

## Where have all the children gone?

### Connecticut's Public School Enrollment Projected to Shrink by 90,000

Between the 2006/7 and 2007/8 school years, Connecticut's public school population dropped approximately **3,886** for grades 1 to 12. A review of preliminary public school enrollment figures by the Connecticut State Data Center (CtSDC) indicates that the 2007/8 school year marked the beginning of a **long-term decline** in the school-age population.

Orlando Rodriguez, Demographer and Manager of CtSDC, states:

*"We have been expecting this downward enrollment trend to begin. The leading edge of Baby Boomers are approaching retirement and the trailing edge of their children have aged beyond K to 12 schooling."*

In Connecticut, the public school population, grades 1 to 12, peaked at approximately 523,100 in the 2003/4 and 2004/5 school years. This population dropped to approximately 516,400 in the just completed 2007/8 school year. CtSDC projects that this population will continue to decline, reaching a low of approximately 432,300 in 2020. This is a loss of approximately **90,800**, or 17%, from the highs of 2003/4 and 2004/5.

Low fertility rates are the root cause of this decline. The Boomer generation, now approaching retirement, had fewer children than their parents. Thus the size of the "Echo Boom" generation, the children of Boomers, is smaller than that of the Boomers. In effect, Boomers did not replace their own generation. Looking forward, Echo Boomers are expected to have lower fertility rates than their parents thereby exacerbating the projected decline. Each progressive generation is **failing to replace itself**.

It is unlikely that the enrollment peaks of 2003/4 and 2004/5 will return. Connecticut has some of the lowest fertility rates, across all ethnic groups, in the country. Foreign in-migration is too low to offset a long-persistent pattern of domestic out-migration. Indeed, Connecticut's population is skirting negative growth with only foreign in-migrants keeping the population numbers afloat.

Between the 2006/7 and 2007/8 school years, 66% (128 out of 193) of public school districts had no growth or experienced falling enrollment in grades 1 to 12. The Fairfield School District had the largest growth in population, adding 369 students – an increase of 4.3%. The five school districts with the largest declines were all in urban areas – Bridgeport, New Haven, West Haven, East Hartford, and New Britain. Bridgeport saw the largest decline, losing 568 students – a decrease of 3%.

The decline in enrollment in these urban school districts is **puzzling**. Current population projections anticipate that these urban areas would experience population growth. However, a drop in public school enrollment in these urban school districts does not necessarily correspond to a drop in population in the associated towns. The enrollment drop in these school districts may be the result of a combination of factors: parents opting for magnet schools, charter schools, or private education; more young families leaving urban areas (possibly undocumented populations); or an increasing number of dropouts.

Few public school districts in Connecticut will experience increasing enrollment, and thus few will need expanded facilities. A June 17th report completed by the State's Auditors of Public Accounts ([http://cga.ct.gov/apa/pdf2008/DOE\\_70010\\_06.pdf](http://cga.ct.gov/apa/pdf2008/DOE_70010_06.pdf)) reveals a systematic **overstatement** in enrollment projections being used to justify the construction of new school facilities. While a few districts will see growth, on current trends, most will see a contraction.

Overstatements in forecasted enrollments may be the result of districts relying on an **inappropriate methodology** (cohort-survival) for calculating long-term projections. While useful for projecting short-term staffing needs, this methodology relies on recent short-term trends which are poor predictors of long-term growth. The towns of Rocky Hill and Newtown have recently considered enrollment projections in deciding whether to expand existing school facilities.

CtSDC has produced a **chart** that graphs enrollment from 2000 to 2030. Statewide summary **statistics**, detailed enrollment change for each public school district, and **maps** depicting enrollment change for town school districts and regional school districts are available.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

