

Essex High School Size Committee Charge

The Essex High School District student population is projected to decrease 11 percent in the next five years and over 15 percent over the next 10 years. Current projections of EHS student population decrease similarly. Per pupil costs will rise proportionately (or in inverse proportion?), as will the taxpayers' burden.

As the Union #46 School Board is charged with ensuring delivery of quality education to its district students, it must consider the impact of this demographic reality. The goal of this study is to determine what, if anything the board should do to ensure delivery of a high school education to Member District students that is comparable or superior to that which is currently provided.

The study should include:

- An assessment of the increased cost per pupil should demographic trends and education costs continue as projected (problem statement)
- A recommendation of the optimal student population ("school size") at EHS and a recommendation on how to achieve that size, with specific attention to the tuitioning population.

This will lead to a proposal for action to maintain current educational quality with minimal impact on the taxpayer (with an estimate of that impact). This recommendation should take into consideration possible future trends for the Center for Technology, Essex.

The committee make-up will include: two board members, the Superintendent (or designee), principal (or designee), and citizens.