

FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fairfield Athletics
2025-2026 & Beyond

Providing Opportunities & Sustainable
Solutions



Presented by:

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Brian McDowell, High School Principal

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4840 Fairfield Road

Fairfield, PA 17320

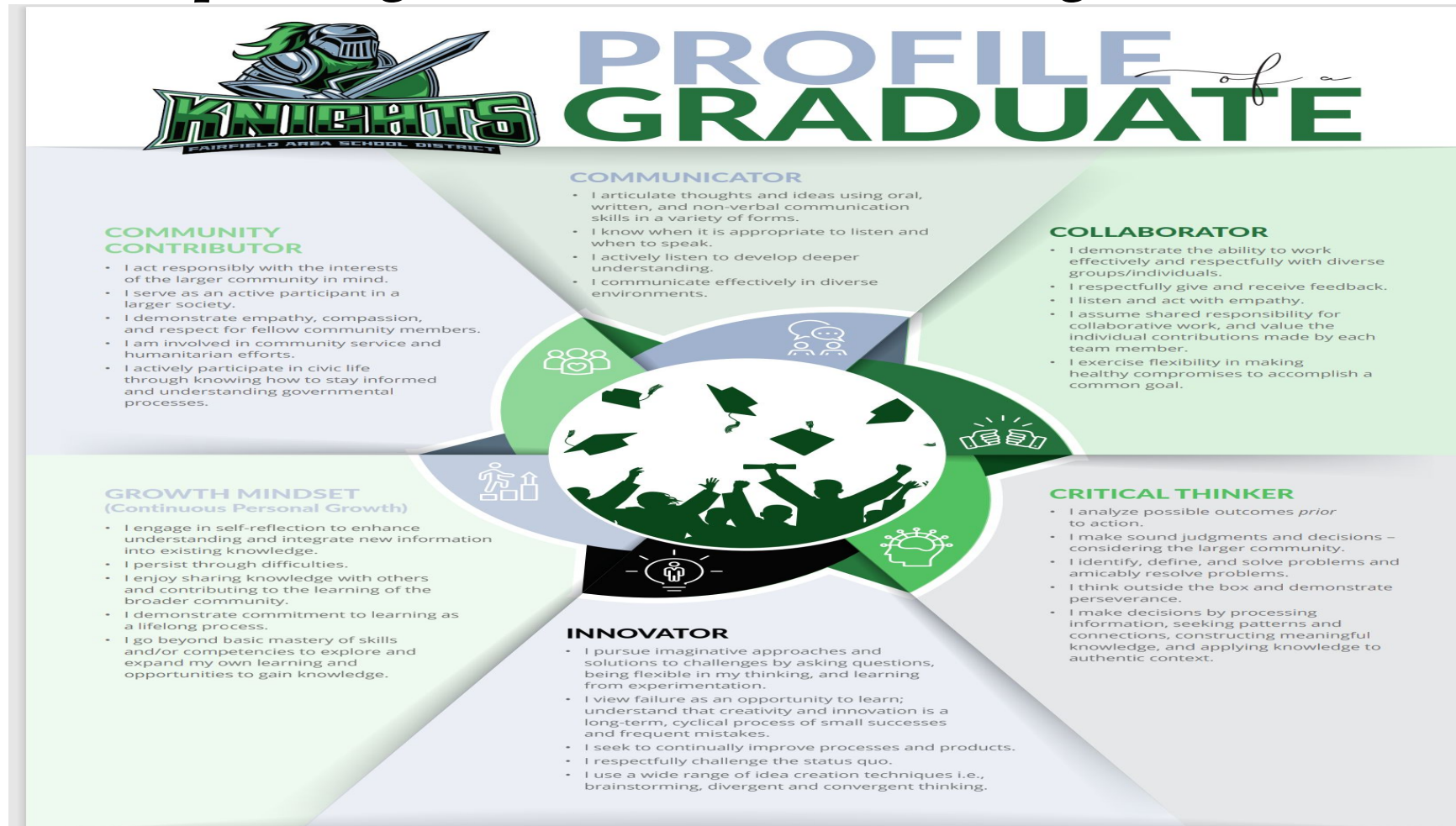
(717) 642-8228

www.fairfieldpaschools.org

District Vision



Empowering tomorrow's leaders...one Knight at a time



District Mission



Students First!

- Engaged in learning
- Empowered to be career and college ready
- Educated to make a difference

Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics at Fairfield Area School District



We are firm believers in an education-based interscholastic athletic program. Although we all want to win, winning is not the most important outcome in high/middle school athletics. The interests of the student-athlete come first. To this end, our athletes should learn life-long values and qualities, develop and grow as individuals, and understand and embrace sportsmanship.