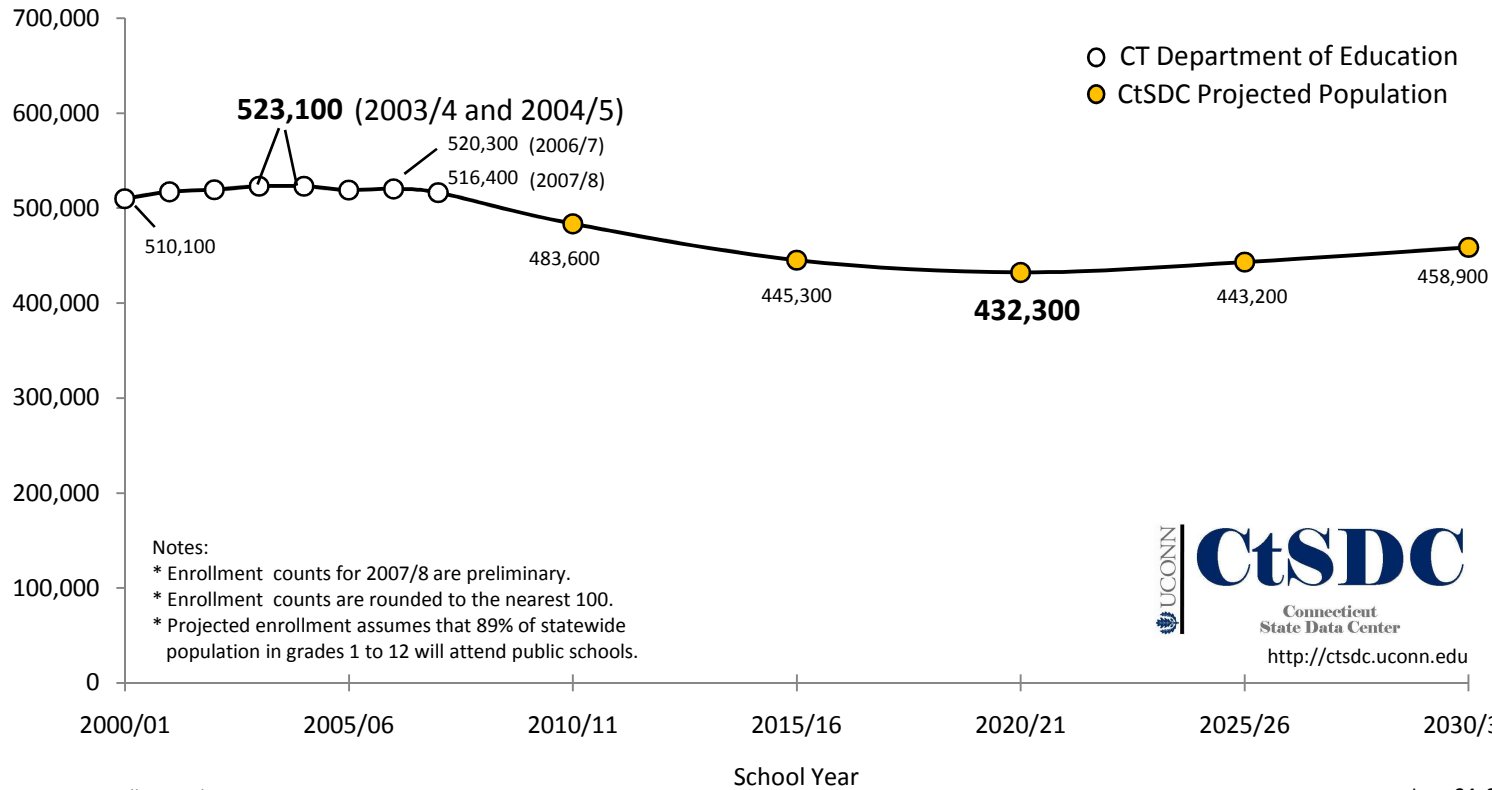
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or

**Fred Carstensen Ph.D.**, UConn Professor of Economics: (860) 243-8485

The Connecticut State Data Center is the State's liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau and is responsible for the official Connecticut population projections. For comprehensive population information on the State, its counties, and its municipalities, as well as demographic studies and special reports, please visit the website - <http://ctsdc.uconn.edu> - of the Connecticut State Data Center located at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

