

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment Study Annual Update

August 2026





ENROLLMENT STUDY

Annual Update Methodology

A wide array of data, from multiple sources, was used to highlight and identify trends that assist school districts in making data-based decisions: including teaching allotments, building utilization, SPLOST initiatives, and attendance zone boundary creation and modification.

Cohort-Based Growth Forecasting

Growth forecasts are developed using a cohort-based approach, identifying enrollment trends in conjunction with census data and residential and commercial development patterns across Cobb County.

GIS-Enabled Spatial Analysis

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) align multiple growth components — including land purchases, zoning applications, new residential permits, and national parcel data — to yield a precise picture of future facility needs.

Multiple Data Sources

Major sources include the U.S. Census Bureau, Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Georgia DOE, Georgia Department of Health, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), and local governments.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Enrollment Study Annual Update identifies Trends and Indicators that are likely to affect future student enrollment. Data is used to determine facility adjustments that may be needed to accommodate student enrollment either by attendance boundary modification, additional classrooms and/or modernization of existing schools, and to also identify when and where new schools are needed.

Evaluation of live birth rates prepare the school district for incoming Kindergarten classes and student mobility. Housing and parcel data are studied continuously to monitor single-family and multi-family developments as they are planned.

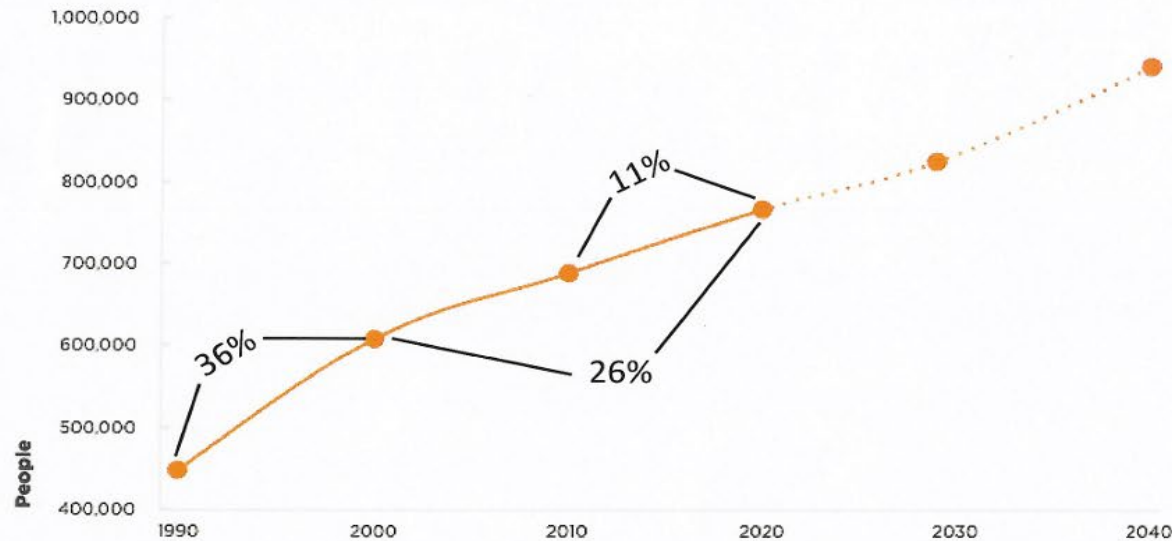
This enrollment study continues with the previous 5-year and 10-year projections and will make adjustments accordingly as population estimates are adjusted at the state and national level.

This annual process to continuously study all Trends and Indicators allows the district to make data-driven decisions and to be fiscally responsible with SPLOST projects.



Cobb County, GA

Total population over time can demonstrate how a community is growing, changing, and projected to change. Based on the trend data from the past 30 years, Cobb County's population is expected to continue to grow... just at a slower rate.



Source: US Census ACS 2024 1-Year Estimates



787,538

Total Population

Cobb County

According to the most recent Census data release, Cobb grew by 6,300 people, a percent change of +0.81%, primarily driven by immigration. In the decade between 2014 and 2024, Cobb County's population grew by 8.2%

Student Yield Factor: Live Births

Kindergarten Pipeline

Children typically enter kindergarten 5–6 years after birth, making birth data the district's most reliable leading indicator for K–2 enrollment planning.

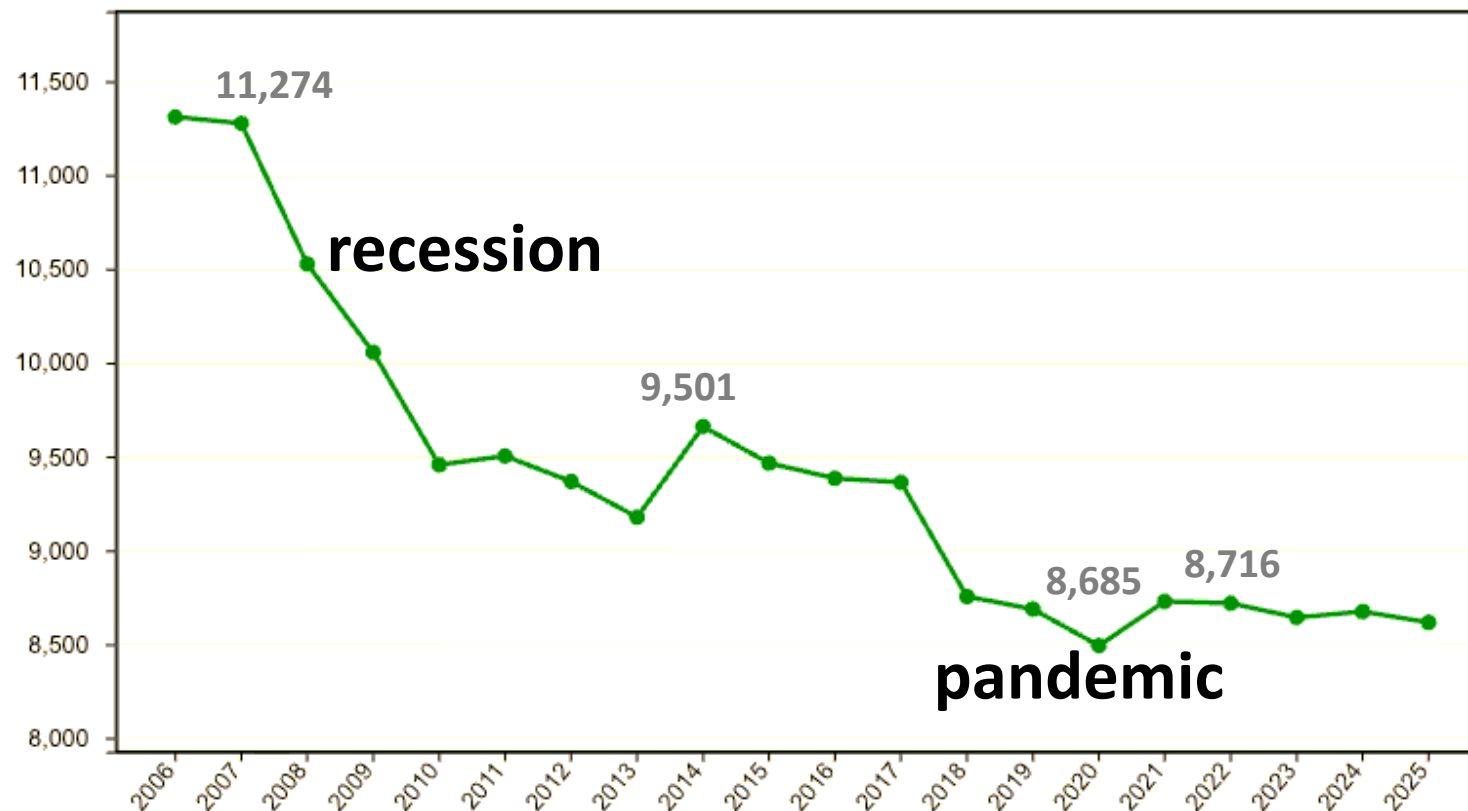
Post-2020 Recovery

Live births dipped in 2020 during the pandemic but rebounded by 2022, projecting a modest uptick in kindergarten cohorts entering schools 2027–2028.

