 student stations, or approximately 5 percent excess capacity. Last year there was 6 percent excess capacity.

The following is a breakdown of the current utilization rates in the context of the target rates from the most recent rezoning in 2017:

- Pleasant Grove Elementary – Target 90 percent or lower – Currently 84 percent
- Lecanto Primary – Target 90 percent or lower – Currently 96 percent
- Inverness Primary – Target 85 percent or lower – Currently 91 percent
- Homosassa Elementary – Target 90 percent – Currently 96 percent
- Floral City Elementary – Target 80 percent – Currently 78 percent
- Hernando Elementary – Target 90 percent – Currently 105 percent

Based on the 2023 Rezoning Study the target enrollment for 2025-26 will increase significantly to approximately 95 percent for each school with the exception of Floral City Elementary and it will be at approximately 84 percent following the capacity expansion projects. It is noted that the results of the rezoning study will likely need to be updated prior to implementation and this could result in changes to the projected enrollment and utilization rates of the elementary schools that are impacted.

The following is a summary of the current capacity conditions as compared with last year's conditions:

Current Excess Capacity Estimate by Elementary School:

- **Citrus Springs Elementary School** **(-7)%** **(last year was -1%)**
- **Crystal River Primary School** **(-1)%** **(last year was over by 0%)**
- **Floral City Elementary School** **22%** **(last year was 22%)**
- **Forest Ridge Elementary School** **9%** **(last year was 7%)**

- **Hernando Elementary School** **(-5)% (last year was (-8) %)**
- **Homosassa Elementary School** **4% (last year was 0%)**
- **Lecanto Primary School** **5% (last year was 5%)**
- **Pleasant Grove Elementary School** **16% (last year was 18%)**
- **Rock Crusher Elementary School** **7% (last year was 5%)**
- **Inverness Primary School** **9% (last year was 10%)**
- **Central Ridge Elementary School** **5% (last year was 8%)**

Additional Information

In summary, enrollment across the zoned schools is as follows:

Zoned High Schools:	2022-23 was 4,360	2023-24 is 4,484	+124
Zoned Middle Schools:	2022-23 was 3,518	2023-24 is 3,487	-31
Zoned Elementary Schools:	2022-23 was 7,332	2023-24 is 7,370	+38

The overall change in enrollment at the zoned schools is **+131** from December 2022 to December 2023.

Note: Projected enrollment, based on cohort progression, was 15,496. Actual enrollment was 15,341.

Summary of Residential Growth Related Capital Projects

1. Remaining Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project

- **Beverly Hills/ FRE Sidewalk Project – Phase II** from Lake Beverly to Colbert Court. – This project has been funded by the Board of County Commissioners (\$1.2 million) and scheduled for construction in 2026. This project extends the sidewalk to the maximum 2 miles from Forest Ridge Elementary School to the North.

2. Crystal River Middle School Parking and Traffic Circulation Improvement Project

- The CRMS Parking and Traffic Circulation Improvement Project is necessary due to growth in the facility and cars spilling over from the parent pick up area onto Crystal Street. It has been planned for several years and a concept design was completed prior to site acquisition.

- The Crystal River Middle School on Site Traffic Circulation Improvements / Parent Pick Up Area Project is scheduled for Year 1 (2023-24) in the 2023-24 District Work Plan.
3. Inverness Middle School Parking and Traffic Circulation Improvement Project
- The IMS Parking and Traffic Circulation Project may be necessary due to growth in the facility and cars spilling over from the parent pick up area onto Ella Street and Turner Camp Road. It has been planned for several years with unsuccessful attempts to acquire the needed property and secure access through a publicly owned and maintained roadway. Traffic issues may be mitigated to some extent by improvements to US-41 which are currently underway. The project will be designed to enhance the traffic flow after the planned improvements to the intersection of US-41 and Middle School Road are complete. This is a two-year project that started in November of 2023.
 - The Inverness Middle School On-Site Traffic Circulation Improvements / Parent Pick Up Area Project is scheduled for Year 4 (2026-27) in the 2023-24 District Work Plan. It is currently unfunded but will be funded if issues with design options can be resolved and the project is needed after the US-41 improvements are completed.
4. Citrus High School/ Inverness Primary School Master Plan and Traffic Circulation Improvements
- The Project has been moved to 2025-26 in the 5 Year Work Program.
5. Floral City Elementary School Expansion /Improvements
- Floral City Elementary School expansion projects have been approved by DOE and are projected to take 2 years to complete:
 - Summer 2023 - Kitchen and Dining Area Expansion Project
This will add a multipurpose room, chair storage, a larger stage and dressing rooms in addition to kitchen and dining space. The project is under construction. However there have been some delays due to supply chain issues.
 - Summer 2024 - New Classroom Wing
This will add 102 student stations bringing the school total to 599, teacher planning office, custodial room, electrical room, material storage area and restrooms. This project is currently in the design phase.