## Connecticut Public School Enrollment Grades 1 to 12 2000 to 2030



# Change in Connecticut Public School Enrollment

## Districts 2006/7 to 2007/8

District Number	Town School District	District Name <sup>1</sup>	Public School Enrollment Grades 1 to 12			
			2006/7 <sup>3</sup>	2007/8 <sup>2,3</sup>	Count Change 2006/7 to 2007/8	Percent Change 2006/7 to 2007/8
Statewide Total <sup>4</sup> :			520,306	516,420	-3,886	-0.7%

279		Amistad Academy District	315	461	146	46.3%
1	Andover	Andover School District	292	272	-20	-6.8%
2	Ansonia	Ansonia School District	2,392	2,425	33	1.4%
244		Area Cooperative Educational Services	1,985	1,994	9	0.5%
3	Ashford	Ashford School District	451	424	-27	-6.0%
4	Avon	Avon School District	3,228	3,330	102	3.2%
5	Barkhamsted	Barkhamsted School District	284	294	10	3.5%
7	Berlin	Berlin School District	3,013	3,028	15	0.5%
8	Bethany	Bethany School District	467	474	7	1.5%
9	Bethel	Bethel School District	2,959	2,890	-69	-2.3%
11	Bloomfield	Bloomfield School District	2,045	2,067	22	1.1%
12	Bolton	Bolton School District	855	830	-25	-2.9%
13	Bozrah	Bozrah School District	234	228	-6	-2.6%
14	Branford	Branford School District	3,295	3,204	-91	-2.8%
15	Bridgeport	Bridgeport School District	18,927	18,359	-568	-3.0%
17	Bristol	Bristol School District	8,139	8,098	-41	-0.5%
18	Brookfield	Brookfield School District	2,816	2,779	-37	-1.3%
19	Brooklyn	Brooklyn School District	794	780	-14	-1.8%
21	Canaan	Canaan School District	92	91	-1	-1.1%
22	Canterbury	Canterbury School District	470	480	10	2.1%
23	Canton	Canton School District	1,581	1,572	-9	-0.6%
241		Capitol Region Education Council	2,375	2,473	98	4.1%
24	Chaplin	Chaplin School District	163	157	-6	-3.7%
25	Cheshire	Cheshire School District	4,764	4,728	-36	-0.8%
26	Chester	Chester School District	292	296	4	1.4%
27	Clinton	Clinton School District	1,918	1,891	-27	-1.4%
28	Colchester	Colchester School District	2,938	2,936	-2	-0.1%
29	Colebrook	Colebrook School District	107	108	1	0.9%
30	Columbia	Columbia School District	553	513	-40	-7.2%
268		Common Ground High School	145	153	8	5.5%
900		Connecticut Technical High School System	10,012	9,971	-41	-0.4%
243		Cooperative Educational Services	519	533	14	2.7%
31	Cornwall	Cornwall School District	115	114	-1	-0.9%
32	Coventry	Coventry School District	1,913	1,846	-67	-3.5%
33	Cromwell	Cromwell School District	1,830	1,823	-7	-0.4%
34	Danbury	Danbury School District	8,768	8,858	90	1.0%
35	Darien	Darien School District	4,171	4,203	32	0.8%
36	Deep River	Deep River School District	302	306	4	1.3%
37	Derby	Derby School District	1,331	1,336	5	0.4%
40	East Granby	East Granby School District	839	840	1	0.1%
41	East Haddam	East Haddam School District	1,295	1,290	-5	-0.4%
42	East Hampton	East Hampton School District	1,896	1,877	-19	-1.0%
43	East Hartford	East Hartford School District	6,931	6,624	-307	-4.4%
44	East Haven	East Haven School District	3,404	3,317	-87	-2.6%
45	East Lyme	East Lyme School District	2,980	3,003	23	0.8%
47	East Windsor	East Windsor School District	1,356	1,303	-53	-3.9%
253		Eastern Connecticut Regional Educational Service C Public Schools	49	64	15	30.6%

