

# FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Proposed Racial Balance Plan Amendment

July 26, 2022

Stephen Tracy  
Interim Superintendent

# Three Purposes

1. To sustain & enhance quality education for all students;
2. To recognize the growing diversity of our community and assure that every child is afforded an equal opportunity to learn & succeed; and
3. To bring our schools into compliance with Connecticut's Racial Balance law.

# 1. Engaging the Community

- The Board of Education will conduct a series of presentations about the Racial Balance Plan this fall.
- Various locations.
- In Person and Virtual

## 2. Equity Training

- Assuring equal opportunity for all requires knowledge & understanding on the part of the entire district, including:
  - the Board of Education;
  - District Administrators;
  - School Leaders; and
  - Faculty and Staff Members
- Equity Workshops during winter and spring of 2023.

# 3. Improving School Climate

Goal: Every child safe, loved and learning.

By February 1, 2023, district will review current steps to assure that all students are welcome & successful and recommend improvements as necessary.

Effective Instruction

Academic Support

Counseling

Service to multi-lingual learners

Access to advanced courses

Staff selection

Professional Development

Positive School Climate

# 3. Improving School Climate

District's 2022-2027 Improvement Plan already includes key steps in this direction:

- Students to
  - Acknowledge & value diversity
  - Understand and appreciate other cultures
  - Engage in culturally responsive curriculum
- District to
  - Close opportunity gaps
  - Reduce barriers to rigorous courses
  - Promote greater diversity in hiring

## 4. Redistricting

As Fairfield's population has shifted over the years, significant differences have developed in our elementary school enrollments.

- 5 schools under 75% capacity
- 5 schools at/over 85% capacity
- Projected K-5 enrollment for 2022-23 is more than 1,000 below capacity.

## 4. Redistricting

Fairfield's public schools have grown increasingly diverse over the last 12 years.

The % of students of color in our elementary schools has risen as follows since 2010-11:



## 4. Redistricting

Because school assignments reflect community housing patterns, the distribution of students of color has not been uniform among our elementary schools.

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- 15% = “Impending Imbalance”

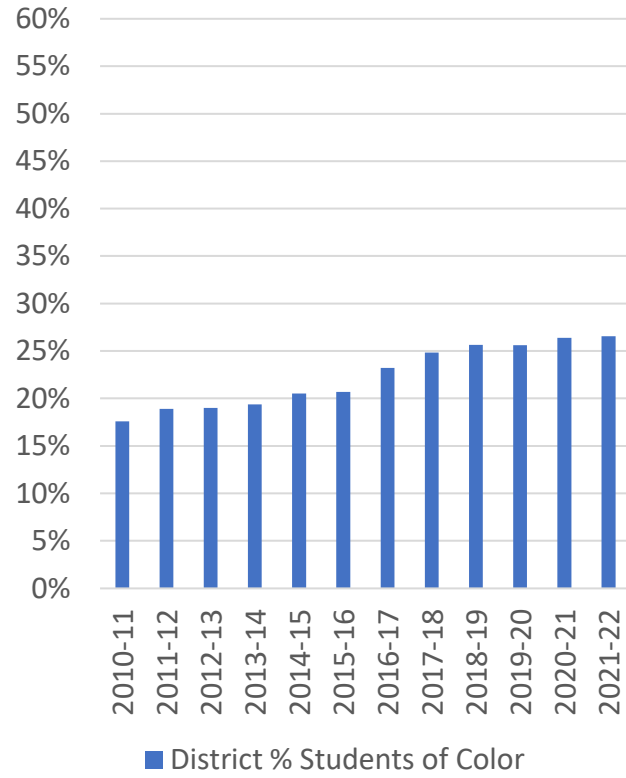
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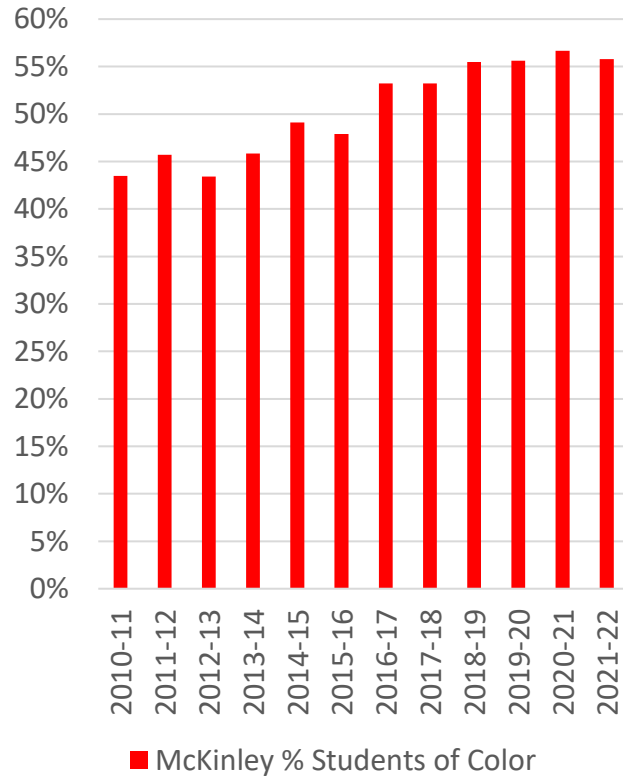
- 15% = “Impending Imbalance”
- 25% = “Imbalanced”