- The District Work Plan had identified a latter phase for Floral City Elementary that would have taken it to 810 student stations at buildout. However, considering anticipated growth in the west central part of the County, 210 student stations have been shifted to the Rock Crusher Elementary site. Floral City Elementary School is currently approved to increase from 497 to 599 student stations by the Florida Department of Education.
- In preparation for the Floral City Elementary School expansion, a county wide rezoning study was completed in December 2023. This zoning study analyzed current enrollment at all zoned elementary schools as well as projected enrollment.
- It was conducted by PGM Staff in coordination with the Facilities and Construction Department and the Planning Department.
- The results indicate that approximately 10 percent of elementary students can be rezoned to optimize available space in 7 of the 11 elementary schools. At Forest Ridge Elementary, the open enrollment process is working well without the need to rezone currently. The analysis indicates that relocatable, or other additional student stations are needed at Rock Crusher Elementary to serve this school as well as adjacent schools including Homosassa Elementary and Lecanto Primary.
- A project to Master Plan the Rock Crusher Elementary School Campus has been added to the 5 Year Work Program for 2024-25 with an anticipated rezoning of 7 elementary schools in 2025-26 to align with the completed improvements at Floral City Elementary. This will provide maximum options to address growth throughout the county at the elementary level by 2025-26. In the meantime, the open enrollment process will be utilized to manage enrollment in all of the schools.

6. Rock Crusher Elementary Expansion Project

- A capacity project at the 104-acre Rock Crusher Elementary Site was added to the District Work Plan in 2022-23 to address anticipated growth from Lecanto area projected residential development. The 2023-24 Work Plan was updated to add \$100,000 in Year 2 (2024-25) to Master Plan the Rock Crusher Campus to address traffic circulation issues, to identify the best area for relocatable classrooms at Rock Crusher Elementary, and to identify the best location for a new Middle or Combination School on the Campus.

This will provide flexibility necessary to address anticipated growth in the Southwest part of Citrus County over the next decade. Based on current development proposals in the Lecanto Area, this site needs to be available in addition to the Pine Ridge School Site to add temporary student stations and permanent student stations as needed.

Summary of Transportation Growth Related Capital Projects

7. County 491 Corridor Development Project

- Phase I – from SR-44 North to Audubon Park Medical Complex - complete
- Phase II – from the Audubon Park Medical Complex 1.9 miles north to W. Parkville Street (Culver’s Restaurant) – Plans are complete, and the groundbreaking was in November 2023. The project is projected to last until December 2025. Traffic delays are expected during the two-year construction period because of the limits for alternative north to south traffic routes.

8. Suncoast Parkway II Project

This project officially began on September 12, 2018.

- Phase 1 US98 to SR44
Project is complete.
- Phase 2 SR44 to CR486
The contractor is Superior Asphalt Co.
Project under construction.
Cost \$76M – Projected to be a 3 Year Project
- Phase 3a CR486 to CR 495
Project is funded and in property acquisition phase.
Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in 2025.
- Phase 3b CR495 to US19 at Red Level
Project is funded and in property acquisition phase.
Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in 2026.

All phases of the Suncoast Parkway II Project are now fully funded including design, property acquisition, and construction.

9. US-41 at IMS 2 Lane to 4 Lane Improvement Project

- Project Timeline:
- Groundbreaking – November 30, 2023
- The project starts at SR-44 and extends North for one mile to the Withlacoochee Trail Bridge.
- Projected Completion – Projected for Summer 2025
- The improvements include an additional lane in each direction with median separation, bicycle lanes, sidewalks with access to the Withlacoochee State Trail, and a dedicated left turn lane for the southbound traffic to Inverness Middle School.

Summary of Major Housing Developments in various stages of the Development Review Process (note; this is not an exhaustive list. These are considered to be the most likely projects to come to fruition based on the stages of the development review process and market conditions as of January 2024)

- Beverly Hills – Tuscany Ranch
Project completes buildout of the old Beverly Hills Development of Regional Impact.
Proposes 1,000 multifamily units and up to 6,369 single family residential units as well as other 275,00 square feet of other non-residential land uses on 1,642 acres with access from County Road 491 and Forest Ridge Boulevard.
- Pine Ridge - Amber Ridge West
Project is adjacent to the Pine Ridge School Site and YMCA. It proposes 382 single family residential units on 147.6 acres. This area is currently designated for significantly less density.
- Lecanto – Crystal Ridge Phase I
Project has access from W. Crystal Oaks Drive and Rock Crusher Road. It proposes 236 single-family residential units on 52.4 acres.
- Lecanto Preserve (buildout of Crystal Glenn) 750 residential units and other uses on 139.1 acres with access from CR-491 near Lecanto School Complex
- Cardinal Node – Cardinal Farms – 434 Multifamily Apartment Units and 434 Single Family Detached/Town Homes/ Villas on 868 acres.

- Sugarmill Woods – Southern Woods Phase V – 160 Single Family Units - under construction.

Summary of Enrollment for 2023 and Implications for 2024-25 Facility Utilization (based on data used to complete 1st run projections for 2024-25)

As of January 19, 2024, the 2024-25 high school facility utilization is projected to be 93 percent.

The 2024-25 middle school facility utilization is projected to be 78 percent.

The growth is in elementary enrollment where the utilization is projected to be holding at 95 percent. Enrollment up 9 students from 2023.

The overall growth in elementary enrollment has slowed from last year but it is still consistent with the plans to expand Floral City Elementary and rezone students to redistribute them where capacity will be available over the next two to three years. This is necessary because of the pockets of growth throughout the central part of the County.