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39	Eastford	Eastford School District	153	158	5	3.3%
46	Easton	Easton School District	998	1,015	17	1.7%
242	Education Connection	Education Connection	26	23	-3	-11.5%
48	Ellington	Ellington School District	2,307	2,373	66	2.9%
281	Elm City College	Elm City College	313	421	108	34.5%
49	Enfield	Enfield School District	5,874	5,764	-110	-1.9%
50	Essex	Essex School District	481	472	-9	-1.9%
272	Explorations	Explorations	83	86	3	3.6%
51	Fairfield	Fairfield School District	8,530	8,899	369	4.3%
52	Farmington	Farmington School District	3,959	3,884	-75	-1.9%
53	Franklin	Franklin School District	191	187	-4	-2.1%
54	Glastonbury	Glastonbury School District	6,221	6,285	64	1.0%
56	Granby	Granby School District	2,106	2,170	64	3.0%
57	Greenwich	Greenwich School District	8,116	8,113	-3	0.0%
58	Griswold	Griswold School District	1,972	1,909	-63	-3.2%
59	Groton	Groton School District	4,533	4,503	-30	-0.7%
60	Guilford	Guilford School District	3,478	3,486	8	0.2%
62	Hamden	Hamden School District	5,758	5,688	-70	-1.2%
63	Hampton	Hampton School District	132	124	-8	-6.1%
64	Hartford	Hartford School District	19,625	19,660	35	0.2%
65	Hartland	Hartland School District	195	194	-1	-0.5%
67	Hebron	Hebron School District	1,018	1,025	7	0.7%
286	Highville Mustard Seed Charter School District	Highville Mustard Seed Charter School District	174	156	-18	-10.3%
264	Integrated Day Charter School District	Integrated Day Charter School District	263	263	0	0.0%
265	Interdistrict School for Arts and Communications District	Interdistrict School for Arts and Communications District	181	181	0	0.0%
261	Jumoke Academy District	Jumoke Academy District	280	302	22	7.9%
68	Kent	Kent School District	226	222	-4	-1.8%
69	Killingly	Killingly School District	2,479	2,453	-26	-1.0%
245	Learn	Learn	464	469	5	1.1%
71	Lebanon	Lebanon School District	1,412	1,394	-18	-1.3%
72	Ledyard	Ledyard School District	2,711	2,666	-45	-1.7%
73	Lisbon	Lisbon School District	496	478	-18	-3.6%
74	Litchfield	Litchfield School District	1,165	1,121	-44	-3.8%
76	Madison	Madison School District	3,629	3,564	-65	-1.8%
77	Manchester	Manchester School District	6,303	6,129	-174	-2.8%
78	Mansfield	Mansfield School District	1,139	1,107	-32	-2.8%
79	Marlborough	Marlborough School District	537	552	15	2.8%
80	Meriden	Meriden School District	7,883	7,851	-32	-0.4%
83	Middletown	Middletown School District	4,506	4,495	-11	-0.2%
84	Milford	Milford School District	6,759	6,678	-81	-1.2%
85	Monroe	Monroe School District	4,051	3,934	-117	-2.9%
86	Montville	Montville School District	2,689	2,615	-74	-2.8%
88	Naugatuck	Naugatuck School District	4,579	4,450	-129	-2.8%
280	New Beginnings Inc., Family Academy	New Beginnings Inc., Family Academy	259	321	62	23.9%
89	New Britain	New Britain School District	9,765	9,525	-240	-2.5%
90	New Canaan	New Canaan School District	3,795	3,762	-33	-0.9%
91	New Fairfield	New Fairfield School District	2,808	2,786	-22	-0.8%

