

Schools' enrollment may drop slightly

Growth is expected to return in long run

BY SARA CUNNINGHAM • SCUNNINGHAM@COURIER-JOURNAL.COM • DECEMBER 22, 2010

For the first time in 15 years, Oldham County Schools could see a slight decrease in student enrollment next school year, according to district projections.

This district expects to have about 16 fewer students for the 2011-12 school year, after three years of slow growth, said Michael Williams, the director of pupil personnel.

Williams shared the projections with school board members Dec. 13.

The district has a little more than 12,000 students.

“It's not surprising really, to see that,” Superintendent Paul Upchurch said of the projected decrease. “With the economy the way that it is, people have not been as mobile as they were before.”

Upchurch also said the district looks at enrollment projections with caution.

“A projection is just a projection and we fully expect to see more normal growth down the road,” he said, noting that the 10-year projection shows the district growing by about 1,000 students.

Williams said the district only grew by 37 students three years ago, 86 students last year and by one student this year, but the last time the district lost students was in the 1994-95 school year.

For several years, Oldham schools had to juggle hundreds of new students each year including the 2005-06 school year when the district grew by 548 students.

“I would expect us to be back to more normal growth soon, but hopefully it will fall in between the two extremes,” Williams said.

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