Looking at the distribution of growth it is apparent that additional student stations will be needed in the Southeast Quadrant of the County in addition to the 102 student stations at Floral City Elementary in order to accommodate students in Homosassa and Lecanto who are too far away to be transported to Floral City. Additional relocatable classrooms at the Rock Crusher Elementary School Campus is a cost effective temporary solution to potential growth in this area until an additional elementary school can be warranted in the center part of the County (Pine Ridge School Site).

In 2023 a rezoning study was conducted to develop a plan for relieving overcrowding in the elementary schools and to populate Floral City Elementary following DOE Approved improvements.

The rezoning study was conducted early in order to look at the big picture and also look at alternatives for schools that cannot be rezoned due to travel time issues for buses and parents.

Based on the rezoning study, rezoning can address the growth in all but three elementary schools during the current (5 Year) planning period. The three that cannot be rezoned include Homosassa Elementary, Rock Crusher Elementary, and Lecanto Primary. These schools are all currently near capacity, and an alternative plan needs to be developed to

address growth in the southwest part of the County due to the potential for residential construction before a new elementary school can be justified and constructed.

The current 10 Year COFTE projections do not indicate the need for an additional school, but they indicate that the elementary schools will be near capacity. These projections may be low based on current residential projects that are in the development review process.

Therefore, a good option would be to masterplan the 104 acre +/- Rock Crusher Elementary School Site so that it can transition from a single 699 student station facility to be able to accommodate a relocatable wing in the interim (by 2026-27) and a second school site if needed by 2032-37 or beyond.

The Rock Crusher site has a single entrance for cars and buses and this needs to be addressed as well as stacking for parent pick up and drop off. The master planning process could update the site for traffic circulation as well as provide for the optimum site for a future middle school or combination school.

The current 20 Year COFTE projections indicate a need for an additional elementary school with all levels, including middle and high at full capacity. Again, these numbers are very conservative.

With school sites already purchased in Pine Ridge, Sugarmill Woods, and Citrus Springs and Floral City Elementary School expanded to 599 student stations, master planning the Rock Crusher Campus as a transition site, will maximize the options for managing growth over the next 10 years.

The following is a potential timeline based on the current Work Plan and local residential development conditions:

- 2023-24 Rezoning Study
- 2023-24 Floral City Elementary Expansion Project – to increase capacity to 599 student stations.
- 2024-25 Master Plan 104 acre +/- Rock Crusher Campus – to transition to a multiple school site with relocatable classrooms in the interim.
- 2025-26 or 2026-27 Implement Rezoning Plan with updates as necessary.
- 2025-26 Improvements at Rock Crusher Campus to address traffic circulation and relocatable classroom infrastructure.

By 2026-27 these steps would allow for multiple options to address enrollment growth over the next 15 years along the Suncoast Parkway Corridor as it moves northward. These could include expanding the capacity of Rock Crusher Elementary to 800 student

stations, a new 800 student station elementary school on the 20 acre +/- Pine Ridge School Site (adjacent to the YMCA), a new middle school or combination school on the Rock Crusher Campus and a new high school or combination school at the 115 total acre +/- Citrus Springs School Site (adjacent to Central Ridge Elementary School)

Staff Recommendation:

1. Readopt the current attendance boundaries for the elementary schools for 2024-25.
 - Monitor proposed projects and development approvals in the Rock Crusher Canyon Area and Crystal Glen Area for potential changes to the District Work Plan. This area has infrastructure available and is close to the Suncoast Parkway and well suited for workforce housing where school age population currently resides.
 - Monitor enrollment in the Central Ridge Area, including Citrus Hills, and south into Lecanto. These areas will be most impacted by residential development around the Suncoast Parkway as well as in and around the Cardinal Road Interchange where multi-family apartment units are likely to be constructed based on proposed County land use initiatives.
 - Continue to balance growth between Inverness Primary School, Pleasant Grove Elementary, and Floral City Elementary using the special attendance/ controlled open enrollment process.
 - Continue to monitor homeschool enrollment as these students can return to the schools at any time and this is most likely to occur in the upper elementary grades.
2. Readopt the current attendance boundaries for the middle schools for 2024-25.
 - Continue to balance growth between Citrus Springs Middle and Crystal River Middle using the special attendance/ controlled open enrollment process.
 - Continue to work with FDOT District 7, the MPO/County and the City of Crystal River to address traffic issues at Crystal River Middle

School including the expansion of the parent pick up area and traffic circulation improvements as funding becomes available.

- Work with FDOT District 7 to help facilitate the planned 4-lane improvements to US-41 fronting Inverness Middle School and the City of Inverness to address traffic issues at Inverness Middle School when there are opportunities for cooperation.

3. Readopt the current attendance boundaries for the high schools for 2024-25.

- Monitor growth in the Citrus Springs Community where the most recent attendance boundary changes were made for 2013-14. This has historically been a high growth area for high school student enrollment, and it was the location of extensive residential development activity in 2021 through 2023.
- Monitor the enrollment in virtual programs during a temporary increase in overall high school enrollment. The use of portables at Lecanto High School will likely be necessary over the next 4 years to address a bubble in high school enrollment. The portables will be moved from Floral City Elementary and will be relocated to Lecanto High School if needed.
- The overall high school enrollment will be balanced as much as possible through the Controlled Open Enrollment Process when practical.