Current Situation...

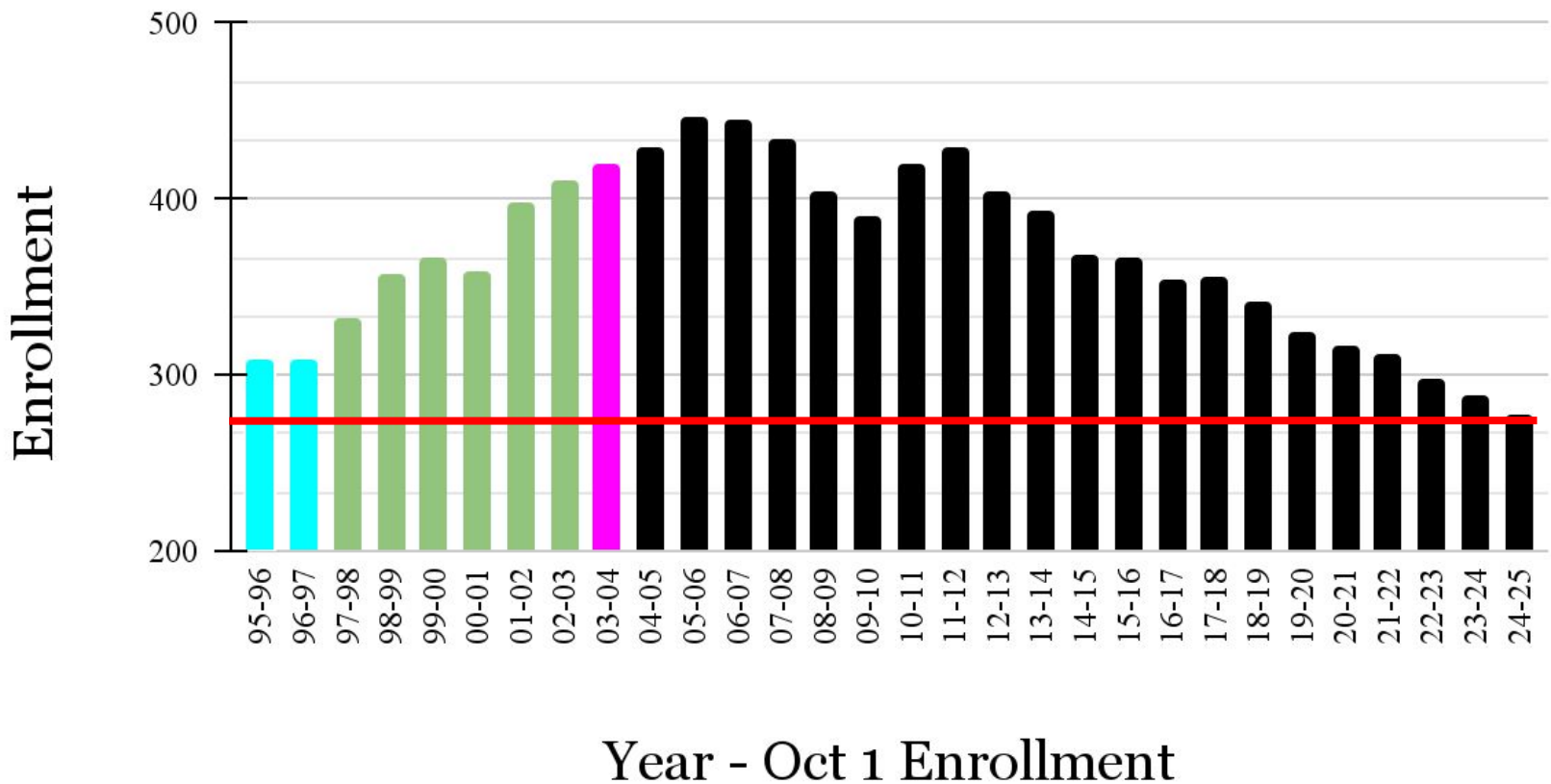


- 277 students in the high school
- 16 sports offered (boys/girls soccer, golf, field hockey, boys/girls cross country, football, volleyball, cheerleading, girls/boys basketball, wrestling, boys/girls track and field, baseball, softball)
- This fall several teams had rosters that were slightly larger than the maximum allowed on the field (in some cases we had to play with less than a full team in order to play the contest)
- Varsity football season transitioned to JV football due to low numbers/health and safety of the student-athletes
- Low numbers are currently projected for some of the winter sports teams