Long-Term Stability

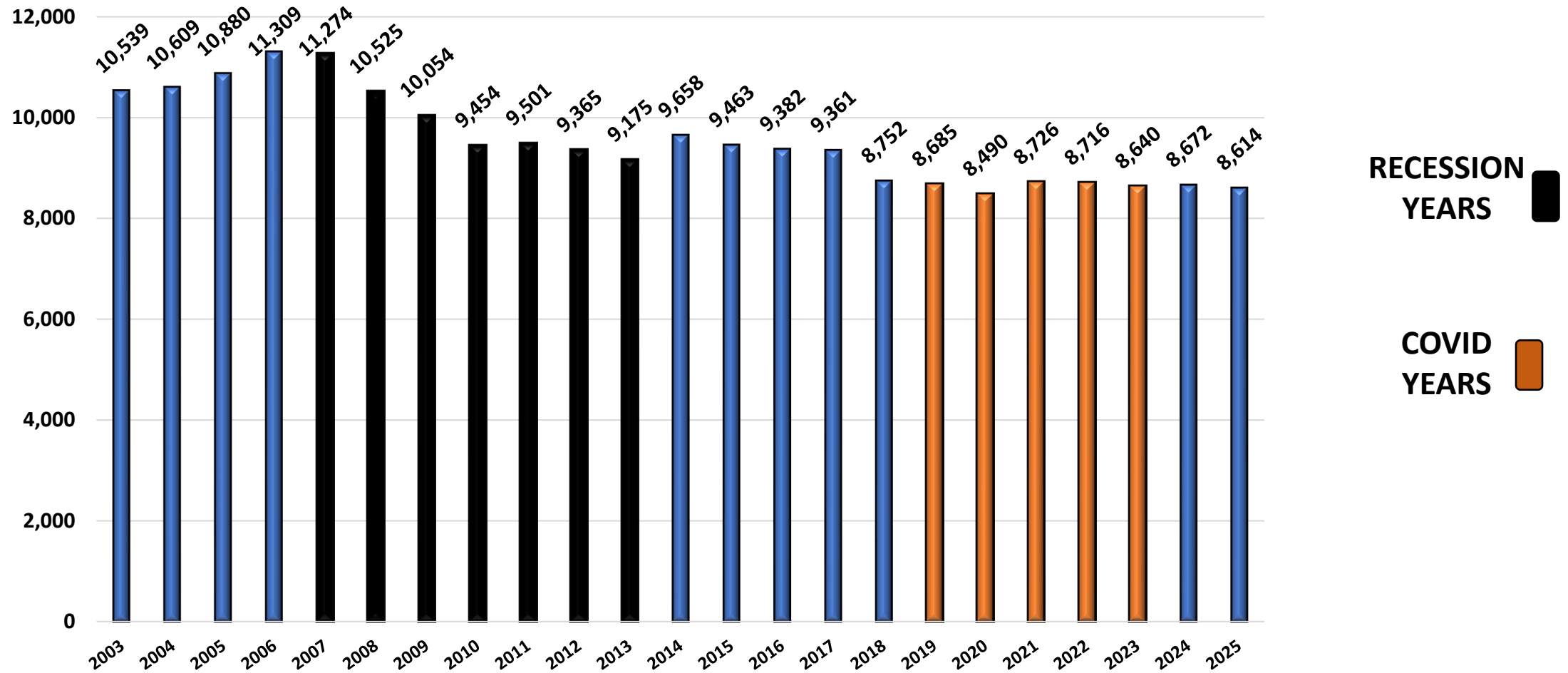
Post-Recession, Cobb County has maintained a relatively stable birth rate, supporting consistent long-term enrollment forecasting for elementary planning.

Live Births in Cobb County: 2008–2025



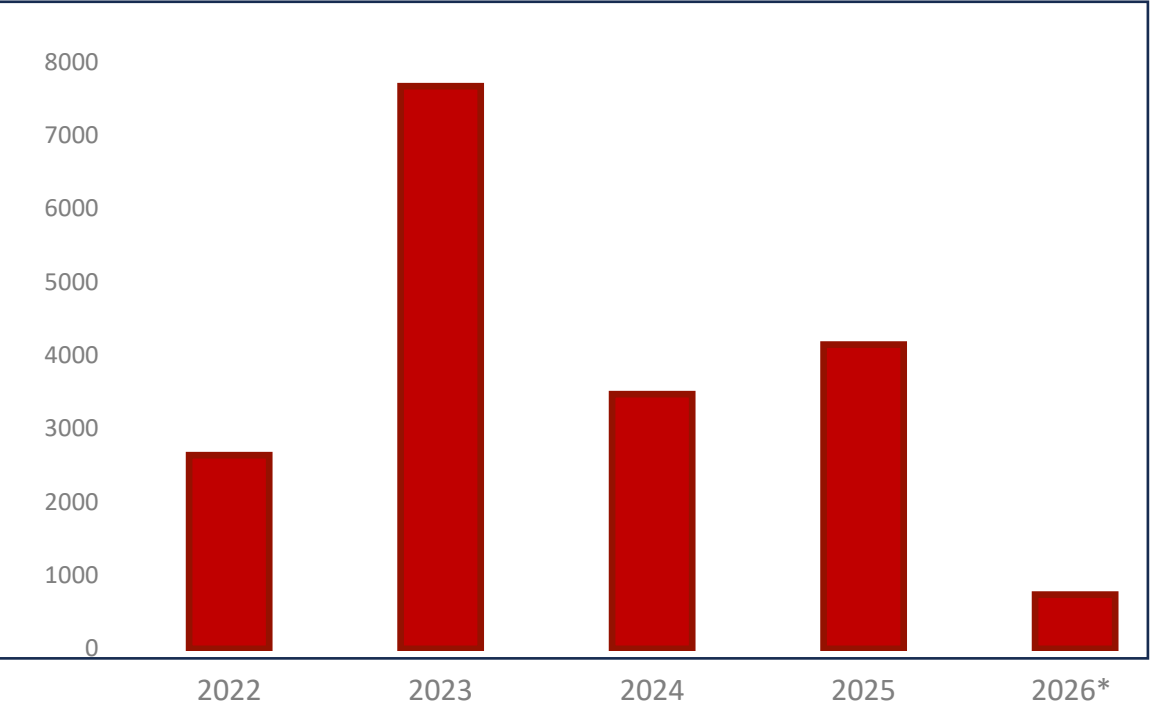
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health, Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Cobb County Number of Births



Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Past 5 Years



Residential Construction activity across Cobb is a leading indicator of future student enrollment. The areas with the highest single-family permitting is West Cobb and South Cobb.