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92	New Hartford	New Hartford School District	518	512	-6	-1.2%
93	New Haven	New Haven School District	17,151	16,737	-414	-2.4%
95	New London	New London School District	2,708	2,665	-43	-1.6%
96	New Milford	New Milford School District	4,641	4,557	-84	-1.8%
94	Newington	Newington School District	4,220	4,172	-48	-1.1%
97	Newtown	Newtown School District	5,248	5,217	-31	-0.6%
98	Norfolk	Norfolk School District	131	141	10	7.6%
99	North Branford	North Branford School District	2,273	2,259	-14	-0.6%
100	North Canaan	North Canaan School District	313	308	-5	-1.6%
101	North Haven	North Haven School District	3,614	3,536	-78	-2.2%
102	North Stonington	North Stonington School District	743	734	-9	-1.2%
103	Norwalk	Norwalk School District	9,737	9,580	-157	-1.6%
901	Norwich Free Academy	Norwich Free Academy	2,489	2,450	-39	-1.6%
104	Norwich	Norwich School District	3,346	3,369	23	0.7%
263	Odyssey Community School District	Odyssey Community School District	174	177	3	1.7%
106	Old Saybrook	Old Saybrook School District	1,444	1,460	16	1.1%
107	Orange	Orange School District	1,201	1,174	-27	-2.2%
108	Oxford	Oxford School District	1,369	1,654	285	20.8%
283	Park City Prep	Park City Prep	171	206	35	20.5%
109	Plainfield	Plainfield School District	2,512	2,494	-18	-0.7%
110	Plainville	Plainville School District	2,435	2,397	-38	-1.6%
111	Plymouth	Plymouth School District	1,707	1,707	0	0.0%
112	Pomfret	Pomfret School District	452	445	-7	-1.5%
113	Portland	Portland School District	1,320	1,297	-23	-1.7%
114	Preston	Preston School District	425	423	-2	-0.5%
116	Putnam	Putnam School District	1,148	1,146	-2	-0.2%
117	Redding	Redding School District	1,091	1,132	41	3.8%
201	Regional School District 01	Regional School District 01	562	560	-2	-0.4%
204	Regional School District 04	Regional School District 04	946	953	7	0.7%
205	Regional School District 05	Regional School District 05	2,509	2,467	-42	-1.7%
206	Regional School District 06	Regional School District 06	1,015	1,031	16	1.6%
207	Regional School District 07	Regional School District 07	1,164	1,150	-14	-1.2%
208	Regional School District 08	Regional School District 08	1,645	1,663	18	1.1%
209	Regional School District 09	Regional School District 09	962	962	0	0.0%
210	Regional School District 10	Regional School District 10	2,569	2,616	47	1.8%
211	Regional School District 11	Regional School District 11	327	291	-36	-11.0%
212	Regional School District 12	Regional School District 12	995	980	-15	-1.5%
213	Regional School District 13	Regional School District 13	1,980	1,977	-3	-0.2%
214	Regional School District 14	Regional School District 14	2,124	2,074	-50	-2.4%
215	Regional School District 15	Regional School District 15	4,196	4,190	-6	-0.1%
216	Regional School District 16	Regional School District 16	2,426	2,386	-40	-1.6%
217	Regional School District 17	Regional School District 17	2,288	2,306	18	0.8%
218	Regional School District 18	Regional School District 18	1,383	1,376	-7	-0.5%
219	Regional School District 19	Regional School District 19	1,201	1,184	-17	-1.4%
118	Ridgefield	Ridgefield School District	5,166	5,118	-48	-0.9%
119	Rocky Hill	Rocky Hill School District	2,343	2,367	24	1.0%
121	Salem	Salem School District	467	455	-12	-2.6%

# Change in Connecticut Public School Enrollment

## Districts 2006/7 to 2007/8

District Number	Town School District	District Name <sup>1</sup>	Public School Enrollment Grades 1 to 12			
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Statewide Total <sup>4</sup> :			520,306	516,420	-3,886	-0.7%