Fairfield Area High School Enrollment: Past 30 Years

Enrollment By Year



95-97 - 12 Sports

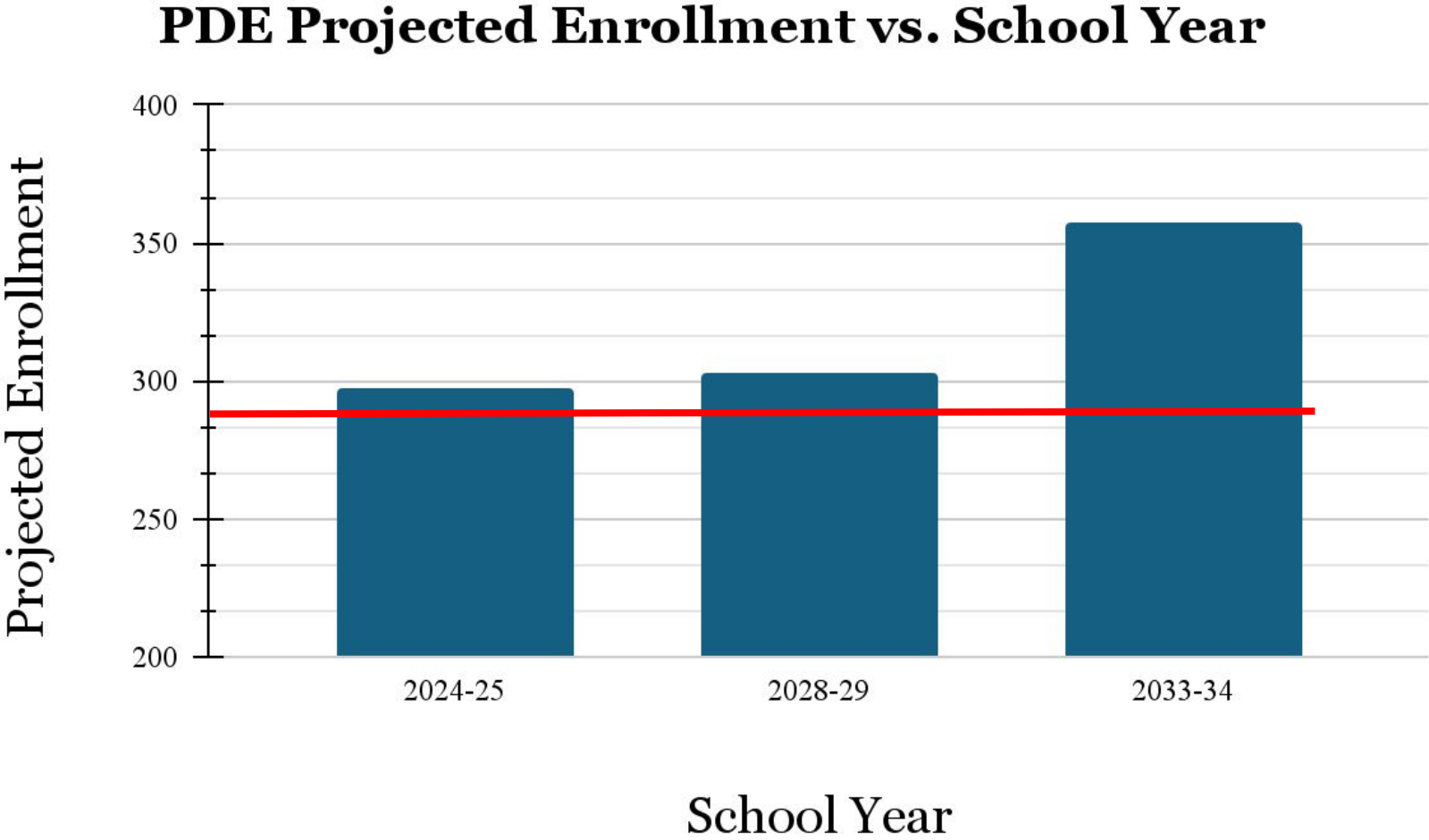
97-03 - 13 Sports

03-04 - 15 Sports

04-24 - 16 Sports

(Including Cheerleading)