* 2026: Monthly Preliminary Data, Jan - June

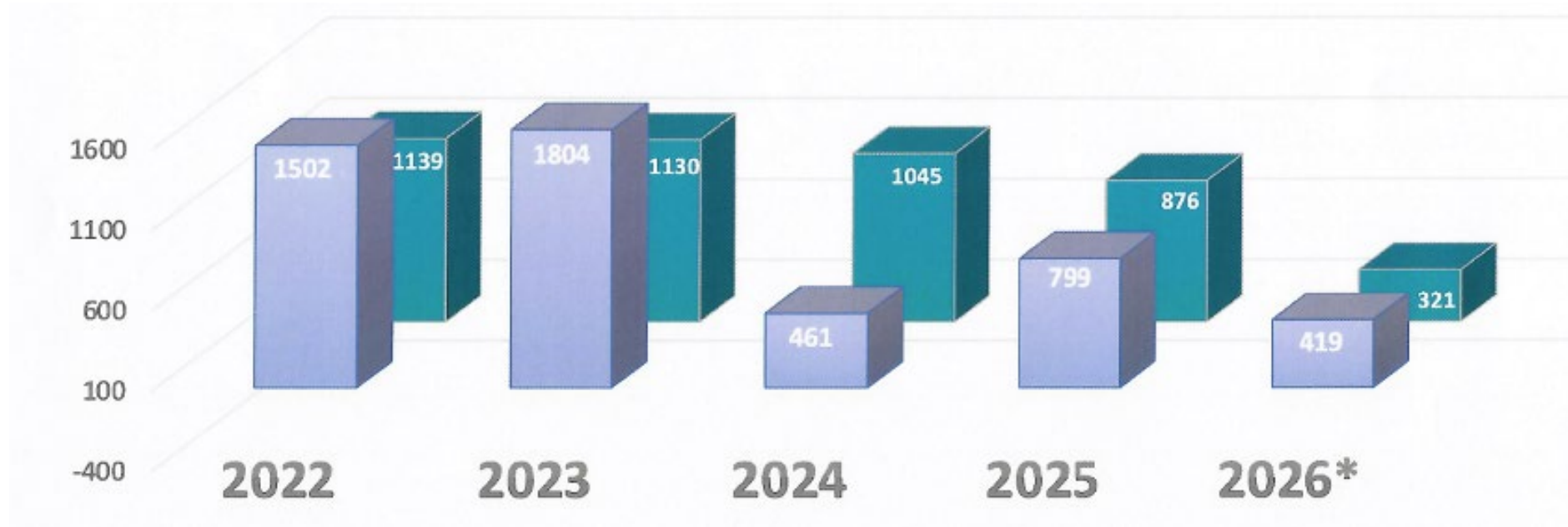
Annual Building Permits, Cobb County School District

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
ACWORTH Total Units	58	58	113	64	13
Multifamily Structures	0	0	12	0	0
Single Family Structures	58	58	101	64	13
AUSTELL Total Units	51	38	23	167	39
Multifamily Structures	0	0	0	58	0
Single Family Structures	51	38	23	109	39
KENNESAW Total Units	515	1213	80	48	28
Multifamily Structures	360	1077	0	0	0
Single Family Structures	155	136	80	48	28
POWDER SPRINGS Total Units	612	223	488	353	212
Multifamily Structures	526	83	304	193	142
Single Family Structures	86	140	184	160	70
SMYRNA Total Units	152	180	99	108	297
Multifamily Structures	0	0	0	0	277
Single Family Structures	152	180	99	108	20
UNINCORPORATED Total Units	1253	1222	703	935	151
Multifamily Structures	616	644	145	548	0
Single Family Structures	637	578	558	387	151

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, State of the Cities Data Systems (SOCDS) - Building Permits



Building Permits, Cobb County School District



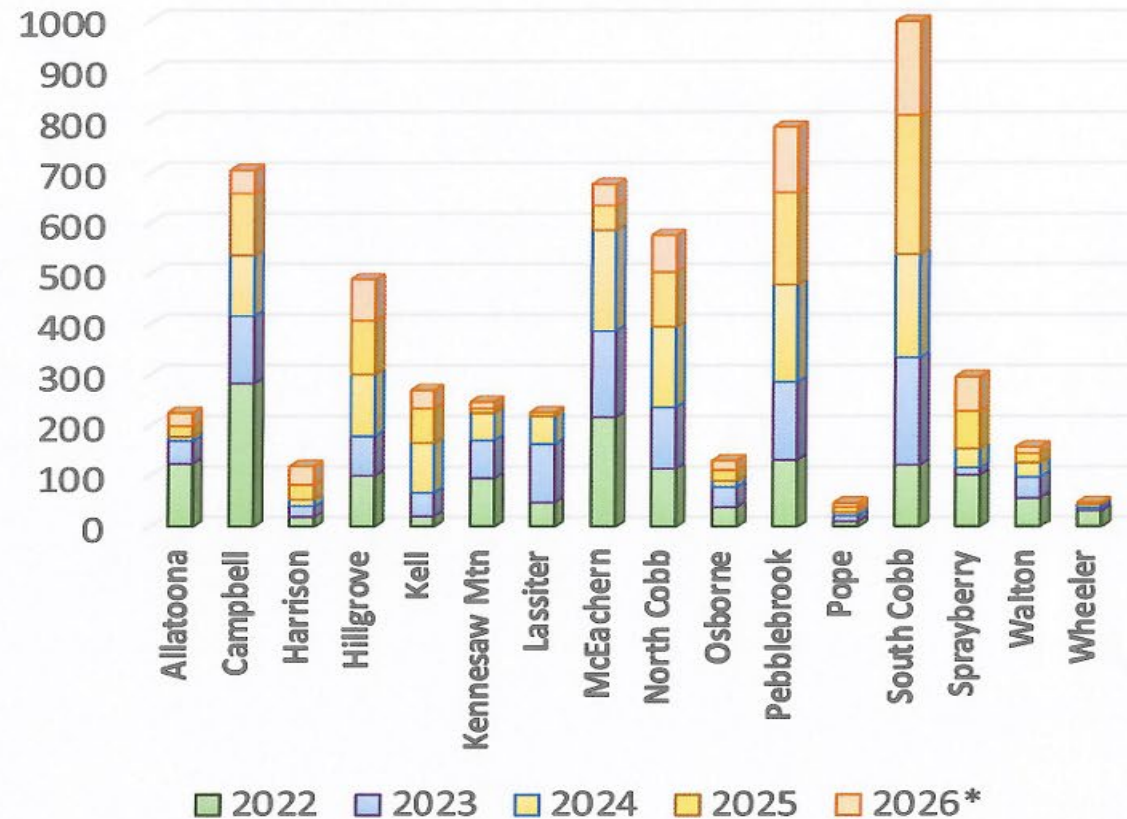
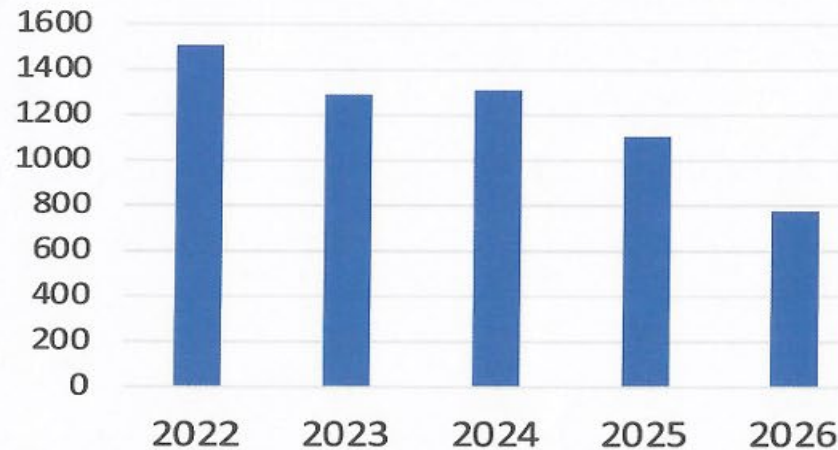
Student Yield Factor: Building Permits

