

Trends

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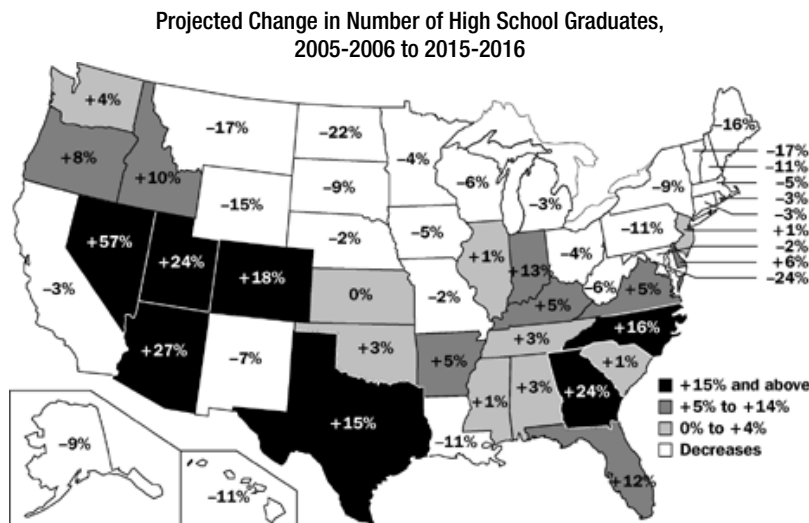
A Research Newsletter Prepared by the Office of Institutional Planning, Research and Communication

Updated Minnesota High School Graduate Forecast Challenging

Colleges located in the Midwest, particularly those relying on traditional-age students, will soon face increasing enrollment challenges. The data that follow summarize key demographic trends that will influence the enrollment future of institutions in the region, including the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, and reflect new projections of high school graduates in Minnesota.

The National Outlook

- Changes in the number of high school graduates will vary dramatically by state and region. Similar to trends at work in the 1990s, the number of graduates will continue to grow fastest in western and southern states. The fastest growth in the next decade will occur in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Georgia, Colorado, North Carolina, and Texas.
- Both the Midwest and the Northeast face challenging enrollment environments as the numbers of high school graduates in these regions decline, in many cases dramatically. Both regions are home to hundreds of colleges and universities which will continue to vie for students as the numbers of high school graduates decreases.
- Nearly all states in the Midwest, including Minnesota, will experience declining numbers of high school graduates, with the sharpest expected to occur in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota.



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Graduate Projections for Minnesota

- Minnesota will experience a 4% decline in the number of high school graduates over the period 2006 to 2016. The overall change masks great differences in the growth or decline of various racial and ethnic populations. The number of white graduates statewide will decrease by nearly 20% between 2000 and 2015 while other populations grow rapidly; the number of American Indian graduates in 2015 is predicted to grow by 22% of the 2000 numbers and the number of

Minnesota will experience a decline in the number of high school graduates over the next decade.

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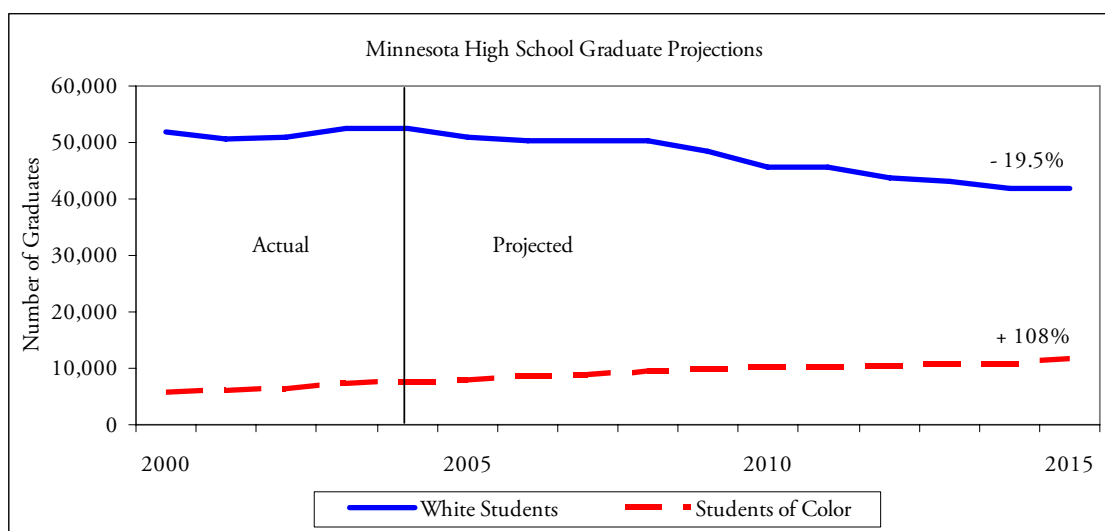
COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

Asian American graduates is expected to increase by 41%. The number of black graduates is projected to grow by 154%, and the number of Hispanic graduates is expected to increase nearly 260%.

- The ratio of high school seniors to graduates – a proxy for graduation rates – is declining among all groups of students. About 83% of all 12th grade students graduated in 2004, down from 91% in 1991. The lowest graduation rates occur among black and Hispanic students (52.3% and 57.4% respectively in 2004).
- The total number of high school graduates in the 7-county metro area will decline slightly over the next decade. American Indian and white high school populations are expected to decline in numbers (by 29% and 20% respectively). Asian American graduation numbers will increase by about 10% while numbers of black graduation numbers are projected to increase 55%. The number of Hispanic graduates is expected to increase by 160%.
- The total number of high school graduates in Stearns County will decrease by about 13% over the next decade. Numbers of American Indian and Asian American graduates are projected to remain relatively low and constant, while numbers of white graduates will decline by 23%. The number of Hispanic graduates is projected to increase nearly 650% while the number of black students is expected to quadruple.
- In the rest of Minnesota (excluding the metro area and Stearns County), the total number of high school graduates will decrease by more than one-quarter. The white graduate population is the only group that will see population decrease, but it is also the largest population in greater Minnesota. American Indian and Asian American graduate populations will increase slightly while the numbers of black and Hispanic students more than double.
- The biggest changes in Minnesota’s high school graduate demographics will occur after 2008. The number of graduates will remain constant or increase slightly over the next few years before beginning to drop.



Implications for CSB/SJU

- The admission outlook for private and public colleges will become even more challenging in the next decade. The number of high school graduates in the state and region is simultaneously declining and diversifying. The changes accelerate after 2008.
- The vast majority of current CSB/SJU students come from Minnesota and the surrounding states. As the number of high school graduates from the Midwest region declines, we must attract students from new national markets in order to maintain enrollment.
- All of the student population growth expected in the next decade in the state and region will occur among students of color, who historically have had lower average family incomes, lower high school graduation rates and lower college entrance exam scores and have been less likely to attend private four-year colleges.