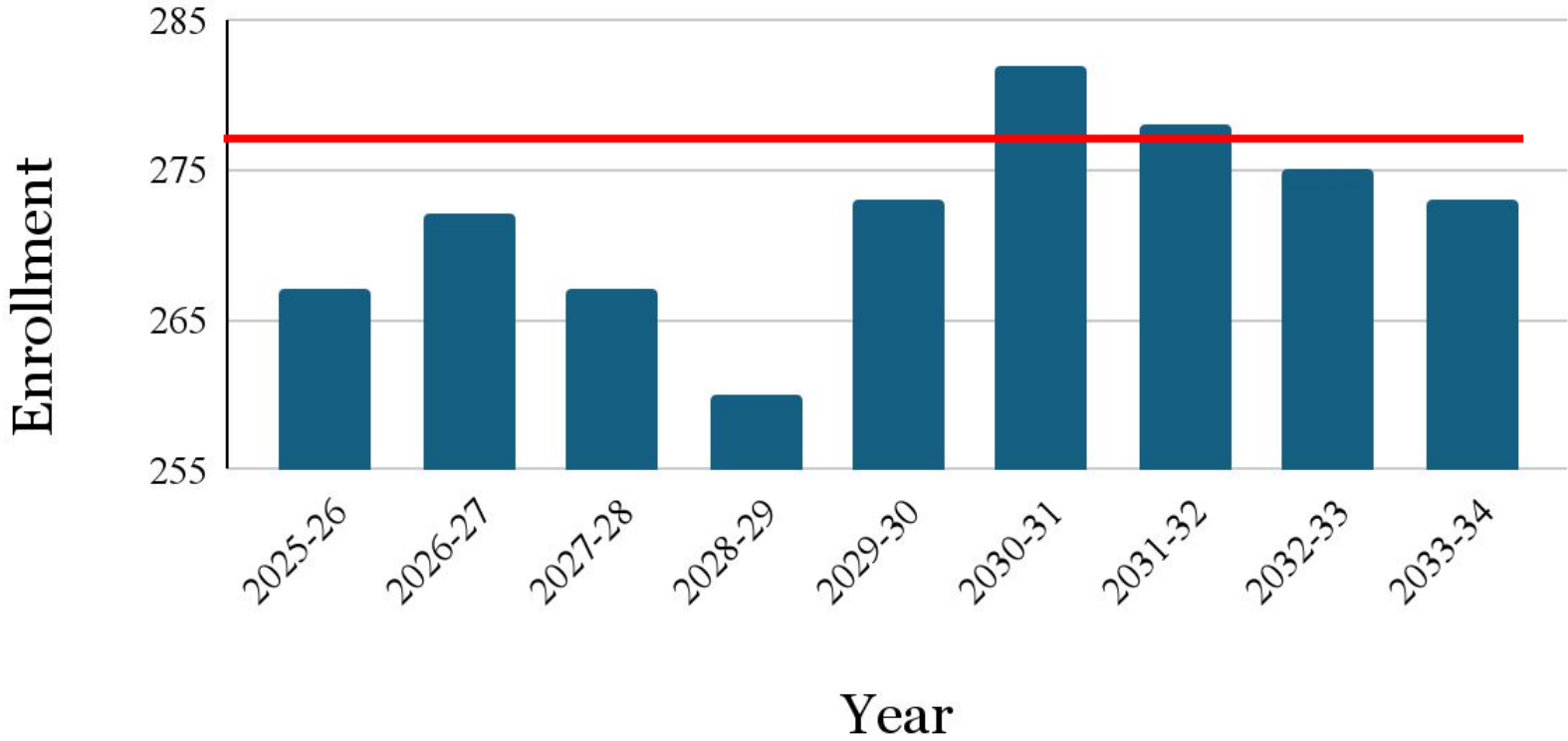
What Does High School Enrollment Look Like in the Near Future?



What Does High School Enrollment Look Like in the Near Future?



Future Enrollment vs. Year
(Based on Current Enrollment)



Athletic Team Participation – Historical



Please see handout or link below to see number of participants per sport over the past 30 years. Most of the data was collected at 5 year increments, except for the past 5 years (more data was given).

[Number of Participants](#)

Where do we go from here?...



Option #1 –YAI AA Only with 16 Current Athletic Teams

Considerations:

- Athletic participation numbers will continue to fluctuate impacting athletic teams – see enrollment information and team participation information.
- Some athletic programs currently have low participation and the number of participants for a specific athletic program impacts its viability and sustainability
- Sustainability of all 16 teams is a concern based on enrollment and number of participants – it has become a math problem.
- YAI AA does provide stability, officials, local competition and rivalries, student awards, guaranteed games, conference championships and a direct pathway to PIAA District and State playoff competition.

