Alamosa School District – Demographics

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Observations – The Alamosa School District (ASD) has experienced predominantly stable demographics during the past decade with stable population, demographics and economic conditions. Due to housing costs and limited demand, very little new housing has been constructed in the district.   As is the case in most Colorado school districts, there has been a slight decline in birth rates.   The district exports a consistent number of students to adjacent districts and on-line education providers and this tendency accelerated during the pandemic.   Preliminary enrollment expectations suggest that there will be stable elementary enrollment, a slight decline in middle school enrollment and a decline in high school reflecting smaller incoming grades.

Basic Demographics – The 2020 Census suggests little demographic change in the geographic area covered by the district.

Figure 1 – Standard Demographic Indicators

Total Population – 15,324 – *2020*, **Total Households** – 5,605 – *2021*
Total Housing Units – 6,528 – 2020
Employment Rate – 57% - *2021*, **Median Household Income** - $45,124 - *2021*
Education – Bachelor's Degree or Higher – 25.1% - *2021*
Health – Population Without Health Care Coverage – 10.1% - *2021*

Total Population – Total population rose mid-decade and then returned to 14,296 in 2021 after the Pandemic.
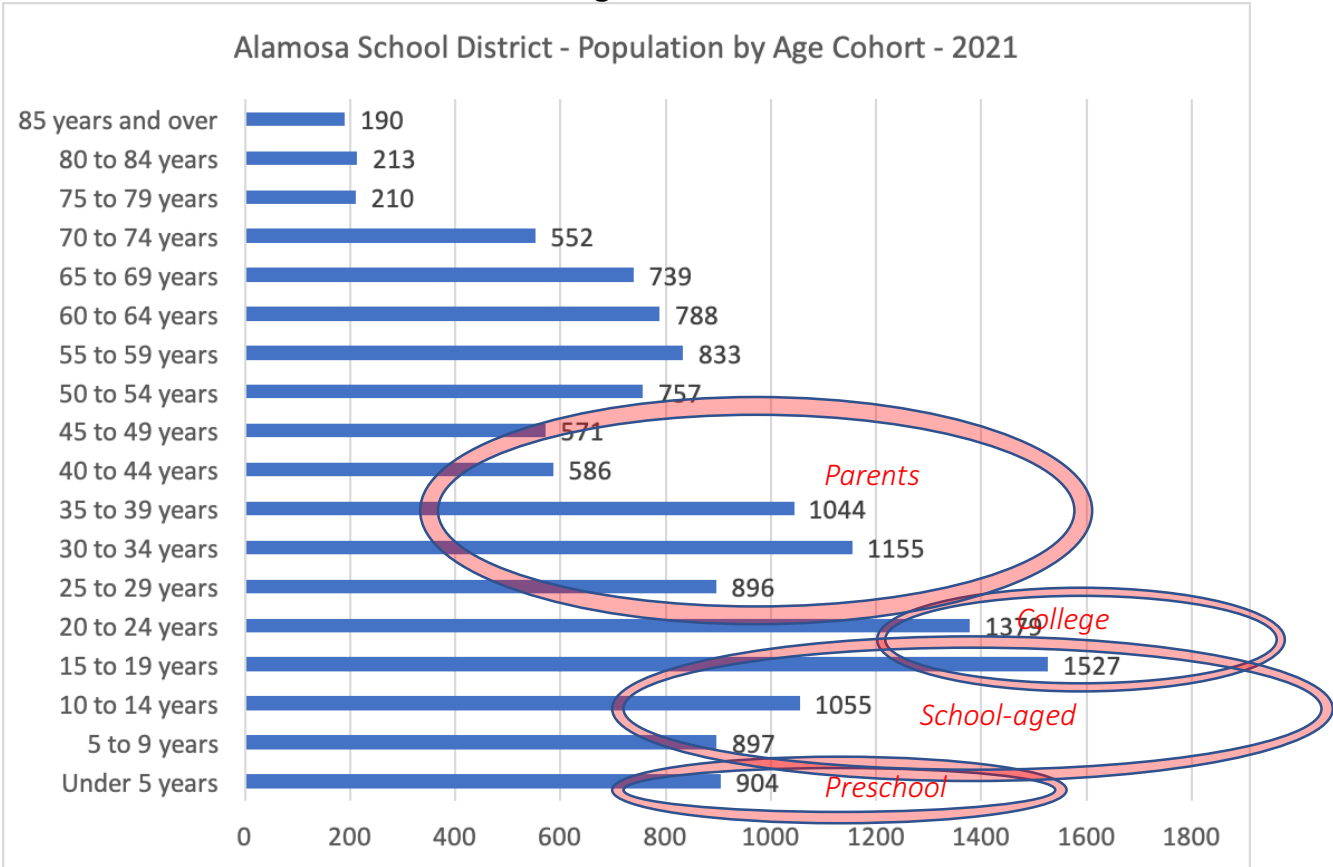
Figure 2 – ASD Total Population