- Building Permits are used to determine possible impact to enrollment from forecasted residential construction.
- New housing permits - especially Single Family - correlate with future student enrollment in the 2–5 years following permit issuance.

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, State of the Cities Data Systems (SOCDS) - Building Permits

New Home Sales, Cobb County School District

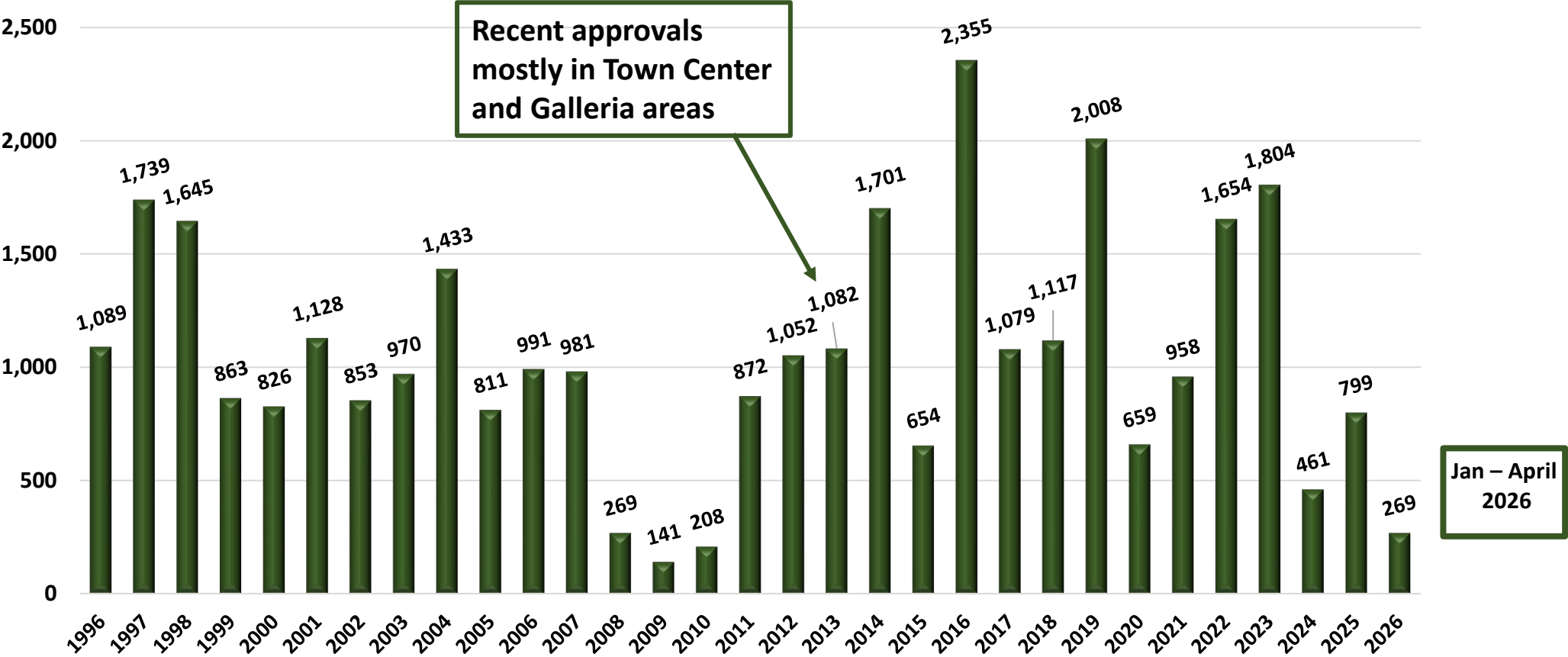
*Built the Same Year or
Year Prior to the Closing Date
&
Sold to Owner by Builder*



Source: Cobb County Tax Assessor, via qpublic, July 9, 2026

Economic Indicators – Building Permits

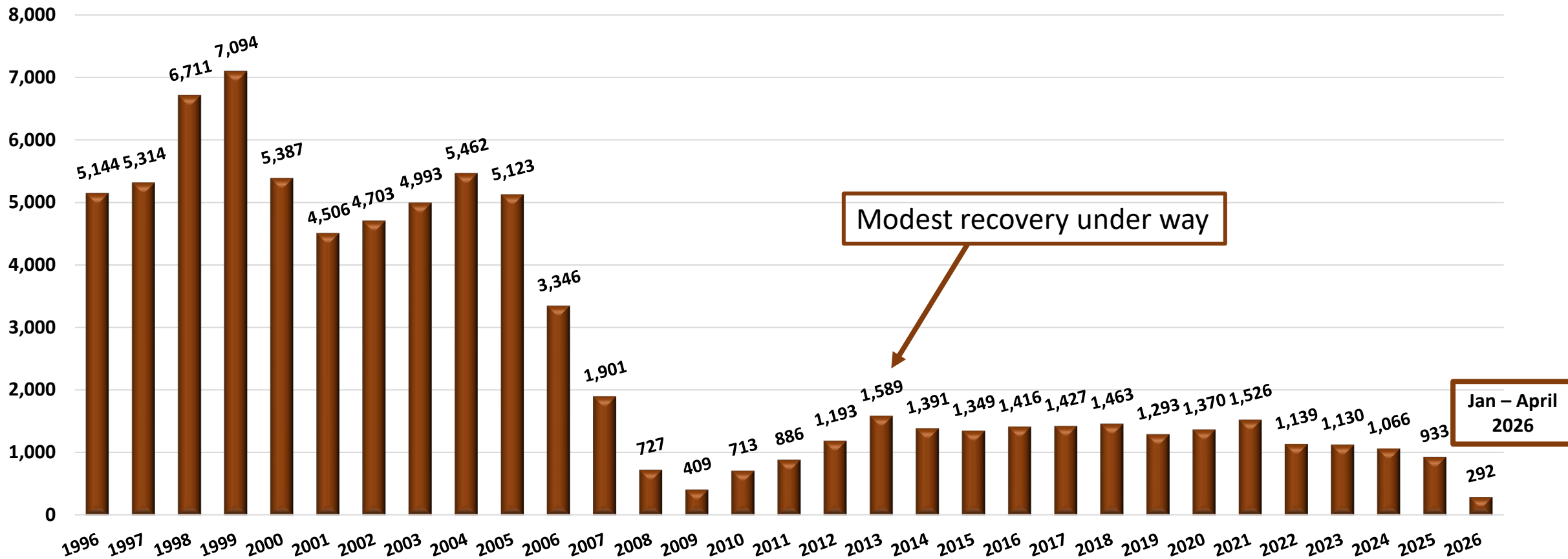
MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING PERMITS IN COBB 1996 – 2026 (Excluding Marietta)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

