

Decreasing Elementary School Enrollment

Residents of some rapidly growing towns in New Hampshire have expressed concern that an influx of young families may add to their property tax obligation by increasing the need for public schools (www.communitiesandconsequences.org).

Sandwich is concerned about the opposite effect. As the figure below shows, the enrollment at Sandwich Central School has steadily declined during the current decade. A similar decline in enrollment is also being observed at the Interlakes Elementary School. The lower school age population in the community is a natural consequence of the selective loss of residents in the 20-40 age range who are most likely to have young children in their households. It is one more example of the imbalance of the human ecology in our town.

One consequence of a continuing drop in enrollment at the Sandwich School might be closure of the school. Not only would this remove a major Town institution, but it would also be likely to lead to accelerate loss of young families who are unwilling or unable to endure having their children go to school further from home.