Alamosa School District - Total Population
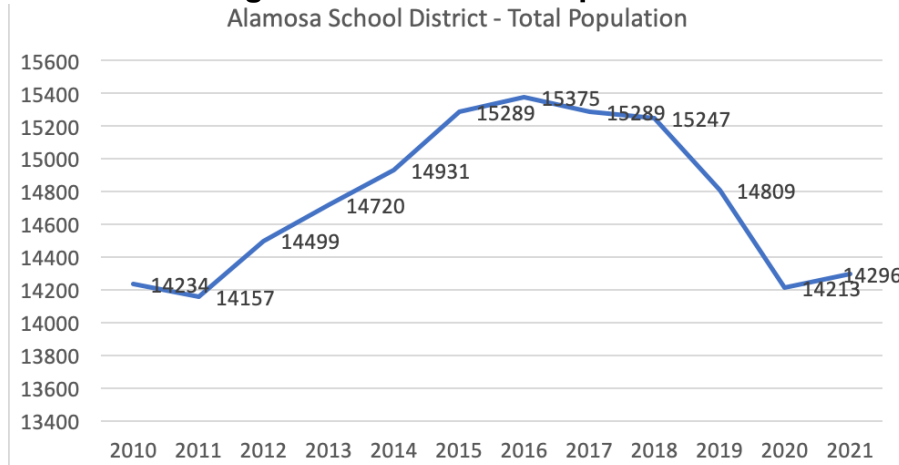
5-year Age Cohorts – The child and family age cohorts are well-represented in the ASD.   Preschool and elementary school-aged cohorts are smaller than middle and high school and the high school cohort is somewhat confused by 18- and 19-year old college students at Adams State University which is located in Alamosa.   The slight difference between preschool and elementary cohorts at approximately 900 and the middle school group at 1055 is significant and suggests smaller incoming population into the secondary age grades.   These figures are displayed in Figure 3.

Figure 3

Alamosa School District - Population by Age Cohort - 2021

Age Cohort	Population
85 years and over	190
80 to 84 years	213
75 to 79 years	210
70 to 74 years	552
65 to 69 years	739
60 to 64 years	788
55 to 59 years	833
50 to 54 years	757
45 to 49 years	571
40 to 44 years	586
35 to 39 years	1044
30 to 34 years	1155
25 to 29 years	896
20 to 24 years	1379
15 to 19 years	1527
10 to 14 years	1055
5 to 9 years	897
Under 5 years	904

Parents (35 to 39, 30 to 34, 25 to 29 cohorts)
College (20 to 24, 15 to 19 cohorts)
School-aged (15 to 19, 10 to 14 cohorts)
Preschool (Under 5 years)

New Housing – There was little evidence of significant new single-family housing construction during driving tours conducted in the district.   Two small new subdivisions were noted, but these would have little affect if any on enrollment. There were several new apartment buildings observed during field inspection and these would also produce few children… The County Assessor's records observed a relatively consistent rate of new housing constructed annually to keep pace with housing stock replacement needs… New home asking prices were generally below State averages according to Zillow and the ASD is generally seen as a housing bargain.

Labor Statistics – The Alamosa County labor force has risen in size and its growth rate is generally behind the State of Colorado… Unemployment rates remain low and rose and fell consistent with other areas affected by the Pandemic… Figure 4 displays employment status details… Figure 5 illustrates the largest sectors of the school district economy with ASD and Adams State comprising the education employment category which was the largest sector by far… Employer rankings were not available.