Where do we go from here?...



Option #2 – Independent with 16 Current Athletic Teams

Considerations:

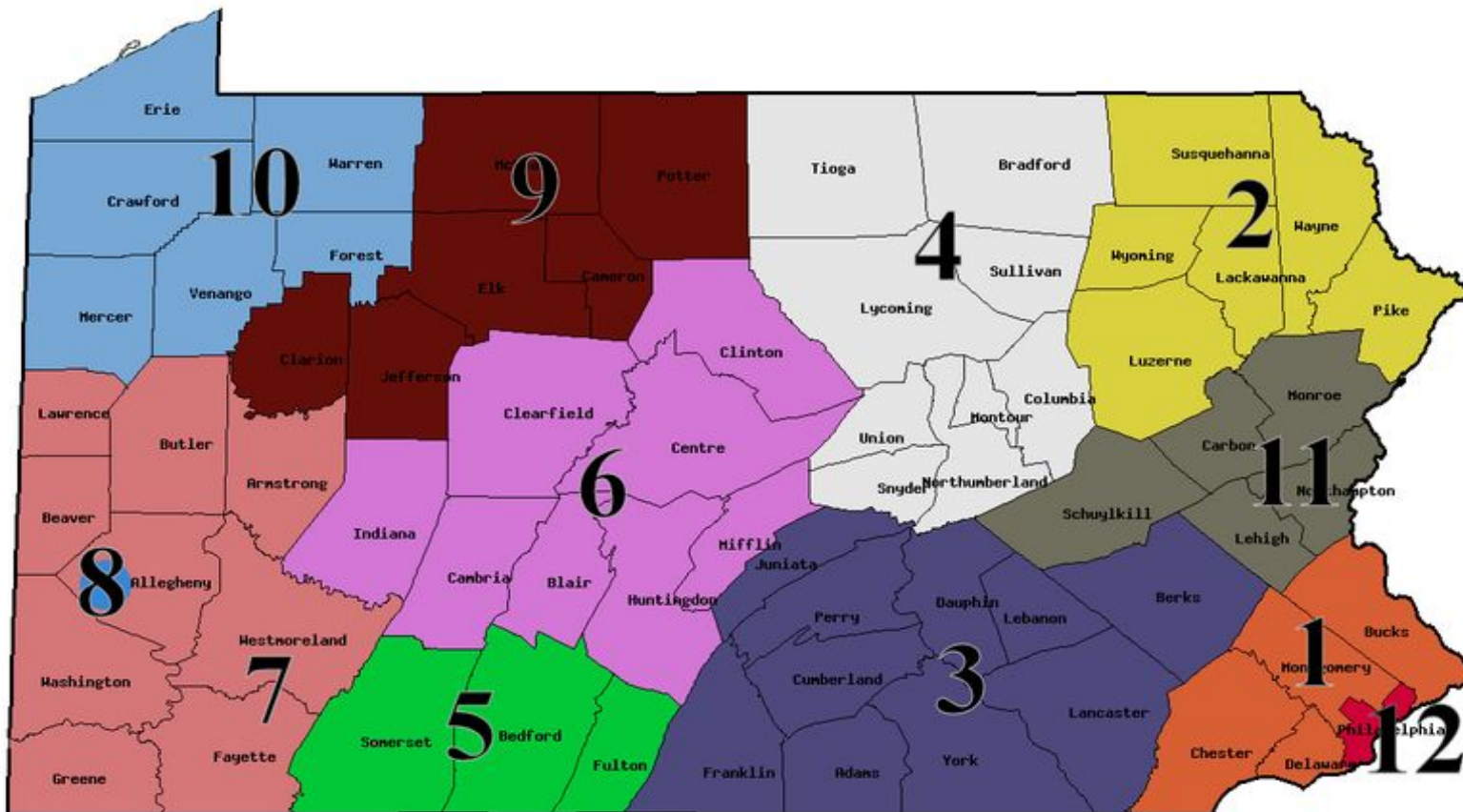
- FASD will need to schedule all contests and are not guaranteed a full complement of officials.
- Increased travel time to play opponents – which potentially impacts academics.
- Minimal teams in District III are independent and not all independent teams in Pennsylvania are members of PIAA.
- Qualifying for post-season – Districts and States becomes more challenging in lieu of scheduling contests.
- Less opportunity for Fairfield Student-Athletes to be recognized at the local, county, and state levels.
- Not an option to be independent in some sports and be in the YAIIAA.
- Being independent does not address sustainability of the 16 current athletic programs which then impacts opportunity for student-athletes to participate in those programs.