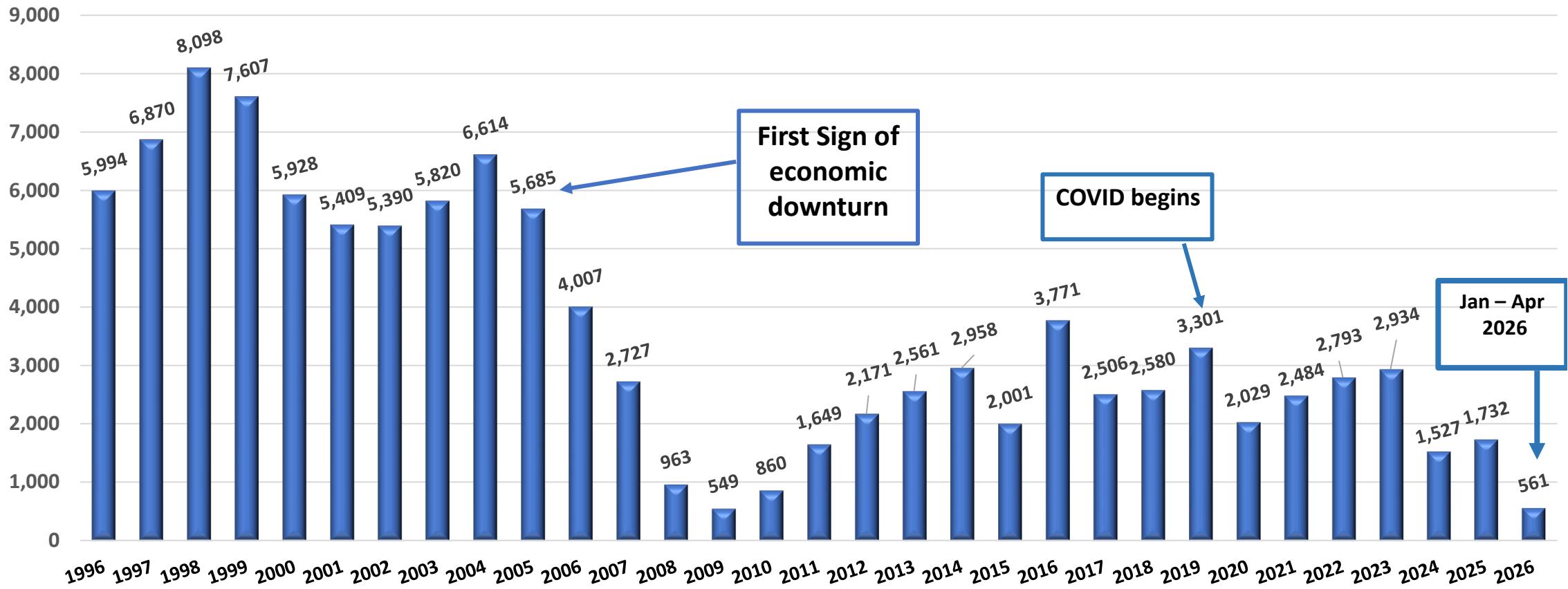
Economic Indicators – Building Permits

SINGLE-FAMILY BUILDING PERMITS IN COBB 1996 – 2026 (Excluding Marietta)



Economic Indicators – Building Permits

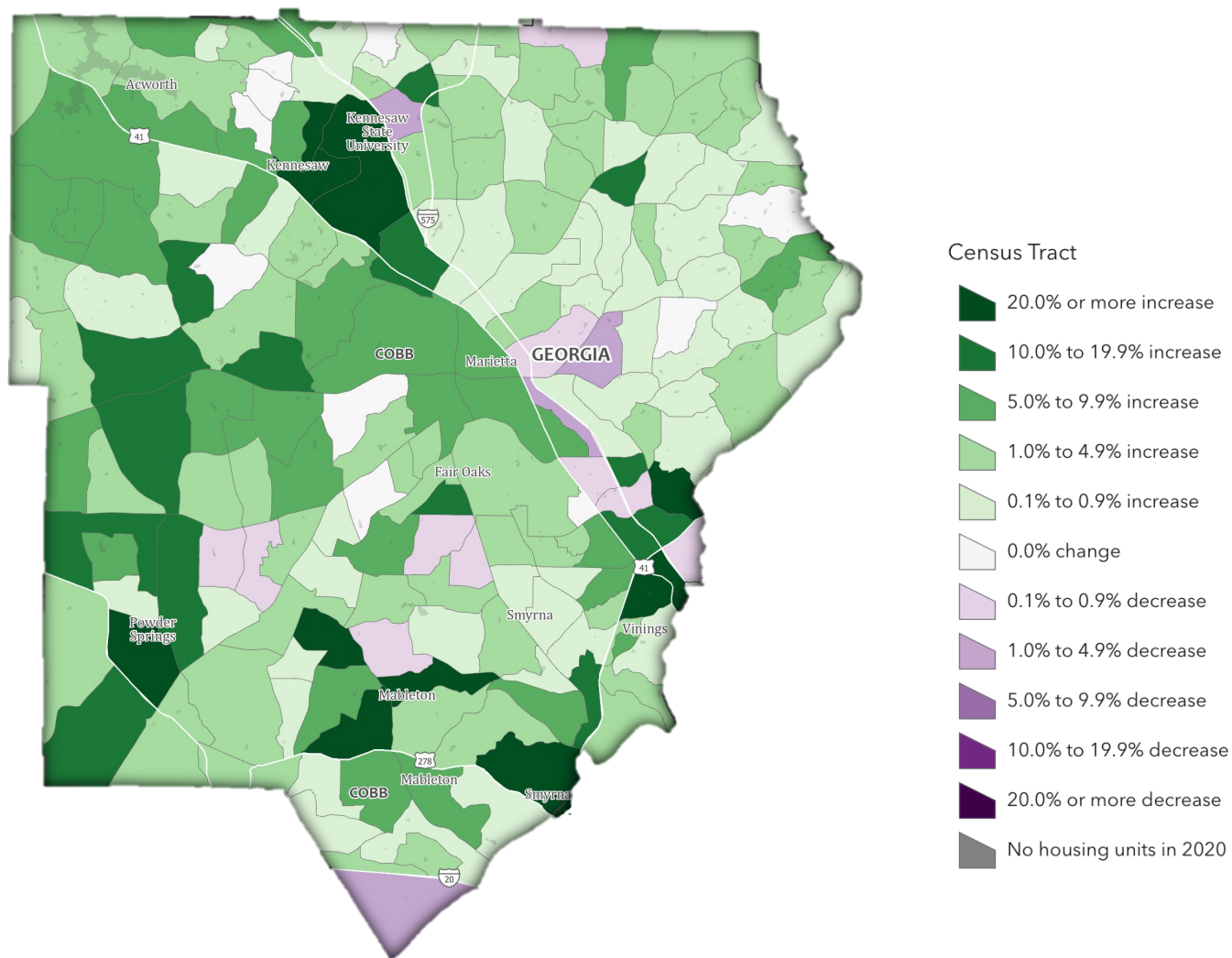
TOTAL BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED IN COBB 1996-2026 (Excluding Marietta)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Percentage Change in Number of Housing Units from 2020 to 2025