4. Adopt the new 2024-25 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan with modifications as presented.

5. The following projects are recommended to address COFTE Projections and potential residential growth based in development review and permitting activity:

- Floral City Elementary – additional student stations and cafeteria expansion - 2023-24 (possible delays due to materials shortages)
- Crystal River Middle School - additional parking and traffic circulation improvements – 2023-24
- Rockcrusher Campus – master plan for temporary student stations, parking, traffic circulation improvements and an additional school site – 2024-25

- Citrus High School/ Inverness Primary School – master plan and traffic circulation improvements – 2025-26
- Inverness Middle School - additional parking and traffic circulation improvements – 2026-27 (following improvements to US-41)

Additional Information for Trend Analysis:

- **Five Year Enrollment Data (from end of year reports)**
- **Projections for Next Year (attached)**

Historical Enrollment by School
(Including Citrus eSchool starting in 2021)

Elementary Schools:

- **Citrus Springs Elementary School**

Current =	865
2022 =	818
2021 =	721
2020 =	740
2019 =	748

- **Crystal River Primary School**

Current =	668
2022 =	660
2021 =	635
2020 =	628
2019 =	651

- **Floral City Elementary School**

Current =	388
2022 =	387
2021 =	351
2020 =	324
2019 =	374

- **Forest Ridge Elementary School**

Current =	694
2022 =	704
2021 =	695
2020 =	708
2019 =	740

- **Hernando Elementary School**

Current =	788
2022 =	811
2021 =	758
2020 =	772
2019 =	758

- **Homosassa Elementary School**

Current =	396
2022 =	411
2021 =	389
2020 =	387
2019 =	405

- **Lecanto Primary School**

Current =	819
2022 =	816
2021 =	821
2020 =	854
2019 =	800

- **Pleasant Grove Elementary School**

Current =	633
2022 =	623
2021 =	632
2020 =	659
2019 =	663

- **Rock Crusher Elementary School**

Current =	649
2022 =	665
2021 =	643
2020 =	648
2019 =	687

- **Inverness Primary School**

Current =	700
2022 =	690
2021 =	614
2020 =	617
2019 =	670

- **Central Ridge Elementary School**

Current =	770
2022 =	747
2021 =	739
2020 =	722
2019 =	785

- **Citrus eSchool Elementary School Grades**

Current =	8
2022 =	42
2021 =	145

Elementary School Totals:

Current =	7370 (excluding Citrus eSchool)
2022 =	7,332
2021 =	7,143
2020 =	7,059

2019 = 7,281

Middle Schools:

- **Citrus Springs Middle School**

Current = 782
2022 = 820
2021 = 756
2020 = 758
2019 = 765

- **Crystal River Middle School**

Current = 905
2022 = 882
2021 = 874
2020 = 907
2019 = 932

- **Inverness Middle School**

Current = 995
2022 = 996
2021 = 1,021
2020 = 1,063
2019 = 1,089

- **Lecanto Middle School**

Current = 805
2022 = 820
2021 = 803
2020 = 835
2019 = 789

- **Citrus eSchool Middle School Grades**

Current = 11
2022 = 67
2021 = 112

Middle School Totals:

Current = 3,487 (excluding Citrus eSchool)
2022 = 3,518
2021 = 3,566
2020 = 3,563
2019 = 3,575

High Schools:

- **Lecanto High School**

Current =	1,731
2022 =	1,630
2021 =	1,616
2020 =	1,743
2019 =	1,647

- **Citrus High School**

Current =	1,462
2022 =	1,488
2021 =	1,496
2020 =	1,484
2019 =	1,436

- **Crystal River High School**

Current =	1,291
2022 =	1,242
2021 =	1,159
2020 =	1,198
2019 =	1,161

- **Citrus eSchool High School Grades**

Current =	53
2022 =	100
2021 =	154

High School Totals:

Current =	4,484 (excluding Citrus eSchool)
2022 =	4,360
2021 =	4,425
2020 =	4,416
2019 =	4,244

Preliminary Enrollment Projections for 2024-25

This section of the End of Year report started in 2018. It is based on “rolling up” the enrollment for elementary, middle, and high school from the date of the last enrollment report of 2023. It assumes Kindergarten enrollment to be unchanged from the previous year and PK enrollment is based on projected staffing and classroom availability. This information will be used as a starting point for more detailed enrollment projections by school and for the 2024-25 FTE Projections.

- 2024-25 Preliminary Projected Elementary Enrollment = 7,379

- 2024-25 Preliminary Projected Middle School Enrollment = 3,382
- 2024-25 Preliminary Projected High School Enrollment = 4,621

2024-25 Total Preliminary Projected Enrollment = 15,382

Additional information regarding the County and City projections of the amount, type, and distribution of population growth may be considered prior to finalizing the enrollment projections for 2024-25.

The differences between current enrollment (as of December 2023) and the 2024-25 preliminary projected enrollment are as follows:

- Elementary School Enrollment Change = up 9 from 7,370
- Middle School Enrollment Change = down 105 from 3,487
- High School Enrollment Change = up 137 from 4,484

Total Enrollment Projected Increase/Decrease = up 41 from 15,341 in December 2023

Last year the projected enrollment increase was 286 overall and this year it is 41 based on the January 2024 enrollment data used for first run projections.