Figure 4

| Alamosa Employment Statistics - 2016 - 2023 (Sept)					
Area	Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Alamosa County	2016	7,964	7,657	307	3.9%
Alamosa County	2017	8,067	7,810	257	3.2%
Alamosa County	2018	8,490	8,171	319	3.8%
Alamosa County	2019	8,433	8,146	287	3.4%
Alamosa County	2020	8,316	7,824	492	5.9%
Alamosa County	2021	8,098	7,616	482	6.0%
Alamosa County	2022	8,187	7,890	297	3.6%
Alamosa County	September 2023	8,487	8,188	299	3.5%
Colorado	2016	2,894,157	2,803,504	90,653	3.1%
Colorado	2017	2,963,790	2,885,980	77,810	2.6%
Colorado	2018	3,054,347	2,961,423	92,924	3.0%
Colorado	2019	3,105,584	3,022,829	82,755	2.7%
Colorado	2020	3,088,995	2,880,227	208,768	6.8%
Colorado	2021	3,158,144	2,986,238	171,906	5.4%
Colorado	2022	3,200,625	3,103,531	97,094	3.0%
Colorado	September 2023	3,253,069	3,148,239	104,830	3.2%
Source: Colorado Division of Labor - LAUS Unit, LAUS system output file					

Figure 5 - Alamosa School District Employment by Sector

Sector	Employees	Percentage
Agriculture, forestry, etc.	476	7.0%
Construction	423	6.2%
Manufacturing	244	3.6%
Wholesale	111	1.6%
Retail	658	9.7%
Transportation	271	4.0%
Information	12	0.2%
Finance, insurance, etc.	545	8.0%
Professional, scientific, etc.	507	7.4%
Education	**1972**	**28.9%**
Arts, entertainment	651	9.6%
Other services	447	6.6%
Public administration	498	7.3%
Employed According to 2022 American Community Survey	6815	

Births – According to the Colorado Department of Health, births in the geographic boundary of the ASD have declined by approximately 40 babies per year during the past decade – approximately 20%. This is consistent with other Colorado districts who are also experiencing declines as Millennial and Generation Z young adults have smaller families. This trend appears to have stabilized and elementary enrollments are expected to remain relatively flat. Figure 6 shows the detailed annual birth count data.

Figure 6

Alamosa School District - Births - 1990 - 2022 - CDPHE
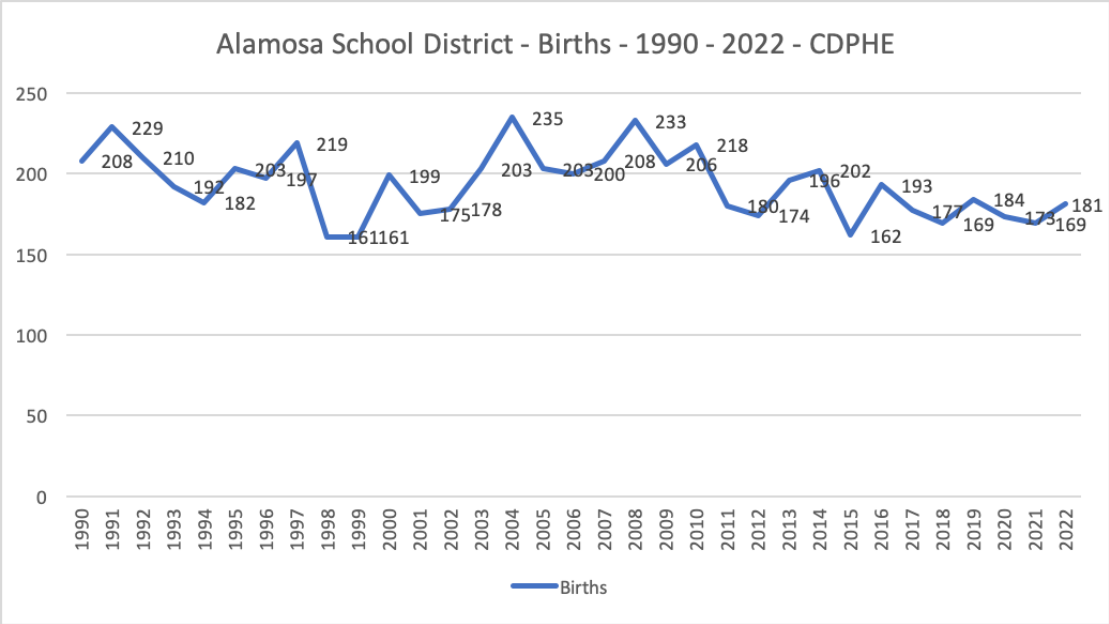
Grade Size - Elementary and high school grade sizes have declined in the past five years as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7