Cobb has 120 defined Census Tracts. Census Tracts are designed to analyze population data, facilitate longitudinal studies, and assist in resource allocation. It is used as an indicator by demographic planners to better understand more localized communities



Source: US Census Bureau, Address Count Listing Files

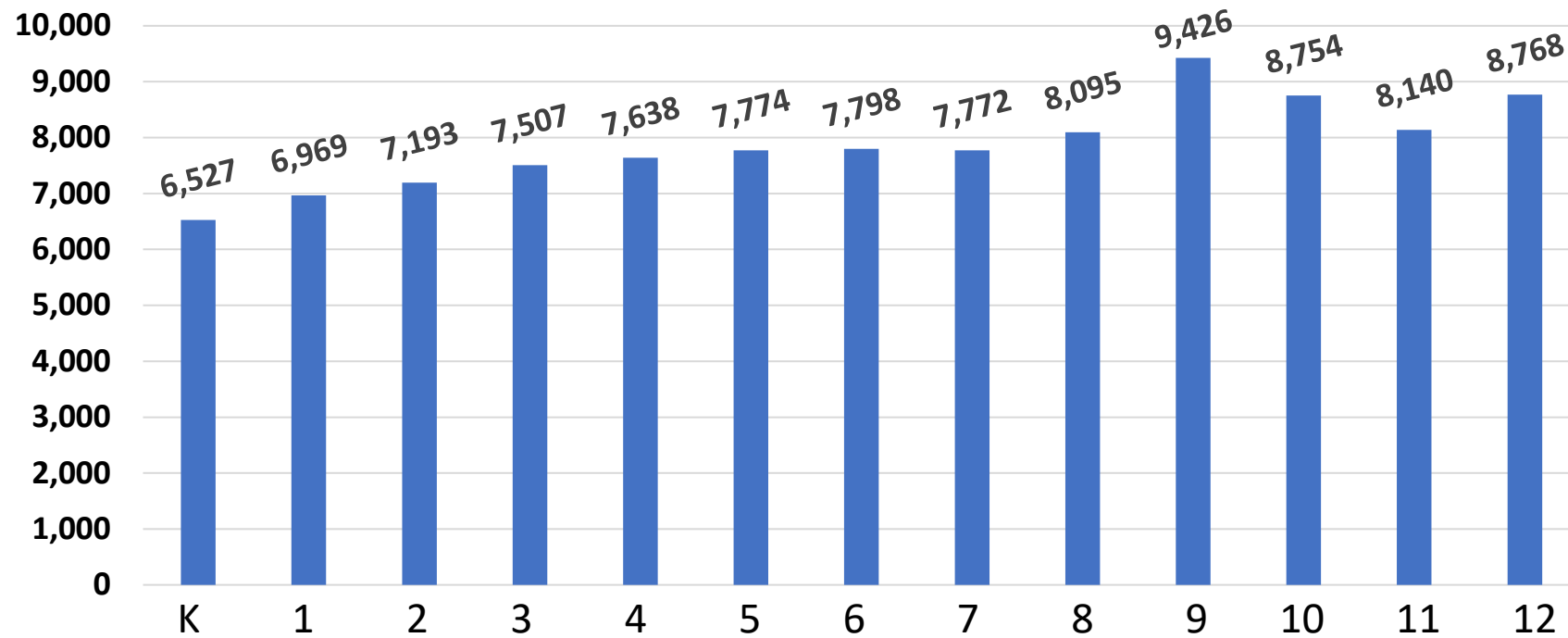


Cobb County Schools K-12 Enrollment vs. Cobb County Total Population County or Estimate

CENSUS YEAR	2000	2010	2020	2024
SCHOOL YEAR	1999-2000	2009-2010	2019-2020	2023-2024
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (K-12)	93,169	106,574	111,122	105,437
U.S. Census General Population Count or Estimate	607,751	688,078	756,653	775,208
% Enrollment Vs Total Population	15.33%	15.49%	14.69%	13.60%



Enrollment by Grade 2025-2026



Source: GA DOE



DISTRICT TOTALS BY GRADE 2014 - 2026

Does not include PK

YEAR	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2014-2015	8,268	8,444	8,761	8,602	8,527	8,657	8,239	8,465	8,561	10,689	9,139	6,822	7,771
2015-2016	8,118	8,429	8,587	8,929	8,604	8,611	8,572	8,396	8,594	10,561	9,243	7,211	8,063
2016-2017	8,104	8,193	8,567	8,749	8,911	8,739	8,459	8,619	8,522	10,478	9,183	7,656	8,203
2017-2018	7,873	7,998	8,094	8,500	8,607	8,863	8,607	8,516	8,631	10,133	9,229	7,722	8,413
2018-2019	7,661	7,940	8,164	8,180	8,498	8,671	8,912	8,681	8,579	10,136	9,143	7,799	8,514
2019-2020	7,988	7,819	8,128	8,156	8,301	8,593	8,729	9,020	8,808	10,080	9,143	7,825	8,532
2020-2021	6,463	7,502	7,407	7,710	7,871	8,076	8,333	8,588	8,897	9,413	9,355	8,346	8,660
2021-2022	7,112	7,389	7,593	7,448	7,701	7,935	8,050	8,384	8,675	10,385	8,950	7,920	8,661
2022-2023	7,039	7,489	7,550	7,617	7,571	7,806	8,055	8,218	8,505	10,205	9,436	7,836	8,539
2023-2024	6,876	7,330	7,568	7,647	7,710	7,759	7,938	8,177	8,320	10,106	9,017	8,366	8,623
2024-2025	6,741	7,139	7,521	7,673	7,726	7,865	7,782	8,045	8,265	9,933	8,900	8,188	9,006
2025-2026	6,527	6,969	7,193	7,507	7,638	7,774	7,798	7,772	8,095	9,426	8,754	8,140	8,768

Source: GA DOE



	Structure	OCT 2025 FTE
High Schools	9-12	35,088
Middle Schools	6-8	23,665
Elementary Schools	PK-5	44,530
DISTRICT TOTAL		103,283