122	Salisbury	Salisbury School District	275	257	-18	-6.5%
123	Scotland	Scotland School District	152	155	3	2.0%
124	Seymour	Seymour School District	2,506	2,399	-107	-4.3%
125	Sharon	Sharon School District	195	191	-4	-2.1%
126	Shelton	Shelton School District	5,240	5,191	-49	-0.9%
127	Sherman	Sherman School District	412	405	-7	-1.7%
270	Side By Side Community School District	Side By Side Community School District	178	171	-7	-3.9%
128	Simsbury	Simsbury School District	4,651	4,622	-29	-0.6%
129	Somers	Somers School District	1,602	1,603	1	0.1%
132	South Windsor	South Windsor School District	4,679	4,570	-109	-2.3%
131	Southington	Southington School District	6,359	6,286	-73	-1.1%
133	Sprague	Sprague School District	273	280	7	2.6%
134	Stafford	Stafford School District	1,679	1,645	-34	-2.0%
282	Stamford Academy	Stamford Academy	123	132	9	7.3%
135	Stamford	Stamford School District	13,676	13,577	-99	-0.7%
136	Sterling	Sterling School District	405	413	8	2.0%
137	Stonington	Stonington School District	2,354	2,312	-42	-1.8%
138	Stratford	Stratford School District	6,758	6,760	2	0.0%
139	Suffield	Suffield School District	2,400	2,423	23	1.0%
269	The Bridge Academy	The Bridge Academy	251	260	9	3.6%
902	The Gilbert School	The Gilbert School	466	408	-58	-12.4%
140	Thomaston	Thomaston School District	1,164	1,158	-6	-0.5%
141	Thompson	Thompson School District	1,346	1,341	-5	-0.4%
142	Tolland	Tolland School District	2,882	2,845	-37	-1.3%
143	Torrington	Torrington School District	4,480	4,386	-94	-2.1%
278	Trailblazers Academy District	Trailblazers Academy District	150	150	0	0.0%
144	Trumbull	Trumbull School District	6,247	6,269	22	0.4%
336	Unified School District #1	Unified School District #1	917	1,080	163	17.8%
347	Unified School District #2	Unified School District #2	246	224	-22	-8.9%
145	Union	Union School District	60	61	1	1.7%
146	Vernon	Vernon School District	3,486	3,365	-121	-3.5%
147	Voluntown	Voluntown School District	254	249	-5	-2.0%
148	Wallingford	Wallingford School District	6,387	6,259	-128	-2.0%
151	Waterbury	Waterbury School District	16,080	16,039	-41	-0.3%
152	Waterford	Waterford School District	2,870	2,815	-55	-1.9%
153	Watertown	Watertown School District	3,191	3,099	-92	-2.9%
155	West Hartford	West Hartford School District	9,144	9,091	-53	-0.6%
156	West Haven	West Haven School District	6,187	5,826	-361	-5.8%
154	Westbrook	Westbrook School District	915	909	-6	-0.7%
157	Weston	Weston School District	2,360	2,377	17	0.7%
158	Westport	Westport School District	5,131	5,246	115	2.2%
159	Wethersfield	Wethersfield School District	3,503	3,501	-2	-0.1%
160	Willington	Willington School District	526	523	-3	-0.6%
161	Wilton	Wilton School District	4,005	4,005	0	0.0%
162	Winchester	Winchester School District	919	927	8	0.9%
163	Windham	Windham School District	3,107	3,097	-10	-0.3%
165	Windsor Locks	Windsor Locks School District	1,757	1,677	-80	-4.6%

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164	Windsor	Windsor School District	3,880	3,832	-48	-1.2%
166	Wolcott	Wolcott School District	2,675	2,651	-24	-0.9%
167	Woodbridge	Woodbridge School District	674	675	1	0.1%
903	.....	Woodstock Academy	1,146	1,153	7	0.6%
169	Woodstock	Woodstock School District	858	823	-35	-4.1%

Notes

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- 1: Only districts with enrollments in both academic years are reported in detail.
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# Connecticut Public School Enrollment

Statewide 2006/7 to 2007/8

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## Top Five Increases in Enrollment - by Count

51	Fairfield School District	8,530	8,899	369	4.3%
108	Oxford School District	1,369	1,654	285	20.8%
336	Unified School District #1	917	1,080	163	17.8%
279	Amistad Academy District	315	461	146	46.3%
158	Westport School District	5,131	5,246	115	2.2%