Alamosa School District - Grade Distribution - 11/6/23
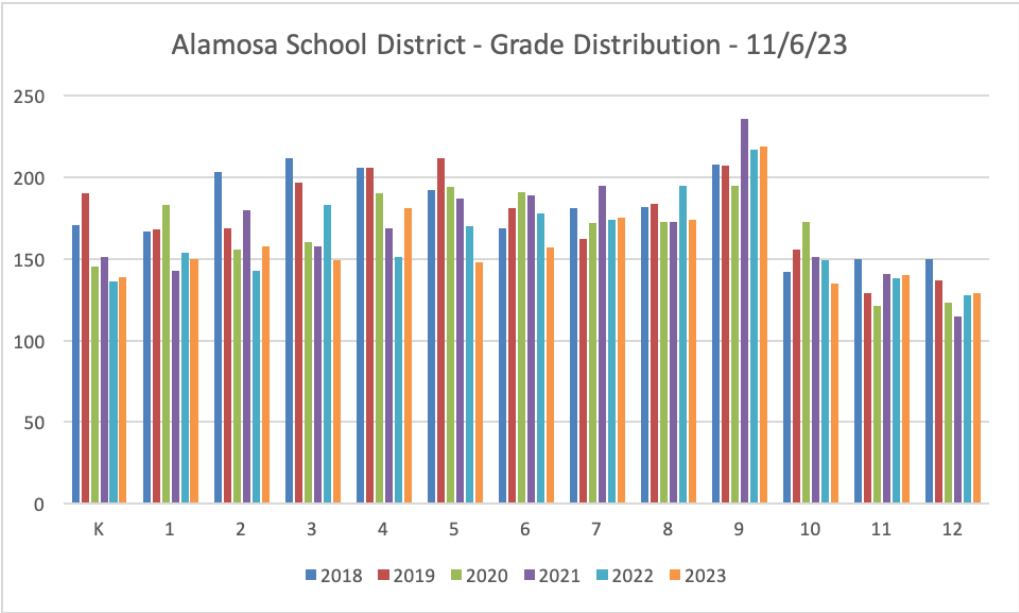
**Students Imported and Exported** - The district has exported more students and imported fewer as on-line programs have drawn more enrollment.   During the Pandemic, on-line charters grew significantly and many were sponsored by small districts in Eastern Colorado.   Many other districts have lost enrollment to these providers.   ASD students who leave the district have increased to 504, but this departure appears to have stabilized.   The six-year trend is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8

Alamosa School District - Students Imported and Exported - SY 17-18 - SY 22-23
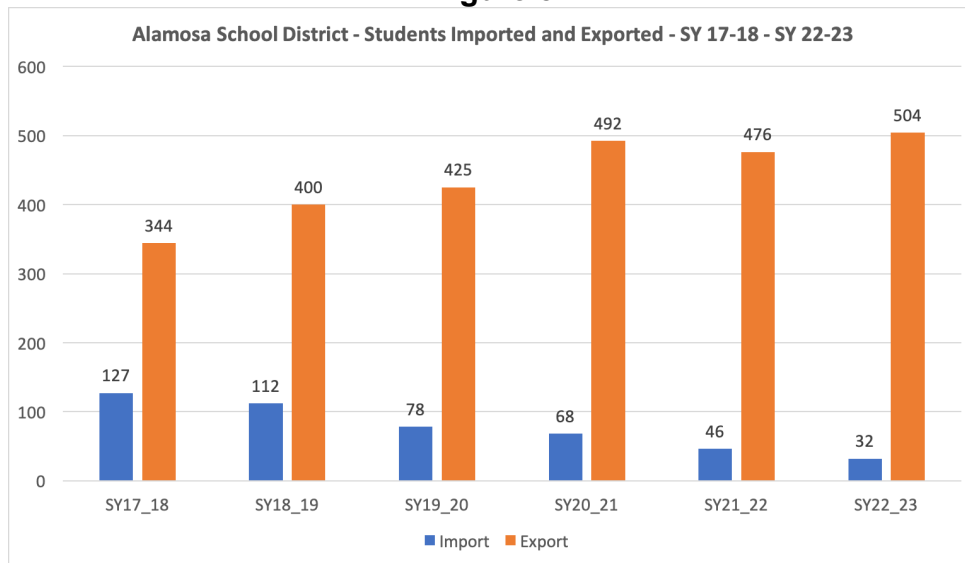
Districts Receiving Exported Alamosa Students – Figure 9 shows districts who draw students from ASD's geographic boundary.   The small Eastern Colorado districts are online providers.