# Percentage of Student of Color & Imbalance

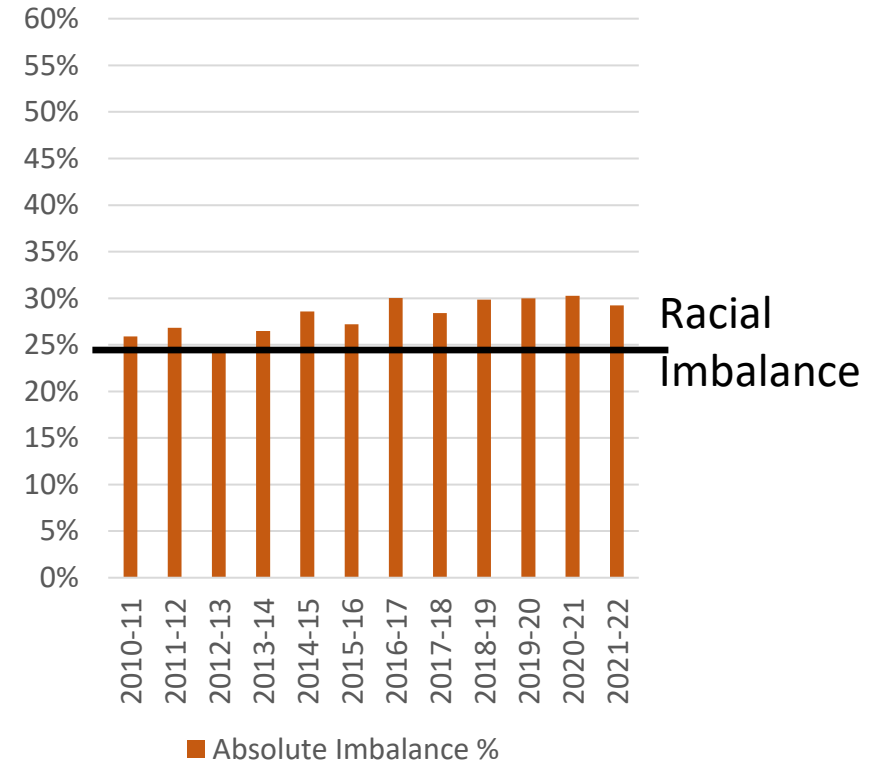
## K-5 Districtwide



## McKinley



## Absolute Imbalance



## 4. Redistricting

Fairfield's elementary schools have remained "out of balance" for 9 consecutive years.

State Board of Education has set a 9/8/22 deadline for Fairfield to propose an amendment to its Racial Balance Plan that will bring the district into compliance.

## 4. Redistricting

As the Board of Education redraws K-5 attendance lines in response to enrollment & capacity issues, it should create new attendance zones that bring the district into compliance with the Connecticut Racial Balance Law.

Goal: Reduce the difference in % of students of color to less than 15%.

# 4. Redistricting

May 2023:

Superintendent presents redistricting plan to a Committee of the Board of Education

June 2023:

Committee recommends plan to BoE

October 2023:

BoE adopts redistricting plan.

August 2024:

New K-5 district plan takes effect



## 5. Intra-District Magnet School

In order to offer enhanced educational opportunities and to encourage families to have their children attend school outside of their neighborhoods, the Fairfield Public Schools should consider developing one or more intra-district magnet schools.

Two possibilities:

- International Baccalaureate Program
- Dual Language Program

## 5. Intra-District Magnet School

Participation will be voluntary

Timing:

- 2023 – 2024: Planning & Budgeting
- May 2024: Program descriptions provided to families
- December 2024: Parents invited to enroll their children
- August 2025: Magnet program begins operation