Where do we go from here?...



[District III Power Ranking
FAQ](#)

[Power Ranking
Explanation](#)



District III - Independent vs. League-Affiliated PIAA Schools



League	# of Schools	% of District III Schools
BCIAA	18	14.29%
CCAC	20	15.87%
LL	26	20.63%
MP	30	23.81%
TV	6	4.76%
YAI AA	22	17.46%
Ind	5	3.97%

Halifax is part of MP and TV

Total PIAA schools in District III - 126

96.03% of District III PIAA schools are league-affiliated

District III Independent Schools...

What Sports Do They Offer?



Harrisburg Academy - B/G
Basketball, B/G Soccer, Boys
Swimming, B/G Tennis -
(co-op)

Our Lady of the Cross - B/G
Basketball, Boys Soccer

Janus School - B/G Bowling

Shalom Christian Academy -
Baseball, Softball, B/G
Basketball, B/G Cross Country,
B/G Soccer, Volleyball

York Country Day - B/G
Basketball, B/G Soccer (co-op),
B/G Tennis (co-op)

Where do we go from here?...



Option #3 - Co-op 16 Athletic Teams With Another School District

Considerations:

- Co-ops between school districts for athletic purposes must be with a school district that shares a physical border.
- Gettysburg & Waynesboro are the only two (2) school districts that border Fairfield in PA.
- A dance partner is required...a school district willing to co-op all 16 athletic teams.
- No opportunities for Fairfield students to compete for “Fairfield”
- Potential long-term impact on school spirit and culture
- Local community impact
- Co-op with another district for all athletics is sustainable and provides opportunities for student-athletes.

Where do we go from here?...



Option #4 - Hybrid YAI AA & Co-op for Some Athletic Teams

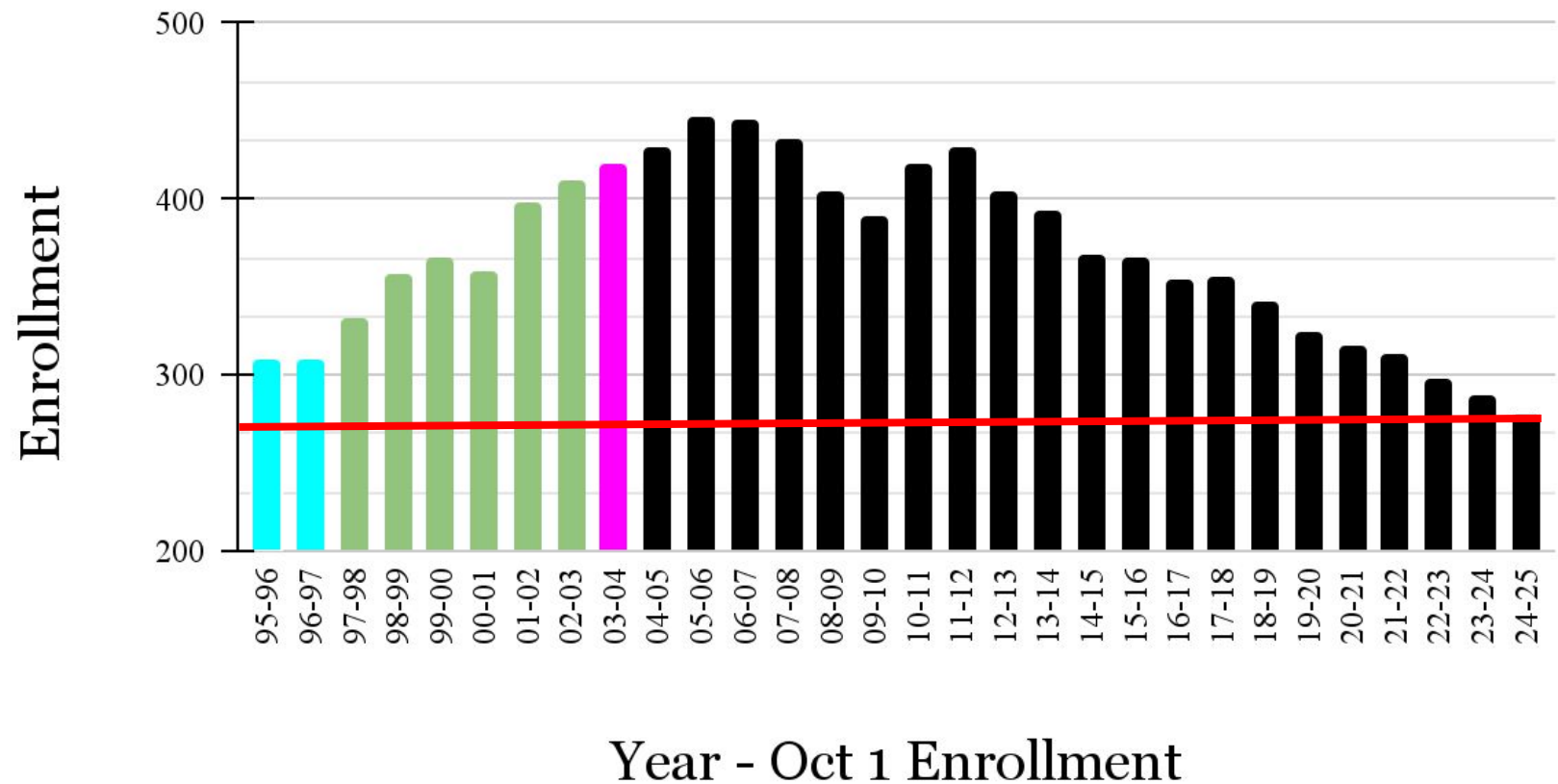
Considerations:

