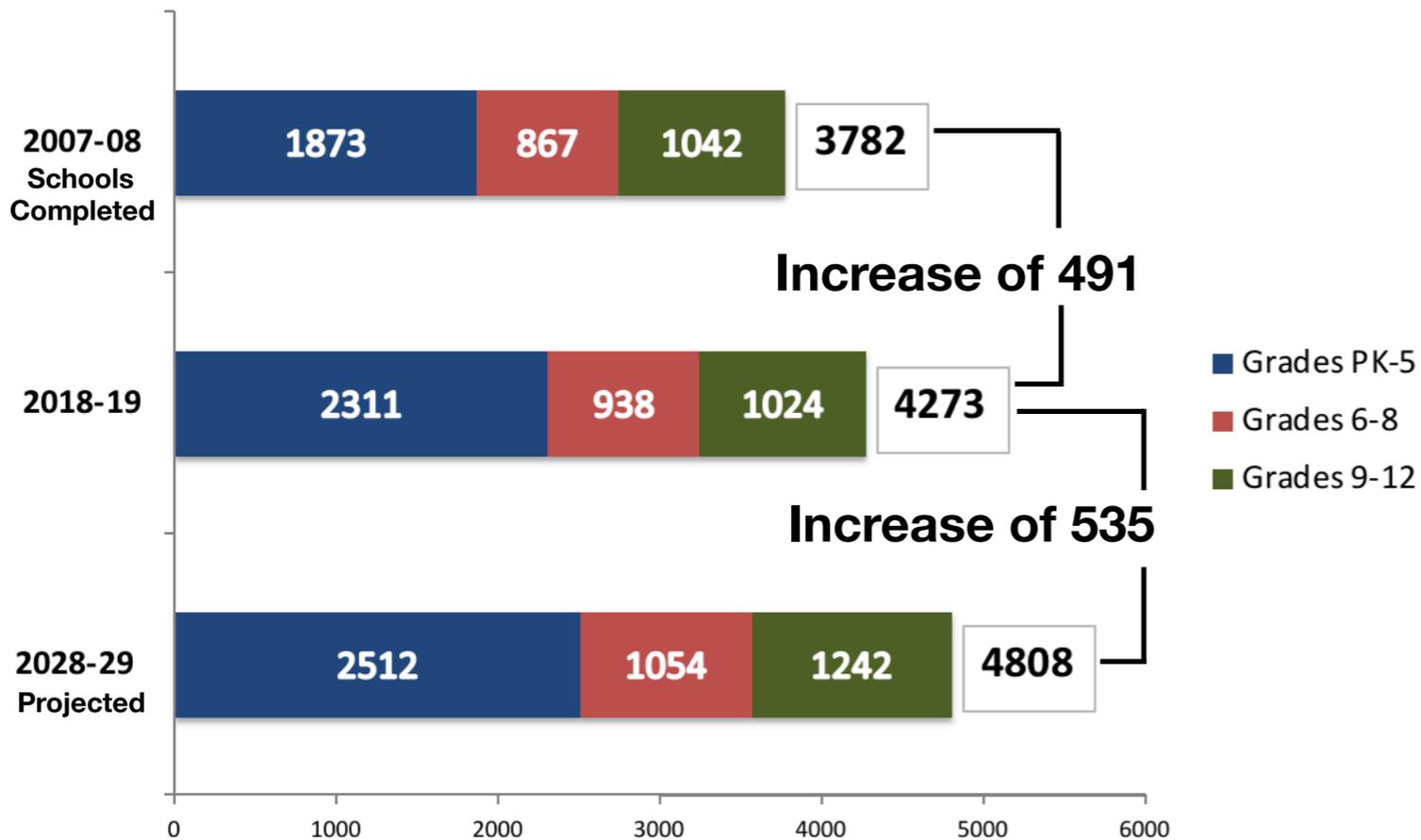


# Space and Enrollment Challenges for the Milton Public Schools

Milton is a great place to live: excellent schools, an engaged community, proximity to Boston, and the beautiful Blue Hills. Student enrollment has grown dramatically since 2007-08 when Milton completed its last school building project. Families are eager to move here because they want their children to get a great education, and the rate of growth has far exceeded what was anticipated.

**Student enrollment is projected to grow by more than 1,000 students since our schools were rebuilt in 2007-08**



Data from: New England School Development Council 10/18

## Growth in Elementary Classrooms



When school construction was completed in 2007-08, we had space for **84** elementary classrooms in 4 schools. In the 2018-19 school year, we have **95** elementary classrooms.

*The Schools have already lost art, music and computer rooms to accommodate this increase. We are running out of options.*

**We are currently serving 5 elementary schools in 4 school buildings**

**The quality of public schools is a major factor in home prices.**

**Milton Median Single Family Home Values: 2008 = \$451,800 2018 = \$695,500 -> a 54% increase**

# Milton Public Schools - Space and Enrollment Challenges - FAQs

## ***Our schools were just built. Why are we already out of space?***

Our school building project was designed in 1996 and constructed between 2003-07. Our buildings still look new, because we've done a good job maintaining them. Our growth "explosion" started in 2007 - we built the schools and the students came. Under previous Massachusetts regulations, our schools could only be built with limited room for growth. However, our enrollment growth has far exceeded what was anticipated.

## ***To what extent do we expect this enrollment growth to continue?***

The data points towards this growth not being a "bubble", but a long term trend. We have a decade of historical enrollment that exceeded our expectations. Enrollment projections show continued growth for the next decade. Based on this data from long term trends, we need to plan for the next decade and beyond. See NESDEC data at link below.

## ***Is the space crunch only at the elementary level?***

The enrollment increase has been most dramatic in the elementary grades over the past 10 years (23%). However, projections for the next ten years show increases at the elementary (34%), middle school (22%), and high school (19%) levels. Our elementary space crunch is happening **right now! We are currently serving 5 elementary schools in 4 school buildings** (438 more elementary students since 2008).

## ***What is the impact of overcrowding on education quality?***

In overcrowded classrooms, teachers are less able to provide differentiated instruction which is critical to student achievement. Classrooms are more crowded with desks, chairs and students. Some high school science classrooms do not have enough stations at which students can work. Elementary art and music programming suffers from a lack of dedicated space. Students have difficulty finding an available seat in crowded cafeterias.

## ***What's next?***

The School Committee has contracted for a Facilities Study by an Architectural Firm that will be completed by early 2019. Some options that have been considered and are being studied by the architects are short term **(1-3 years)** and long term **(3-5 years and beyond)**. These include the following:

- Renovating or adding on to existing spaces/buildings
- Building a 5th elementary school
- Larger class sizes
- Moving grades to different schools
- Renting space from private or parochial Milton institutions
- Adding portable classrooms

## **How can you be involved in this process?**

- Attend or watch School Committee meetings when Facilities are discussed
- Follow updates on MPS Blog
- Reach out to the MPS Administrators or School Committee to share ideas or suggestions

## **Important Links:**

**Milton Access TV On Demand** - [milton.vod.castus.tv/vod](http://milton.vod.castus.tv/vod)

**School Committee Webpage** - <https://www.miltonps.org/school-committee/sc-members>

**NESDEC (Historical and Projected Enrollment Data)** - [https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/2515/4350/0295/NESDEC\\_18MiltonMA.pdf](https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/2515/4350/0295/NESDEC_18MiltonMA.pdf)