Figure 9

DISTRICT OF ATTENDANCE	PK-12 TOTAL	
North Conejos RE-1J	110	
District 49	85	*Online*
Sangre De Cristo Re-22J	76	
Monte Vista C-8	47	
Sanford 6J	30	
Sargent RE-33J	26	
Education reEnvisioned BOCES	24	*Online*
Durango 9-R	20	*Online*
Center 26 JT	17	
Byers 32J	15	*Online*
Sierra Grande R-30	13	
Upper Rio Grande School District C-7	12	
Mountain Valley RE 1	10	
Douglas County Re 1	5	*Online*
Charter School Institute	4	*Online*
School District 27J	3	*Online*
Vilas RE-5	3	
Moffat 2	2	
South Conejos RE-10	1	
Branson Reorganized 82	1	
Total	**504**	

Historical Enrollment Trends – Figure 10 displays ASD enrollment by grade over the past six years.   Grades shown in red have declined and will affect future enrollment.

Figure 10

Historical Enrollment by Grade   **Totals by School Type**

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	(K-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)	Net Change
2018	171	167	203	212	206	192	169	181	182	208	142	150	150	1151	532	650	2333	
2019	190	168	169	197	206	212	181	162	184	207	156	129	137	1142	527	629	2298	-35
2020	145	183	156	160	190	194	191	172	173	195	173	121	123	1028	536	612	2176	-122
2021	151	143	180	158	169	187	189	195	173	236	151	141	115	988	557	643	2188	12
2022	136	154	143	183	151	170	178	174	195	217	149	138	128	937	547	632	2116	-72
2023	139	150	158	149	181	148	157	175	174	219	135	140	129	925	506	623	2054	-62

Change:	K to K	K to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	(K-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
18-19	19	-3	2	-6	-6	6	-11	-7	3	25	-52	-13	-13	12	-15	-53	-56
19-20	-45	-7	-12	-9	-7	-12	-21	-9	11	11	-34	-35	-6	-92	-19	-64	-175
20-21	6	-2	-3	2	9	-3	-5	4	1	63	-44	-32	-6	9	0	-19	-10
21-22	-15	3	0	3	-7	1	-9	-15	0	44	-87	-13	-13	-15	-24	-69	-108
22-23	3	14	4	6	-2	-3	-13	-3	0	24	-82	-9	-9	22	-16	-76	-70

Average Annual Change:

	K to K	K to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	(K-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
Last 5																	
Last 3																	
Last 2	-6	9	2	5	-5	-1	-11	-9	0	34	-85	-11	-11	4	-20	-73	-89
Last 1	3	14	4	6	-2	-3	-13	-3	0	24	-82	-9	-9	22	-16	-76	-70

Enrollment Forecast Grade Level Summaries – High, Medium and Low – Figure 11 shows enrollment forecasts for ASD grade level schools by high, medium and low expectation.   The medium forecast shown is blue is the most likely.   According to that forecast, elementary enrollment remains stable for both K-2 and grade 3-5 facilities while middle school enrollment declines slightly… High school enrollment declines by a greater volume.

Figure 11

Total District Projections

High Projection based upon Last THREE years.

