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# KENOSHA UNIFIED



Why Rightsizing is Needed  
Student Enrollment Trends  
Budget Implications  
Common Questions  
The Process

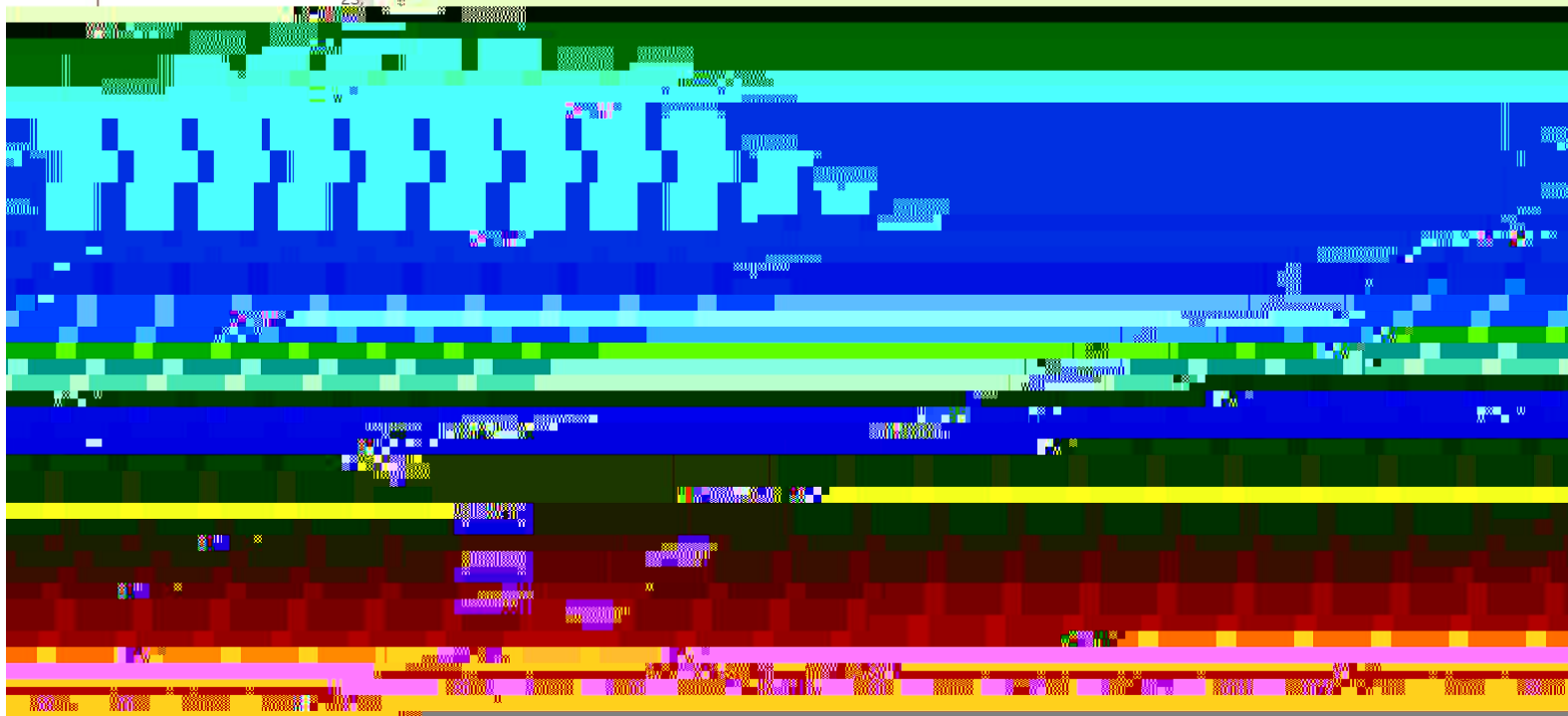




DISTRICT

23500

23,158





Prior to Wilson Elementary closing this year, the last school closure was McKinley Middle School in 2012.

From 2013 to 2023, there are nearly 3,800 fewer students in KUSD, a decrease of 17% this past decade.

The KUSD boundary birth rate is the main contributing factor, which is a national trend.



Declining enrollment causes inefficient use of our school's

Boundary elementary schools (average): 64.5%

Boundary middle schools (average): 64.2%

Boundary high schools (average): 78.3%

These boundary groupings are projected to decline for at least the next several years.



WI districts are generally financed on the three year average number of students

KUSD receives ~\$11,000 per student

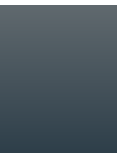
Fewer students = Less money

Nearly 80% of KUSD's budget is staffing-related

Quality of services diminish as they are spread over more schools with less funding to support them









*“Can’t we use the fund balance to cover costs?”*

The timing of when tax payments and state aids are received causes great fluctuations in cash flow

Fund balance is used to avoid short-term borrowing when there is a long gap between payments

Without sufficient fund balance, districts must short-term borrow to meet payroll (very high interest rates now)

Interest payments are paid out of the general fund

Using fund balance for ongoing costs is very poor fiscal practice that rapidly creates a structural deficit and hurts your credit rating which will also make borrowing costs go up



*“Can’t we just pass a referendum?”*


This is strictly a Board decision/public vote

Before any recommendation, we must show the community we are good custodians of public funds

State law restricts the number of times districts can go to referendum and state law punishes districts if they fail to pass an operating referendum

The consequence is enormous





Davis Demographics - MGT was hired in May to provide a comprehensive demographic study, which includes student forecasting, boundary planning, and contributing additional skills and knowledge beyond the district's capabilities that will assist in developing research-based strategies to help rightsize the district for the 2024-25 school year and beyond

A Rightsizing Advisory Committee was formed to aid in developing parameters for use during the rightsizing process

[kUSD.edu/rightsizing](https://kUSD.edu/rightsizing) provides resources and links related to this project





# Community Input Sessions

- Oct. 17  
3 p.m. at Harvey
- Oct. 17  
5:30 p.m. at ITHSA
- Oct. 18,  
4 p.m. at Tremper
- Oct. 18  
6:30 p.m. at Reuther  
Bilingual session





Presentations and surveys for staff, families and community in October

Board to review feedback from various groups and scenarios from Davis Demographics - MGT

Goal = Right Sizing Plan approval at the December 12 regular board meeting, implementation plans to follow