*Note: Preliminary elementary enrollment projections do not include factoring in birth rate changes from the previous year for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten grade levels and they do not include growth projections from residential building occupancy changes at this point in the planning process. These enrollment projections represent a starting point in the enrollment projection process for 2024-25.

For 2024-25 additional enrollment projections may be necessary based on the enrollment growth that occurred in 2024 after the initial projections were made. Enrollment typically fluctuates in January from housing changes over the winter break.

In January 2024 elementary enrollment increased by 9 students from December 2023. From the Summer of 2023 to early 2024 residential building permit activity has slowed somewhat from the peak due to higher interest rates and overall housing costs.

Once the Floral City Elementary School expansion is complete, the focus will be on increasing capacity in the central ridge area and the central part of the County in general which also includes the Rock Crusher Area.

In 2023-24 the projected high school enrollment was 4,642 but the final enrollment was only 4,3484 so we had 158 less students than projected with the high schools at 90 percent utilization. The final tally was about 4 percent less high school students than projected.

For 2024-25 the projected high school enrollment is 4,621, an increase of 137 students which would put the facility utilization rate up to 93 percent. Lecanto High School is projected to be at 104 percent as compared to 100 percent at the end of 2023. High enrollment at Lecanto High School can be addressed by limiting acceptance of new students through the open enrollment process over the 2024-25 school year.

Attachments:

2024-25 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan – for adoption.

Enrollment Report – December 18, 2023

Preliminary Enrollment Projection Report – January 19, 2024

2024-25 Zoning Maps for Elementary, Middle, and High Schools – for adoption (separate files)

Citrus County School District Controlled Open Enrollment Plan 2023-24

Contact Information

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Enrollment Plan Link:

https://www.citrusschools.org/departments/planning_and_growth_management/planning_documents

Controlled Open Enrollment Plan Provisions

A. Eligibility Requirements:

1. All students shall be eligible to apply to attend an out of zone school unless they have been suspended or expelled from a school within the last six (6) months or suspended or expelled from another school district school in accordance with the provisions of Policy 5.20 Student Assignment.
2. All students must be enrolled at their home school if they are new students to the Citrus County School District prior to **reviewing submitting** a request to attend an out of zone school through the Controlled Open Enrollment Process.

B. Application Process:

1. The application for Controlled Open Enrollment can be obtained from the Citrus County Schools Website for printing or at any of the schools in hard copy or it may be submitted electronically directly from the District Website.
2. The application is completed and signed by the parent or guardian and submitted to the Planning and Growth Management Department at the District Student Services Center or it can be dropped off at any school site and forwarded to the Planning and Growth Management Department for processing. It may also be submitted directly from the District Website.
3. The Planning and Growth Management Technician will receive the application, assign a tracking number, and attach a review sheet for electronic routing to the school of choice for consideration.
4. The **reviewing receiving** school administrator will review the information provided by the applicant and the Planning and Growth Management Department. The receiving school administrator may utilize staff to help verify place of residence information provided by the parent/guardian if this level of verification is necessary.

5. The receiving school administrator will check one of the boxes on the review form that best describes the reason for approval or denial of the special attendance request as follows:
- a) Approved – Controlled Open Enrollment
 - b) Approved – Special Program
 - c) Approved – Zone Waiver
 - d) Denied – because the request does not comply with the Citrus County School Board Attendance Zone Student Reassignment Policy/ Administrative Guidelines
 - e) Denied – because the receiving schools projected enrollment exceeds capacity or because the school is in a high growth area and subject to substantial enrollment increases throughout the school year.
 - f) Denied – because the receiving school is at or above 90 percent of the school or grade level capacity.
6. The application and review form are returned to the Planning and Growth Management Department for a final sign off and distribution to the impacted schools for enrollment purposes, and the parent/guardian is notified.

C. Time period for accepting applications/ Controlled Open Enrollment Period:

Applications will be accepted beginning in Mid-March until May 26, 2023. May 29, 2024. Applications will not be accepted for processing after the controlled open enrollment period closes for schools unless the student's residence changes and the student wishes to stay at their out of zone school of choice, the student is enrolled in a special program, or a zoning exception is necessary for an ESE transfer, hardship placement, or other issue pursuant to the provisions of Policy 5.201 ~~(X)~~ Student Out of Zone Transfers / Choice.

D. Method of determining capacity of schools:

Capacity of the schools shall be determined by the Department of Planning and Growth Management at the school level and by the Principal at the grade level. The basis will be the Florida Inventory of School House (FISH) Capacity and class size requirements as determined by the Florida Department of Education and either the projected or actual enrollment, depending on the time of year when the determination is made. Instructional Capacity is defined as 100 percent of FISH Capacity and Enrollment Capacity is defined as 90 percent of FISH Capacity.

E. Enrollment and Capacity Report:

An enrollment report will be posted on the District Web Site that identifies the current projected or actual enrollment at each District School and the utilization rate for each facility.

F. Identification of schools that have not reached capacity:

Schools that have not reached capacity will be identified in green. Schools that have reached capacity will be identified in red and schools where grade level capacity may be exceeded for one or more grades will be identified in yellow.

