

NOSD enrollment takes a dip

Written by Mark Jaeger

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Decreases in students noted in school buildings, on-line charter program

Final numbers are still pending, but Supt. Bill Harbron told the Northern Ozaukee School Board last week that student enrollment has dropped in the district's brick-and-mortar and virtual programs.

According to the preliminary enrollment count, the district's three school buildings now have 760 students.

Last year, that total enrollment was 803.

The breakdown this year includes 314 students at Ozaukee Elementary School, 204 students at Ozaukee Middle School and 242 at Ozaukee High School.

A year ago, that count came to 317 at the elementary school, 232 at the middle school and 254 at the high school.

The largest class in the district is the first grade, with 69 students. Harbron told board members that is the largest class the district has seen in several years.

He said the district's on-line charter school, Wisconsin Virtual Learning, is expected to have an even greater enrollment decline. The decrease is blamed on the growing number of virtual schools now available to state students.

WVL officials anticipate a final enrollment of 761 students, compared 880 at the start of school last year. By the end of the last school year, that count had dropped to 830 students.

The 2010-11 count includes 299 students new to the program and 462 returning students. Only eight students living in the Northern Ozaukee School District are enrolled in the virtual program.

All of the other students in the on-line program are considered open enrolled into the district.

The report shows 54 students living outside the district used the open enrollment process to enroll at Northern Ozaukee schools.

The district also lost 140 resident students through that same process, compared to 118 last year.

However, Harbron said the majority of those students never attended district schools. Typically, he said, they moved into the district and wanted to attend school in their former community or previously attended private schools.

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