## Top Five Decreases in Enrollment - by Count

15	Bridgeport School District	18,927	18,359	-568	-3.0%
93	New Haven School District	17,151	16,737	-414	-2.4%
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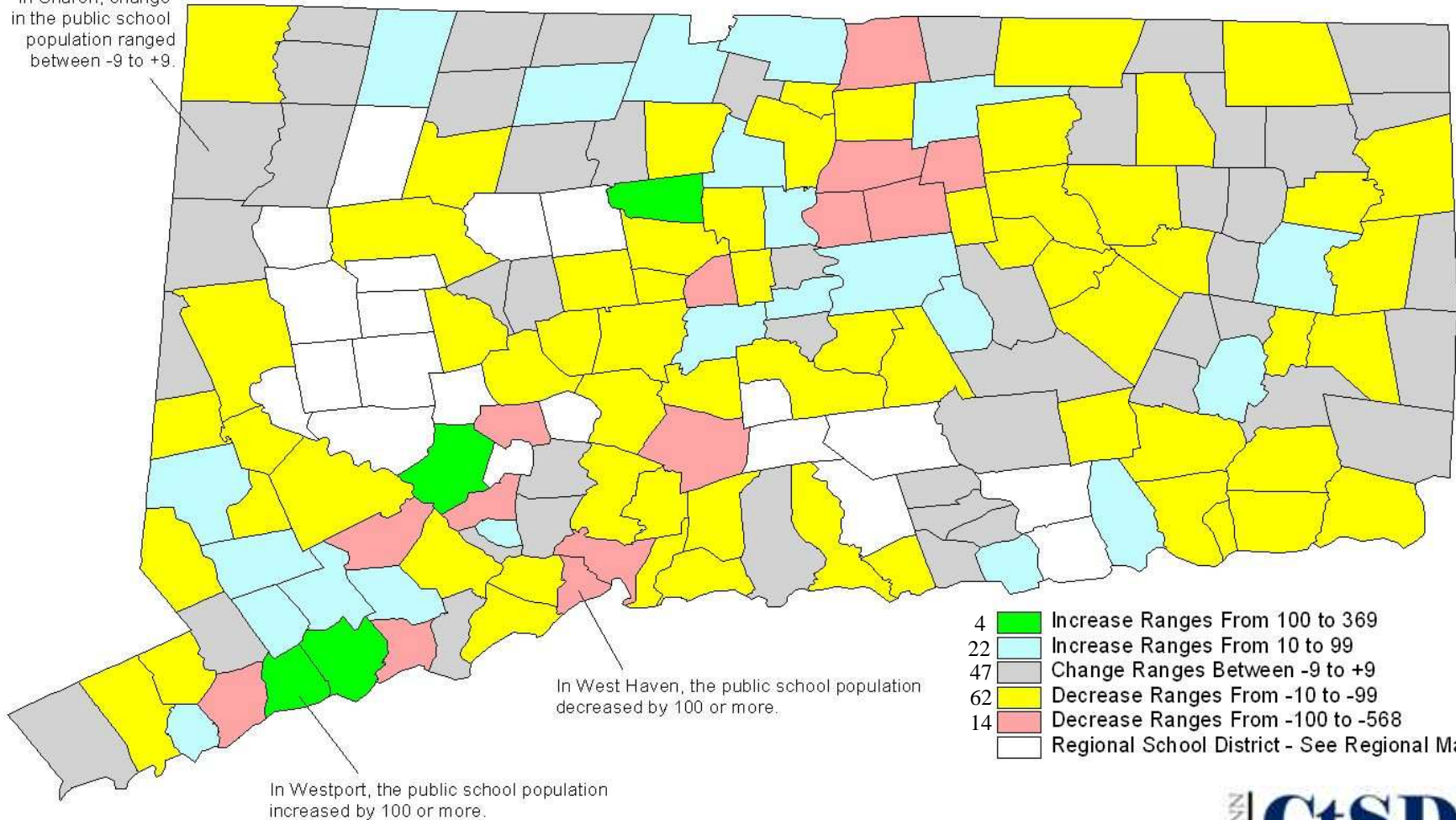
# Connecticut Public School Enrollment in Grades 1 to 12

## Change in Population from 2006 to 2007 School Year

### Town School Districts

Note: Some towns have schools with less than 12 grades.

In Sharon, change in the public school population ranged between -9 to +9.



# Connecticut Public School Enrollment in Grades 1 to 12

## Change in Population from 2006/7 to 2007/8 School Year

Regional School Districts

Note: Some regions have schools with less than 12 grades.