- Co-ops between school districts for athletic purposes must be with a school district that shares a physical border.
- Gettysburg & Waynesboro are the only two (2) school districts that border Fairfield in PA.
- A dance partner is required...a school district willing to co-op some athletic teams.
- Co-ops can be evaluated or re-evaluated every two (2) years.
- YAI AA does provide stability, officials, local competition and rivalries, student awards, guaranteed games, conference championships and a direct pathway to PIAA District and State playoff competition.
- Hybrid YAI AA & Co-op with another district for some athletics is sustainable and provides student-athlete opportunity.



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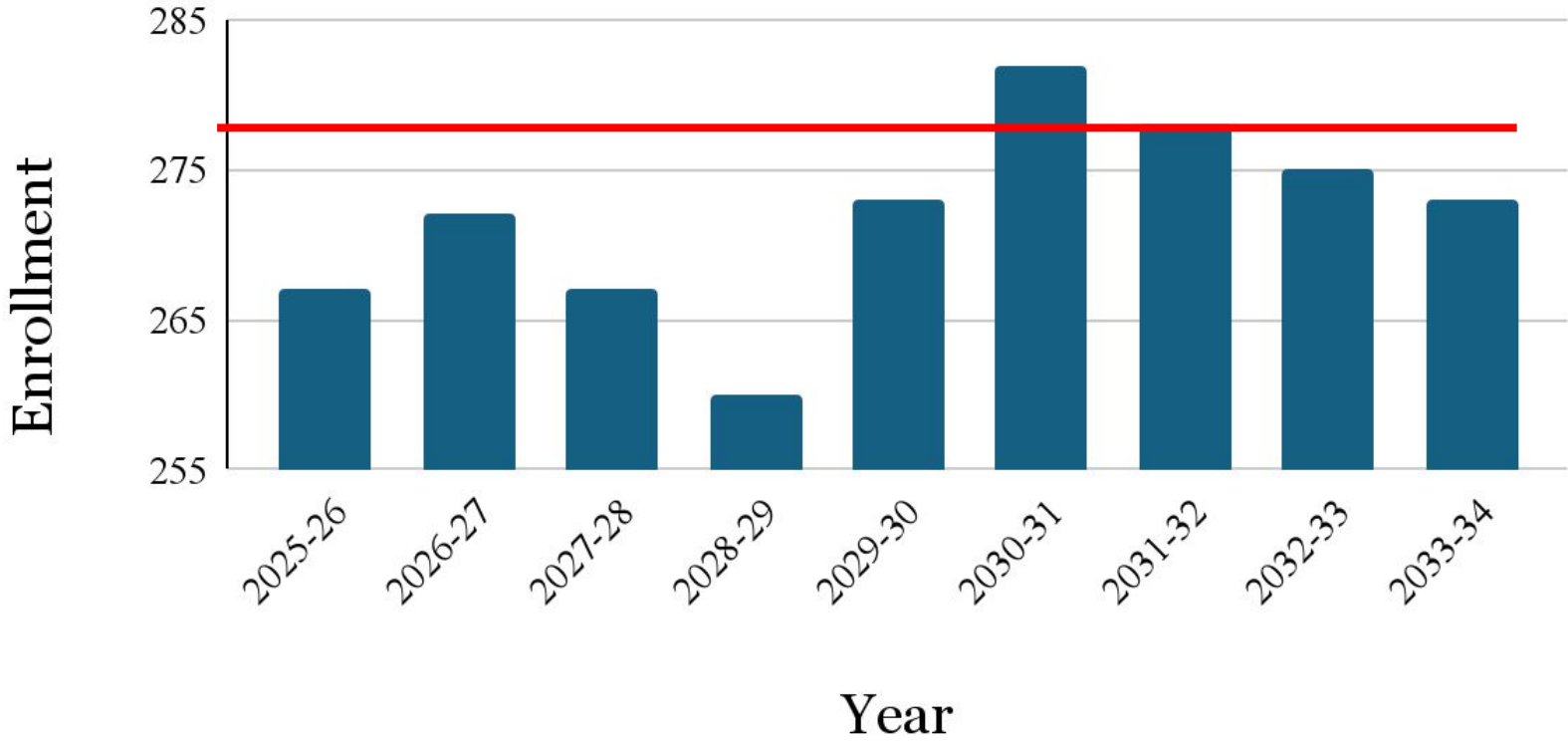
04-24 - 16 Sports