G. Class Size Standards:

Class size standards shall be as required by the Florida Department of Education. For core curriculum classrooms that are pre-Kindergarten through grade 3, the class size is 18 student stations. For core curriculum classrooms that are grades 4 through 8, the class size is 22 student stations, and for core curriculum classrooms that are grades 9 through 12, the class size is 25 student stations.

H. Lottery procedure for determining student assignment if transfer requests exceed available space:

When the number of applicants exceeds the number of available spaces the names will be placed in a “Random Name Picker” program such as the one found at the following web site <http://www.miniwebtool.com/random-name-picker/> or a similar system where the names are picked using a random process.

I. Provision for a parent to request placement of siblings within the same school:

Siblings residing at the same address will be placed together **subject to school capacity** unless it is determined that placing them in the same educational setting would not be in the child’s best interest.

J. Appeals Process:

The appeals process is administered by the Department of Planning and Growth Management. Appeals must be filed after a determination is made by the receiving school principal and must include the reason for the appeal and any supporting documentation.

K. Availability of Transportation:

~~Students attending an out of zone school may utilize the closest bus stop within the school zone subject to bus capacity.~~ Out of zone transportation is provided for students enrolled in school specific special programs such as the Computer Science Academy at Citrus High School, Health Academy at Crystal River High School and the Art Academy and International Baccalaureate Program at Lecanto High School as approved by the School Board. **Other students enrolled in an out of zone school will not be provided transportation.**

L. Automatic Approval Process for Students that Move out of Zone:

In the case of a student changing residence during the school year, the Department of Planning and Growth Management shall create a new special attendance

preference record for the student so they may remain at the school in subsequent years until the student completes the highest grade level at the school unless the student is suspended or expelled from the school. In order for the school choice application to be processed when a student moves out of zone, the school must confirm that the student moved out of zone and provide the address change to the Department of Planning and Growth Management when requested. If the student is suspended or expelled from the school, the reassignment may be rescinded. Transportation shall not be provided for students who reside out of zone unless the student is enrolled in a special program and the School Board has approved out of zone transportation for the particular program.

M. Method and timeline for notifying a parent of his/her child's placement for the next school year:

Parents/guardians are notified by US Mail within 30 days after a determination is made that the student can be placed in the receiving school of choice.

N. Out of County Students:

1. Students residing in the District shall not be displaced by a student from another district who is seeking enrollment through the open enrollment provisions.
2. A student whose parent is transferred, or is pending transfer, to a military installation within the state while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order shall be considered a resident of the school district for purposes of enrollment when the order is submitted to the school district, and shall be provided preferential treatment in the controlled open enrollment process of the school district pursuant to Section 1002.31, F.S.

O. Family Empowerment Scholarship Recipients:

If a child is the recipient of a Family Empowerment Scholarship the request will be reviewed as follows:

1. Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES EO) - The FES EO request will be reviewed by the Department of Planning and Growth Management for administrative placement subject to school capacity.
2. Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES UA) – The FES UA request will be reviewed by the Exceptional Student Education Department for administrative placement subject to school capacity.

P. Required Preference Criteria:

Preferential treatment shall be provided for the following students:

1. Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;

2. Children who have moved due to foster care placement in a different school zone;
3. Children who have moved due to a court-ordered change in custody as a result of separation or divorce;
4. Children who have moved due to the serious illness or death of a custodial parent;
5. Students at multiple session schools; and
6. Students residing in the District.

Q. Wait List for Placement at School of Choice:

1. A wait list of students who are denied access due to capacity will be maintained at the school of choice for the duration of the year in which the application is made.
2. If space becomes available, the student will be notified by US Mail throughout the school year in which the application is made.

R. Controlled Open Enrollment Suspended for Two (2) School Years Following School Attendance Boundary Changes/ Rezoning

If a school attendance boundary is changed by the School Board in order to reduce enrollment, and increase capacity in a school, Controlled Open Enrollment will be suspended and not allowed for two (2) school years to allow for the attendance boundary change/ rezoning to achieve the necessary reduction in school population.

Additional Contact Information:

Information relevant to the School Choice (Controlled Open Enrollment Plan) Process is provided in a central location on the Citrus County School District Department of Planning and Growth Management Web Site:

https://www.citrusschools.org/departments/planning_and_growth_management/planning_documents

School specific program information can be found on the individual school websites from the following link:

<https://www.citrusschools.org/schools>

Transportation information can be found from the Transportation Department Website from the following link:

<https://www.citrusschools.org/departments/transportation>

**2023-2024 Enrollment Counts
as of 12/18/2023**

School Name	Grade	Florida Inventory School House (FISH) Capacity as of 8/04/23	2023-24 Projections as of 01/17/23***	Students enrolled as of 12/18/2023	Estimated Available Space (Capacity - Enrolled)	Utilization Rate (Enrolled/ Capacity)
Central Ridge Elementary	PK		45	43		
Central Ridge Elementary	KG		123	92		
Central Ridge Elementary	P2		0	0		
Central Ridge Elementary	P3		0	7		
Central Ridge Elementary	01		123	128		
Central Ridge Elementary	02		125	112		
Central Ridge Elementary	03		121	140		
Central Ridge Elementary	04		125	133		
Central Ridge Elementary	05		108	115		
Central Ridge Elementary Total*		810	770	770	40	95.1%
Citrus Springs Elementary	PK		45	44		
Citrus Springs Elementary	KG		117	136		
Citrus Springs Elementary	P2		0	0		
Citrus Springs Elementary	P3		0	5		
Citrus Springs Elementary	01		117	124		
Citrus Springs Elementary	02		116	130		
Citrus Springs Elementary	03		140	153		
Citrus Springs Elementary	04		155	153		
Citrus Springs Elementary	05		122	120		
Citrus Springs Elementary Total*		810	812	865	-55	106.8%
Crystal River Primary	PK		45	39		
Crystal River Primary	KG		117	106		
Crystal River Primary	P2		0	0		
Crystal River Primary	P3		0	5		
Crystal River Primary	01		117	115		
Crystal River Primary	02		103	97		
Crystal River Primary	03		88	101		
Crystal River Primary	04		102	105		
Crystal River Primary	05		96	100		
Crystal River Primary Total*		661	668	668	-7	101.1%
Floral City Elementary	PK		30	21		
Floral City Elementary	KG		56	72		
Floral City Elementary	P2		0	0		
Floral City Elementary	P3		0	3		
Floral City Elementary	01		56	53		
Floral City Elementary	02		75	78		
Floral City Elementary	03		52	46		
Floral City Elementary	04		61	57		
Floral City Elementary	05		59	58		
Floral City Elementary Total		497	389	388	109	78.1%
Forest Ridge Elementary	PK		45	29		
Forest Ridge Elementary	KG		94	107		
Forest Ridge Elementary	P2		0	0		
Forest Ridge Elementary	P3		0	3		
Forest Ridge Elementary	01		94	109		
Forest Ridge Elementary	02		113	99		
Forest Ridge Elementary	03		97	115		
Forest Ridge Elementary	04		126	114		
Forest Ridge Elementary	05		120	118		
Forest Ridge Elementary Total*		759	689	694	65	91.4%
Hernando Elementary	PK		45	35		
Hernando Elementary	KG		126	108		
Hernando Elementary	P2		0	0		
Hernando Elementary	P3		0	5		
Hernando Elementary	01		126	126		
Hernando Elementary	02		121	122		
Hernando Elementary	03		141	128		
Hernando Elementary	04		148	143		
Hernando Elementary	05		126	121		
Hernando Elementary Total*		754	833	788	-34	104.5%

2023-2024 Enrollment Counts
as of 12/18/2023

School Name	Grade	Florida Inventory School House (FISH) Capacity as of 8/04/23	2023-24 Projections as of 01/17/23***	Students enrolled as of 12/18/2023	Estimated Available Space (Capacity - Enrolled)	Utilization Rate (Enrolled/ Capacity)
Homosassa Elementary	PK		30	26		
Homosassa Elementary	KG		74	44		
Homosassa Elementary	P2		0	0		
Homosassa Elementary	P3		0	0		
Homosassa Elementary	01		74	70		
Homosassa Elementary	02		74	73		
Homosassa Elementary	03		67	71		
Homosassa Elementary	04		66	62		
Homosassa Elementary	05		51	50		
Homosassa Elementary Total*		412	436	396	16	96.1%
Inverness Primary School	PK		45	60		
Inverness Primary School	KG		103	101		
Inverness Primary School	P2		0	0		
Inverness Primary School	P3		0	5		
Inverness Primary School	01		103	107		
Inverness Primary School	02		112	108		
Inverness Primary School	03		106	111		
Inverness Primary School	04		114	105		
Inverness Primary School	05		100	103		
Inverness Primary Total		766	683	700	66	91.4%
Lecanto Primary School	PK		45	33		
Lecanto Primary School	KG		128	112		
Lecanto Primary School	P2		0	0		
Lecanto Primary School	P3		0	6		
Lecanto Primary School	01		128	136		
Lecanto Primary School	02		146	136		
Lecanto Primary School	03		122	129		
Lecanto Primary School	04		129	136		
Lecanto Primary School	05		127	131		
Lecanto Primary Total*		858	825	819	39	95.5%
Pleasant Grove Elementary	PK		60	40		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	KG		100	109		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	P2		0	0		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	P3		0	5		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	01		100	94		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	02		102	104		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	03		95	89		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	04		88	97		
Pleasant Grove Elementary	05		88	95		
Pleasant Grove Elementary Total		757	633	633	124	83.6%
Rock Crusher Elementary	PK		45	37		
Rock Crusher Elementary	KG		106	96		
Rock Crusher Elementary	P2		0	0		
Rock Crusher Elementary	P3		0	8		
Rock Crusher Elementary	01		106	107		
Rock Crusher Elementary	02		101	92		
Rock Crusher Elementary	03		116	116		
Rock Crusher Elementary	04		110	102		
Rock Crusher Elementary	05		91	91		
Rock Crusher Elementary Total*		699	675	649	50	92.8%
Elementary School Total		7,783	7,413	7,370	413	94.7%