Year	(K-2)	(3-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
2024	443	490	467	613	2013
2025	443	463	457	603	1967
2026	460	462	439	594	1954
2027	465	458	451	553	1927
2028	471	458	424	545	1898
2029	465	475	423	504	1867
2030	459	480	419	498	1856
2031	453	486	419	502	1861

Medium Projection based upon 3 year weighted average

Year	(K-2)	(3-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
2024	447	489	464	604	2004
2025	451	460	449	577	1937
2026	467	465	425	540	1897
2027	472	466	434	483	1855
2028	478	472	408	476	1834
2029	472	487	415	438	1813
2030	466	491	418	435	1809
2031	460	496	424	441	1821

Low Projection based upon Last TWO years.

Year	(K-2)	(3-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
2024	448	487	460	596	1991
2025	452	458	445	569	1924
2026	469	463	421	532	1884
2027	474	464	430	475	1842
2028	480	468	401	461	1809
2029	474	485	406	409	1773
2030	468	490	407	398	1762
2031	462	496	411	401	1770

Enrollment Forecast Detail – Figure 12 shows forecasted enrollments by grade… The medium forecast shown in blue is the most likely.

Figure 12

Total District Projections

High Projection based upon Last THREE years.

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	(K-2)	(3-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
2024	149	144	150	162	149	179	139	152	175	218	148	117	131	443	490	467	613	2013
2025	145	154	144	154	162	147	170	134	153	219	147	130	108	443	463	457	603	1967
2026	156	150	154	148	154	160	138	166	135	196	148	129	121	460	462	439	594	1954
2027	154	161	151	158	148	152	151	134	166	178	125	130	119	465	458	451	553	1927
2028	152	159	161	154	158	146	143	146	134	210	107	107	121	471	458	424	545	1898
2029	150	157	159	165	154	156	137	139	147	178	139	89	98	465	475	423	504	1867
2030	148	155	157	163	165	153	147	133	139	190	107	121	80	459	480	419	498	1856
2031	146	153	155	161	163	163	144	142	133	183	119	89	111	453	486	419	502	1861

Medium Projection based upon 3 year weighted average

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	(K-2)	(3-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
2024	149	147	152	162	147	179	138	151	175	211	142	121	130	447	489	464	604	2004
2025	145	156	149	156	161	143	170	131	148	212	131	120	114	451	460	449	577	1937
2026	156	153	159	154	155	156	133	163	128	185	132	109	114	467	465	425	540	1897
2027	154	163	155	164	152	150	147	127	160	165	105	110	103	472	466	434	483	1855
2028	152	161	165	160	162	151	140	141	127	197	88	91	101	478	472	408	476	1834
2029	150	159	163	169	158	160	140	134	141	164	120	74	81	472	487	415	438	1813
2030	148	157	161	167	167	156	150	134	134	178	87	106	64	466	491	418	435	1809
2031	146	155	159	165	165	166	146	144	135	172	101	73	96	460	496	424	441	1821

Low Projection based upon average annual change -- Last TWO years.

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	(K-2)	(3-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)
2024	149	148	152	163	145	180	137	148	175	208	135	124	129	448	487	460	596	1991
2025	145	157	150	157	158	144	169	128	148	209	124	124	113	452	458	445	569	1924
2026	156	154	159	154	152	157	133	160	128	182	125	113	113	469	463	421	532	1884
2027	154	164	156	164	150	151	146	124	160	162	98	114	102	474	464	430	475	1842
2028	152	162	166	160	159	149	140	137	124	194	78	87	103	480	468	401	461	1809
2029	150	160	164	171	156	158	138	131	137	158	110	67	76	474	485	406	409	1773
2030	148	158	162	169	166	155	147	129	131	171	73	99	56	468	490	407	398	1762
2031	146	156	160	167	164	165	144	138	129	165	87	62	88	462	496	411	401	1770

Conclusion – The Alamosa School District (ASD) has experienced predominantly stable demographics during the past decade with stable population, demographics and economic conditions. Preliminary enrollment expectations suggest that there will be stable elementary enrollment, a slight decline in middle school enrollment and a decline in high school reflecting smaller incoming grades.   Career Technical Education programs (CTE) have been the most effective high school enrollment retention strategy State-wide… The district's current and future CTE programs may be effective in retaining high school enrollment and reducing the magnitude of forecasted decline, but smaller incoming grade sizes will be difficult to reverse… Other than high school enrollment challenges, ASD should expect a consistent and stable future.