(Including Cheerleading)

What Does High School Enrollment Look Like in the Near Future?



Future Enrollment vs. Year
(Based on Current Enrollment)



Moving Forward While Providing Opportunities & Sustainable Solutions Recommendations...



1. Remain in the YAIAA
2. Co-op with Gettysburg or Waynesboro in Football
3. Co-op with Gettysburg or Waynesboro in Wrestling
4. Either co-op with Gettysburg or Waynesboro in Field Hockey next year, or do not offer Field Hockey after current 10th graders graduate due to limited student interest
5. Do not offer MS Field Hockey (1 student-athlete has expressed interest in last 2 years)
6. Establish MS Cross Country team
7. Establish Competitive Cheer/Spirit team in the fall, if we co-op with Gettysburg in Football

2024-2025 Fairfield Athletics - Current



FALL

Varsity.....JV Football

Boys/Girls Soccer

Boys/Girls Cross Country

Golf

Volleyball

Field Hockey

Middle School

Field Hockey

WINTER

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling

Cheerleading

Middle School

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling

Cheerleading

SPRING

Baseball

Softball

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Middle School

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Soccer

Volleyball

2025-2026 Fairfield Athletics - Hybrid Option



FALL

Boys/Girls Soccer

Competitive Spirit/Cheer

Boys/Girls Cross Country

Golf

Volleyball

Field Hockey - (Co-op)

Football - (Co-op)

Middle School

Cross Country

WINTER

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling - (Co-op)

Competitive Spirit/Cheer

Middle School

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling - (Co-op)

Cheerleading

SPRING

Baseball

Softball

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Middle School

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Soccer

Volleyball

2026-2027 Fairfield Athletics - Hybrid Option



FALL

Boys/Girls Soccer

Competitive Spirit/Cheer

Boys/Girls Cross Country

Golf

Volleyball

Field Hockey - (Co-op)

Football - (Co-op)

Middle School

Cross Country

WINTER

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling - (Co-op)

Competitive Spirit/Cheer

Middle School

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling - (Co-op)

Cheerleading

SPRING

Baseball

Softball

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Middle School

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Soccer

Volleyball

2027-2028 Fairfield Athletics - Hybrid Option



FALL

Boys/Girls Soccer

Competitive Spirit/Cheer

Boys/Girls Cross Country

Golf

Volleyball

Football - (Co-op)

Middle School

Cross Country

WINTER

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling - (Co-op)

Competitive Spirit/Cheer

Middle School

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling - (Co-op)

Cheerleading

SPRING

Baseball

Softball

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Middle School

Boys/Girls Track & Field

Soccer

Volleyball



Projected Timeline

December 2024

Board decision to co-op with
Gettysburg or Waynesboro in
football

January 2025

If Board decision is to not co-op
with Gettysburg or Waynesboro
in football, we need to know if
we are going to have a varsity
football schedule or a JV football
schedule
(If YAIAA will allow)



Projected Timeline

March 2025

- Board decision if we co-op with Gettysburg or Waynesboro in field hockey
- Board decision if we continue to offer MS field hockey
- Board decision if we establish MS cross country

April 2025

- Board decision if we co-op with Gettysburg or Waynesboro in wrestling
- Board decision if we establish a competitive spirit/cheer team

Moving Forward While
Providing Opportunities & Sustainable Solutions



Questions?