Source: GA DOE



HIGH SCHOOL CAPACITY CHART						
Current Organization	IUs	Student Capacity	Grade Structure	October 2025 FTE	March 2026 FTE	State Formula
Allatoona HS	100	1,937	9-12	1,477	1,462	76%
Campbell HS	169	3,300	9-12	3,246	3,131	98%
Cobb Horizon			9-12	737	737	
Devereaux Academy			9-12	44	44	
Harrison HS	133	2,587	9-12	2,184	2,153	84%
Hillgrove HS	113	2,212	9-12	2,235	2,206	101%
Kell HS	104	2,025	9-12	1,565	1,531	77%
Kennesaw Mtn	102	1,987	9-12	1,623	1,593	82%
Lassiter HS	107	2,087	9-12	2,007	2,001	96%
McEachern HS	126	2,450	9-12	2,122	2,059	87%
North Cobb	147	2,862	9-12	2,415	2,332	84%
Osborne HS	119	2,312	9-12	2,707	2,600	117%
Pebblebrook HS	143	2,787	9-12	2,368	2,258	85%
Pope HS	98	1,912	9-12	1,793	1,771	94%
South Cobb HS	134	2,612	9-12	1,968	1,880	75%
Sprayberry HS	107	2,087	9-12	1,632	1,565	78%
Walton HS	144	2,812	9-12	2,656	2,635	94%
Wheeler HS	116	2,262	9-12	2,309	2,236	102%
HIGH SCHOOL TOTALS		38,231		35,088	34,194	93%

Source: GA DOE

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPACITY CHART						
Current Organization	IUs	Student Capacity	Grade Structure	October 2025 FTE	March 2026 FTE	State Formula
Awtrey MS	64	1,037	6-8	571	580	58%
Barber MS	71	1,162	6-8	752	731	68%
Betty Gray MS	54	862	6-8	686	682	81%
Campbell MS	87	1,437	6-8	1,445	1,423	96%
Cobb Horizon			6-8	48	52	
Cooper MS	71	1,162	6-8	1,054	1,062	88%
Daniell MS	72	1,175	6-8	772	763	75%
Devereaux Academy			6-8	14	26	
Dickerson MS	76	1,237	6-8	1,240	1,253	99%
Dodgen MS	76	1,237	6-8	1,129	1,127	95%
Durham MS	71	1,162	6-8	989	984	85%
East Cobb MS	84	1,387	6-8	1,315	1,310	97%
Floyd MS	68	1,112	6-8	743	739	70%
Garrett MS	60	975	6-8	834	847	91%
Griffin MS	70	1,137	6-8	944	956	87%
Hightower Trail MS	62	1,012	6-8	963	958	93%
Lindley MS	71	1,162	6-8	802	786	77%
Lost Mountain MS	70	1,137	6-8	947	946	86%
Lovinggood Ms	83	1,362	6-8	1,259	1,252	89%
Mabry MS	71	1,162	6-8	938	933	81%
McCleskey MS	58	937	6-8	604	616	58%
McClure MS	71	1,162	6-8	1,029	1,023	89%
Palmer MS	71	1,162	6-8	837	853	69%
Pearson MS	62	1,012	6-8	737	730	80%
Pine Mountain MS	56	900	6-8	505	512	56%
Simpson MS	59	962	6-8	916	911	92%
Smitha MS	70	1,137	6-8	806	808	76%
Tapp MS	70	1,137	6-8	786	795	71%
MIDDLE SCHOOL TOTALS		29,326		23,665	23,658	84%

Source: GA DOE



Elementary Schools Facility Analysis

The student capacity of our schools has been established using the state formula provided by the Georgia Department of Education Facilities Unit.

This analysis considered various factors influencing classroom usage. Every one of the sixty-six Elementary Schools received a review to determine usage of classroom spaces. Seventeen schools were fully utilized for instructional purposes, while thirty-six schools operated at 90-99% capacity, and thirteen schools had an instructional utilization rate between 77-89%.

Classroom usage encompasses regular education instruction as well as specialized programs such as Early Intervention, Special Education, ESOL, Gifted, and Remedial Programs, which have state-mandated class sizes significantly smaller than the general classroom size, thereby reducing the overall student capacity of the school.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAPACITY						
Current Organization	IUs	Student Capacity	Grade Structure	October 2025 FTE	March 2026 FTE	Bldg Utilization
Acworth ES	59	925	2-5	484	479	86%
Addison ES	42	662	PK-5	552	568	100%
Argyle ES	36	562	PK-5	312	315	100%
Austell ES	36	562	PK-5	400	404	92%
Baker ES	65	1,025	PK-5	688	699	89%
Bells Ferry	45	712	PK-5	690	662	100%
Belmont Hills	36	562	PK-5	248	248	81%
Big Shanty ES	52	837	3-5	488	492	85%
Birney ES	59	925	PK-5	692	685	98%
Blackwell ES	52	837	PK-5	544	550	90%
Brumby ES	73	1,162	PK-5	914	904	100%
Bryant ES	61	962	PK-5	868	878	95%
Bullard ES	63	987	PK-5	806	809	98%
Chalker ES	62	975	PK-5	628	648	94%
Cheatham Hill ES	68	1,063	PK-5	999	1,006	97%
City View ES	61	962	PK-5	805	803	98%
Clarkdale ES	55	887	PK-5	750	749	94%
Clay-Harmony Leland ES	78	1,250	PK-5	1,099	1,109	90%
Compton ES	50	800	K-5	577	583	94%
Davis ES	50	800	PK-5	623	618	88%
Devereaux Academy			K-5	8	5	
Dowell ES	61	975	PK-5	879	871	100%
Due West ES	38	600	PK-5	607	619	95%
East Side ES	69	1,087	PK-5	1,036	1,049	99%
Eastvalley ES	61	962	PK-5	685	684	89%
Fair Oaks ES	54	875	PK-5	684	697	100%
Ford ES	53	862	PK-5	708	711	95%
Frey ES	62	975	PK-5	618	638	96%
Garrison Mill ES	44	700	PK-5	638	649	100%
Green Acres ES	44	700	PK-5	524	521	100%
Hayes ES	61	962	PK-5	770	787	95%
ELEMENTARY SUB TOTAL				20,324	20,440	

Source: GA DOE



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAPACITY continued

Current Organization	IUs	Student Capacity	Grade Structure	October 2025 FTE	March 2026 FTE	Bldg Utilization
Hendricks ES	61	962	PK-5	474	503	84%
Hollydale ES	53	862	PK-5	538	545	97%
Keheley ES	38	600	PK-5	383	381	80%
Kemp ES	61	962	PK-5	892	902	91%
Kennesaw ES	62	975	PK-2	590	606	77%
Kincaid ES	48	762	PK-5	633	631	92%
King Springs ES	77	1,237	PK-5	1065	1066	100%
LaBelle ES	44	700	PK-5	326	335	95%
Lewis ES	61	962	PK-5	531	531	90%
Mableton ES	61	962	PK-5	915	902	95%
McCall Primary	36	512	PK-1	245	251	78%
Milford ES	40	637	PK-5	397	397	98%
Mount Bethel ES	60	937	PK-5	875	880	100%
Mountain View ES	61	962	PK-5	863	869	100%
Murdock ES	61	962	PK-5	814	824	100%
Nicholson ES	40	637	PK-5	408	414	93%
Nickajack ES	69	1,087	PK-5	1237	1251	98%
Norton Park ES	52	837	PK-5	598	605	98%
Pickett's Mill ES	63	987	PK-5	742	755	93%
Pitner ES	61	962	PK-5	762	761	95%
Powder Springs ES	57	900	PK-5	803	818	96%
Powers Ferry ES	30	462	PK-5	502	505	100%
Riverside ES	36	562	PK-5	388	386	90%
Rocky Mount ES	39	612	PK-5	515	510	100%
Russell ES	61	962	PK-5	554	567	82%
Sanders ES	53	862	PK-5	644	621	92%
Sedalia Park ES	58	912	PK-5	605	604	92%
Shallowford Falls ES	61	962	PK-5	591	597	89%
Smyrna ES	61	962	PK-5	868	849	100%
Sope Creek ES	73	1,162	PK-5	1107	1119	99%
Still ES	62	975	PK-5	766	776	92%
Teasley ES	52	837	PK-5	965	966	100%
Timber Ridge ES	39	612	PK-5	531	531	100%
Tritt ES	60	937	PK-5	777	786	97%
Varner ES	62	975	PK-5	689	695	90%
Vaughan ES	60	937	PK-5	613	613	87%
ELEMENTARY SUB-TOTALS				24,206	24,352	
ELEMENTARY GRAND TOTALS				44,530	44,782	

