

## **Birmingham numbers up, Bloomfield Hills numbers down by minimal amounts – Chris Jackett - Eagle**

Birmingham numbers up, Bloomfield Hills numbers down by minimal amounts

**By Chris Jackett  
C & G Staff Writer**

Although official tallies won't be released for several weeks, the annual Student Count Day showed some minor changes in both Bloomfield Hills Schools and Birmingham Public Schools.

BHS Student Services Manager JoAnne Messina said the district had roughly 4,915 resident students Oct. 5, which should amount to roughly 5,500 students when special education, employees' children and tuition-based students are added in.

The resident student number is down about 30 from last fall, while total enrollment is expecting a final number of about 50 fewer. The district was expecting a decrease of 79.

"I expect that we have beaten our projection," Messina said. "My expectation is that we will be about the same as we were last year."

The fall student count is used to figure out a district's number of full-time equivalent students, which determines 90 percent of the funding received via the state's foundation allowance. The remaining 10 percent is determined by the previous winter, which had a head count of 4,978 students for a total enrollment of 5,581 Feb. 9.

"We've had some who just moved into the district or tried private school and didn't like it," Messina said. "Count Day is huge for us. The actual Count Day is far less of an issue for us than all that comes after. Based on all the projections, I think we would be a no-change district."

The BHS district received \$12,324 per student in 2009, 2010 and 2011, but a new state-mandated initiative recently cut that amount by \$470 per student.

In the BPS district, the state foundation allowance took the same \$470 hit per student from its \$12,244 per student foundation allowance, about \$100 per student of which could be recovered for "best practices" districts.

The Oct. 5 Student Count Day revealed unofficial total enrollment numbers increased from 8,263 students in 2010 to 8,298 students last week. High school total enrollment increased from 2,666 to 2,691, and middle school total enrollment increased from 1,880 to 1,922, but elementary school total enrollment decreased from 3,717 to 3,685.

The overall 8,298 total enrollment figure will combine with a count of 8,280 students from Feb. 9 to determine the BPS' final FTE figures for the state.

"We felt like we were going to maintain our current enrollment or even go up a little," said Marcia Wilkinson, BPS director of community relations. "We have noticed more people are moving into the district."

Messina said the trend within the BHS district was more toward growth in the middle school ages.

"Our kindergarten student (number) is typically much lower than our (recently graduated) seniors," Messina said. "Our high school number is really right about where we expected it to be with our projection. The increase has been more about at the middle elementary level, fifth- and sixth-grade."

Districts will have 30 days to track students who had an excused absence Oct. 5. If those students are in class throughout that 30-day period, they can be added to the district's final tally, which is then due to the state next month.

"Districts have to look at everyone who was absent yesterday," Messina said. "Our data will be due to the state sometime in the week of Nov. 6."

You can reach C & G Staff Writer Chris Jackett at [cjackett@candgnews.com](mailto:cjackett@candgnews.com) or at (586)279-1110.