

### Dear Neighbor:

Test scores are going down, enrollment is declining, veteran principals are leaving, and taxes are continuing to rise. There's an uncomfortable truth that more people in our town need to know: **all is not well in Evanston's public schools.**

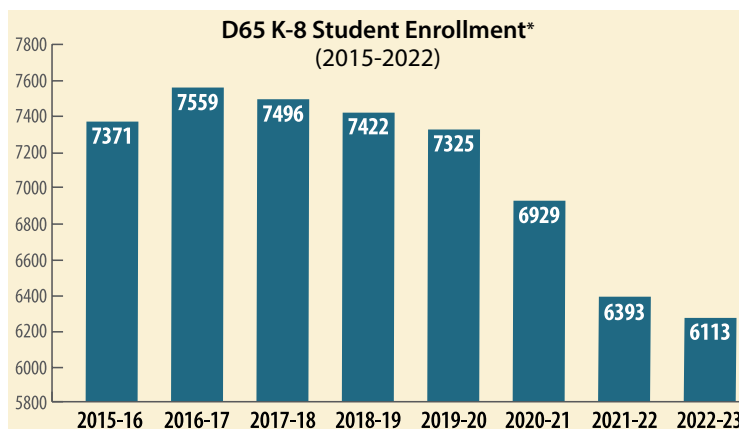
We are a diverse group of Evanstonians—parents, teachers, longtime residents, and proud D65 & ETHS alumni—who are deeply concerned about the state of our public schools.

We've created this newsletter, which aggregates data about D65 & D202 and summarizes reporting on schools from our local papers, to help more Evanstonians get a picture of what is happening.

**This issue focuses on a troubling trend: the declining enrollment in District 65 schools.**

## D65 Enrollment Continues Steep Decline

There are more empty spaces in District 65 school buildings, according to our local media. Data from D65 reported in the [Evanston Roundtable](#) shows that in the five-year period from 2016-17 to 2021-22 overall enrollment declined by 1,166 students, or 15.4%.



## What is Driving the Enrollment Decline?

### Students Who Have Transferred to Private Schools Have Not Returned.

D65's Sarita Smith, who manages student assignments, told Evanston Now that many students who left D65 for private and parochial schools, which returned to in-person learning while D65 was remote, have not returned to D65.

**Concerns about Haven.** The steepest declines in enrollment were at Kingsley, Orrington, Willard, and Lincolnwood. All four north Evanston elementary schools are feeder schools for Haven Middle School, leading to speculation that last year's turbulence at Haven Middle School may have driven some families to leave the district.

**Population Change in Evanston.** D65's Smith attributed the enrollment decline to several factors, including young couples "having fewer children," and higher housing costs driving younger families away from Evanston, according to Evanston Now.

### D65 Student Enrollment for the last four years\* (Excluding Park and Rice)

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Chute	648	628	569	544
Haven	845	836	770	683
Nichols	756	728	681	654
Dawes	360	333	313	314
Dewey	461	420	370	349
Kingsley	383	355	334	324
Lincoln	519	456	409	415
Lincolnwood	374	357	321	310
Oakton	387	380	367	373
Orrington	382	332	282	257
Walker	372	372	372	378
Washington	532	518	482	458
Willard	494	450	404	372
Bessie	*	*	*	*
Rhodes	277	266	280	278
King Arts	575	498	439	404

Thank you to the many people who have already signed up online to receive this newsletter.

If you haven't yet signed up, please go to [www.evanston-schools-update.org](http://www.evanston-schools-update.org).  
And feel free to share this issue or the previous one.

Scan Code  
to access online  
Schools Update



\* <https://evanstonroundtable.com/2022/10/10/k-8-student-enrollment-at-district-65-declines-by-280-students/>