**2023-2024 Enrollment Counts
as of 12/18/2023**

School Name	Grade	Florida Inventory School House (FISH) Capacity as of 8/04/23	2023-24 Projections as of 01/17/23***	Students enrolled as of 12/18/2023	Estimated Available Space (Capacity - Enrolled)	Utilization Rate (Enrolled/ Capacity)
Citrus Springs Middle	06		221	228		
Citrus Springs Middle	07		276	266		
Citrus Springs Middle	08		285	288		
Citrus Springs Middle Total*		870	782	782	88	89.9%
Crystal River Middle	06		334	291		
Crystal River Middle	07		312	316		
Crystal River Middle	08		281	298		
Crystal River Middle Total		1,226	927	905	321	73.8%
Inverness Middle	06		318	329		
Inverness Middle	07		314	318		
Inverness Middle	08		342	348		
Inverness Middle Total		1,354	974	995	359	73.5%
Lecanto Middle	06		214	255		
Lecanto Middle	07		284	286		
Lecanto Middle	08		260	264		
Lecanto Middle Total*		871	758	805	66	92.4%
Middle School Total		4,321	3,441	3,487	834	80.7%
Citrus High	09		405	368		
Citrus High	10		368	358		
Citrus High	11		409	379		
Citrus High	12		385	357		
Citrus High Total		1,756	1,567	1,462	294	83.3%
Crystal River High	P0		10	4		
Crystal River High	P1		0	2		
Crystal River High	P2		0	0		
Crystal River High	P3		0	0		
Crystal River High	KG		0	0		
Crystal River High	09		348	324		
Crystal River High	10		350	339		
Crystal River High	11		310	310		
Crystal River High	12		332	318		
Crystal River High Total (without PK)****		1,477	1,340	1,291	186	87.4%
Lecanto High	09		449	448		
Lecanto High	10		463	457		
Lecanto High	11		418	419		
Lecanto High	12		405	407		
Lecanto High Total*		1,727	1,735	1,731	-4	100.2%
High School Total (without PK)		4,960	4,642	4,484	476	90.4%
Citrus eSchool						
Citrus eSchool	KG			3		
Citrus eSchool	01			1		
Citrus eSchool	02			2		
Citrus eSchool	03			2		
Citrus eSchool	04			0		
Citrus eSchool	05			0		
Citrus eSchool	06			0		
Citrus eSchool	07			3		
Citrus eSchool	08			8		
Citrus eSchool	09			9		
Citrus eSchool	10			7		
Citrus eSchool	11			13		
Citrus eSchool	12			24		
Citrus eSchool Total				72		
Academy of Environmental Science	09			64		
Academy of Environmental Science	10			51		
Academy of Environmental Science	11			0		
Academy of Environmental Science	12			0		
Academy of Environmental Science Total**		125		115	10	92.0%

**2023-2024 Enrollment Counts
as of 12/18/2023**

School Name	Grade	Florida Inventory School House (FISH) Capacity as of 8/04/23	2023-24 Projections as of 01/17/23***	Students enrolled as of 12/18/2023	Estimated Available Space (Capacity - Enrolled)	Utilization Rate (Enrolled/ Capacity)
CREST	PK			0		
CREST	KG			1		
CREST	01			1		
CREST	02			1		
CREST	03			6		
CREST	04			5		
CREST	05			3		
CREST	06			12		
CREST	07			8		
CREST	08			14		
CREST	09			6		
CREST	10			12		
CREST	11			13		
CREST	12			26		
CREST	GD			0		
CREST Total		358		108	250	30.2%
PACE	05			0		
PACE	06			4		
PACE	07			4		
PACE	08			6		
PACE	09			9		
PACE	10			4		
PACE	11			4		
PACE	12			3		
PACE Total		125		34	91	27.2%
Renaissance/SRMI	04			0		
Renaissance/SRMI	05			0		
Renaissance/SRMI	06			4		
Renaissance/SRMI	07			6		
Renaissance/SRMI	08			23		
Renaissance/SRMI	09			13		
Renaissance/SRMI	10			8		
Renaissance/SRMI	11			17		
Renaissance/SRMI	12			1		
Renaissance/SRMI Total		272		72	200	26.5%
Withlacoochee Technical College	PK			0		
Withlacoochee Technical College	KG			0		
Withlacoochee Technical College	08			0		
Withlacoochee Technical College	09			0		
Withlacoochee Technical College	10			0		
Withlacoochee Technical College	11			27		
Withlacoochee Technical College	12			44		
Withlacoochee Technical College	30			64		
Withlacoochee Technical College	31			364		
Withlacoochee Technical College Total		678		499	179	73.6%
Alternative School Total		1,558		900	658	57.8%
District Total (PK-12) without Alternative Schools		17,064	15,496	15,341	1,723	89.9%
District Total with Alternative Schools				16,241		
Home Education Enrolled Total (as of 11/03/23)				2,223		
Prepared by Department of Planning and Growth Management. Contact 352-746-3960 for questions or clarification. FISH numbers fluctuate based on DOE inspection and classification criteria in addition to facility changes.						
Schools identified in red are considered to be at capacity because they are at 90% or above. Schools identified in yellow are considered to be at capacity for one or more grade levels.						
* Indicates school is located in high growth area **Please note that the AES is a CCSB Public sponsored Charter School. PACE and REN/SRMI are alternative schools. ***2023-24 projections do NOT include Citrus virtual program students **** CRH total without PK/Daycare program						
Students "Co-Enrolled" between the High Schools and WTC are counted within the "Enrollment" totals for each High School. They are <u>also</u> counted in the "Enrollment" total for WTC as seats taken towards capacity.						

January 19, 2024 - First Run

****Citrus eSchool students are not included in brick and mortar projections**