Source: GA DOE



2025 ARC Population Estimates Average Annual Percentage Increase

	1980 to 1990	1990 to 2000	2000 to 2010	2010 to 2020	2020 to 2025
Atlanta Region	3.1	3.1	2.0	1.5	1.2
Cherokee	5.8	4.5	4.2	2.2	2.4
Clayton	2.0	2.5	0.9	1.4	0.6
Cobb	4.3	3.0	1.2	1.1	0.8
DeKalb	1.4	1.9	0.4	1.0	0.6
Douglas	2.8	2.5	3.7	0.9	1.3
Fayette	8.0	3.8	1.6	1.1	1.2
Forsyth	4.7	8.4	6.0	3.7	2.3
Fulton	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.5	1.4
Gwinnett	7.9	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.4
Henry	5.0	7.3	5.5	1.7	2.1
Rockdale	4.0	2.6	2.0	0.9	1.0
City of Atlanta	-0.2	0.0	0.1	1.7	1.7

Source: Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)



Cobb County District Projection 2025-26 K-12

K-12	PK	K-2	3-5	K-5	6-8	9-12	PK-12	SCHOOL YEAR
106,621	758	21,372	23,657	45,029	25,818	35,774	107,379	SY20-21
106,203	767	22,094	23,084	45,178	25,109	35,916	106,970	SY21-22
106,886	817	22,078	22,994	45,072	24,778	36,036	106,703	SY22-23
105,437	921	21,774	23,116	44,890	24,435	36,112	106,358	SY23-24
104,784	954	21,401	23,264	44,685	24,092	36,027	105,738	SY24-25
103,482	922	20,689	22,919	43,608	23,665	35,088	103,283	SY25-26
102,499	954	20,588	22,970	43,558	24,066	34,875	103,453	SY26-27
101,789	954	20,610	22,436	43,048	24,307	34,437	102,743	SY27-28
101,119	954	20,735	21,814	42,549	24,288	34,282	102,073	SY28-29
100,560	954	20,691	21,633	42,324	23,999	34,237	101,514	SY29-30
100,074	954	20,638	21,656	42,293	23,441	34,340	101,028	SY30-31
99,692	954	20,627	21,785	42,412	22,791	34,489	100,646	SY31-32
99,059	954	20,570	21,740	42,310	22,602	34,148	100,013	SY32-33
99,419	954	20,530	21,684	42,213	22,627	33,579	99,373	SY33-34
97,731	954	20,490	21,672	42,612	22,762	32,808	98,865	SY34-35
97,191	954	20,470	21,612	42,082	22,714	32,395	98,145	SY35-36



2016-2017 MARKED THE FIRST YEAR THE INCOMING KINDERGARTEN CLASS WAS SMALLER THAN THE GRADUATING CLASS

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2025-2026	6,527	6,969	7,193	7,507	7,638	7,774	7,798	7,772	8,095	9,426	8,754	8,140	8,768
2024-2025	6,741	7,139	7,521	7,673	7,726	7,865	7,782	8,045	8,265	9,933	8,900	8,188	9,006
2023-2024	6,876	7,330	7,568	7,647	7,710	7,759	7,938	8,177	8,320	10,106	9,017	8,366	8,623
2022-2023	7,039	7,489	7,550	7,617	7,571	7,806	8,055	8,218	8,505	10,205	9,436	7,836	8,539
2021-2022	7,112	7,389	7,593	7,448	7,701	7,935	8,050	8,384	8,675	10,385	8,950	7,920	8,661
2020-2021	6,463	7,502	7,407	7,710	7,871	8,076	8,333	8,588	8,897	9,413	9,355	8,346	8,660
2019-2020	7,988	7,819	8,128	8,156	8,301	8,593	8,729	9,020	8,808	10,080	9,143	7,825	8,532
2018-2019	7,661	7,940	8,164	8,180	8,498	8,671	8,912	8,681	8,579	10,136	9,143	7,799	8,514
2017-2018	7,873	7,998	8,094	8,500	8,607	8,863	8,607	8,516	8,631	10,133	9,229	7,722	8,413
2016-2017	8,104	8,193	8,567	8,749	8,911	8,739	8,459	8,619	8,522	10,478	9,183	7,656	8,203
2015-2016	8,118	8,429	8,587	8,929	8,604	8,611	8,572	8,396	8,594	10,561	9,243	7,211	8,063
2014-2015	8,268	8,444	8,761	8,602	8,527	8,657	8,239	8,465	8,561	10,689	9,139	6,822	7,771

**Graduating
more
students
than
Enrolling**



Source: GA DOE



Classroom Countdown: The Enrollment Shift Shaping Atlanta's Future

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) represents the 11-county Metro Atlanta area. Along with many other functions, they have recently reviewed and provided some forecasting of school student enrollments. Most of the 15 school districts have seen dramatic growth over the past number of years.

One way to anticipate future trends is to compare the number of students entering the pipeline as kindergarteners with the number of students exiting as 12th graders. Twelve of the fifteen school systems serving the 11-county region are currently showing a slow down or stop in growth.

The aging population and declining birth rates are a trend not unique to the Atlanta area, but representative of a nationwide trend.

Source: Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)



The plan for future student population changes. Using multiple factors and historical student data combined with the latest demographic data and planned residential development information, we are able to calculate five-year and ten – year student population projections.

The factors to consider:

- HB 251 School Choice
- Children of Employees (State law 20-2-293)
- McKinney Vento Act (Federal Homeless Education Law)
- Pre-K numbers
- Home Schools Students
- Private School Students

These projections are based on the residence of students, not necessarily school enrollment and better assist the district where student population shifts will occur. Research and data are based on geographic reference and figures reflect the calculation of study areas within the Cobb County School District.

Parents naturally seek quality educational settings for their children.

Parents search for livable communities throughout Cobb, recognizing that various specialized academic programming is available in all parts of the county.

Factors to Evaluate

- Specialized academic programs
- Career-oriented academies
- Math and Science magnet schools
- International Baccalaureate programs
- Performing Arts
- Sports and Athletics
- Academic Recovery

