



STUDIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2017

Manchester Community Schools
Metropolitan School District of Wabash County
Wabash City Schools



Community
Foundation of
Wabash County

We're here for giving. We're here for good.



HOOSIER EDUCATION

- Accountability
- Inter-district transfers
- Expansive voucher system

INTENT OF THIS INITIATIVE

... to explore shared interests that enhance educational opportunities in Wabash County while increasing financial efficiency in the delivery of education.

INTENT OF THIS INITIATIVE

Phase One – Why

Phase Two – How

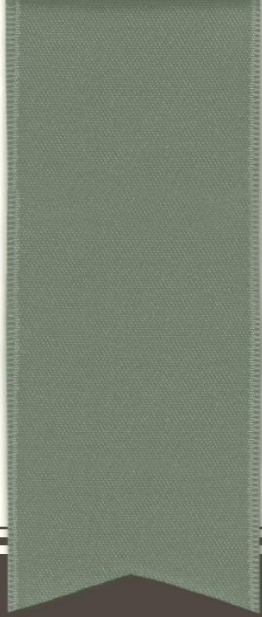
STUDIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

- Wabash County Demographics
- Wabash County Workforce Development Profile
- Academic Audit
- Analysis of Financial Strength
- Facilities Study

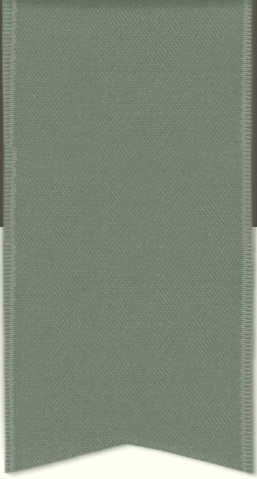
The summary report can be found at **cfwabash.org**.

IMPACTING FACTORS

- Midwest Rust Belt
- Current county educational levels
 - 55% of residents over age 25 hold a high school diploma or less as their highest levels of education
 - 25% of residents over age 25 hold post-secondary degrees
- The Lumina Foundation and Regional Big Goal Collaborate strive to increase high quality degrees and credentials to 60% of adults by the year 2025.

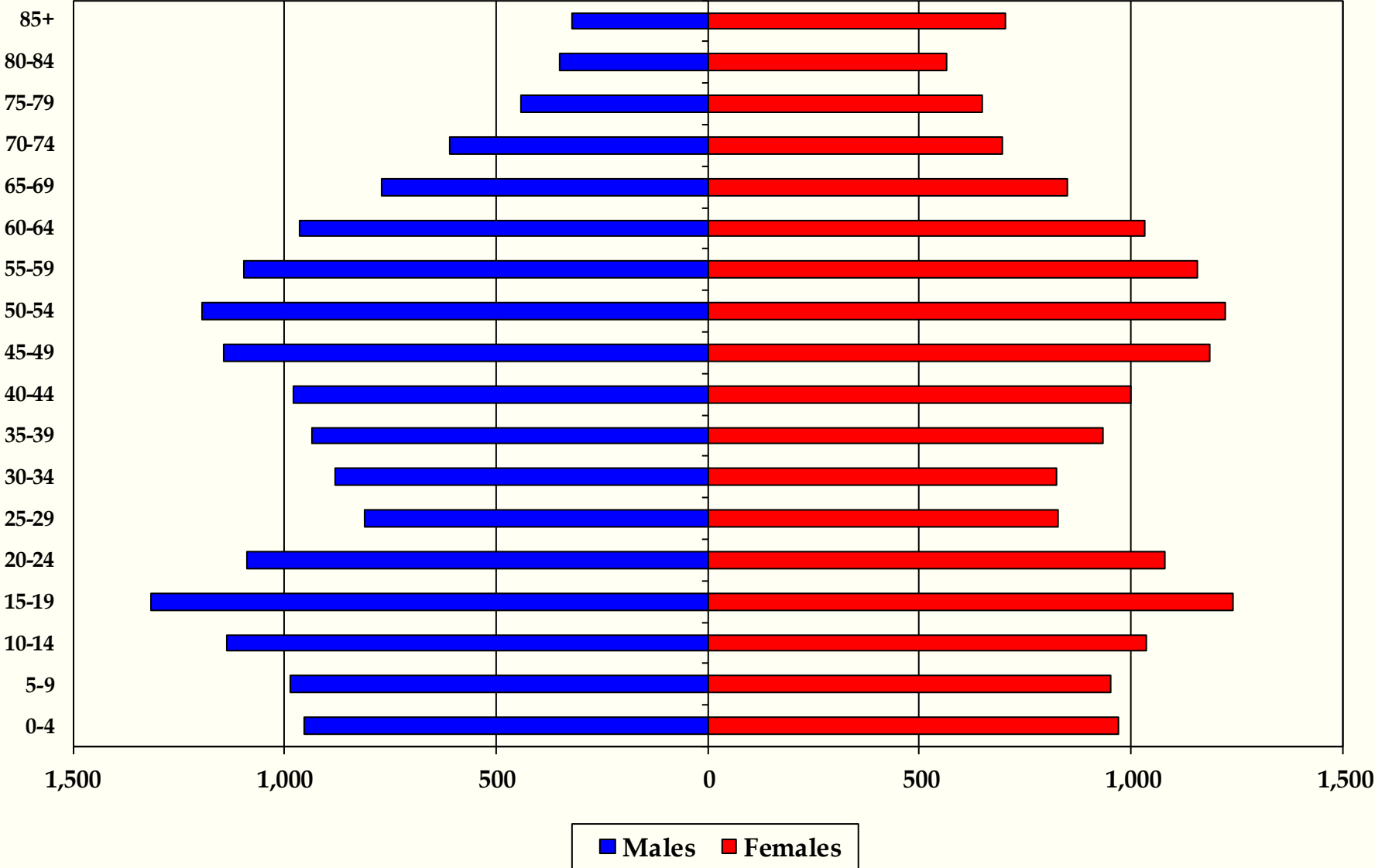


FINDINGS

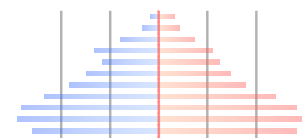
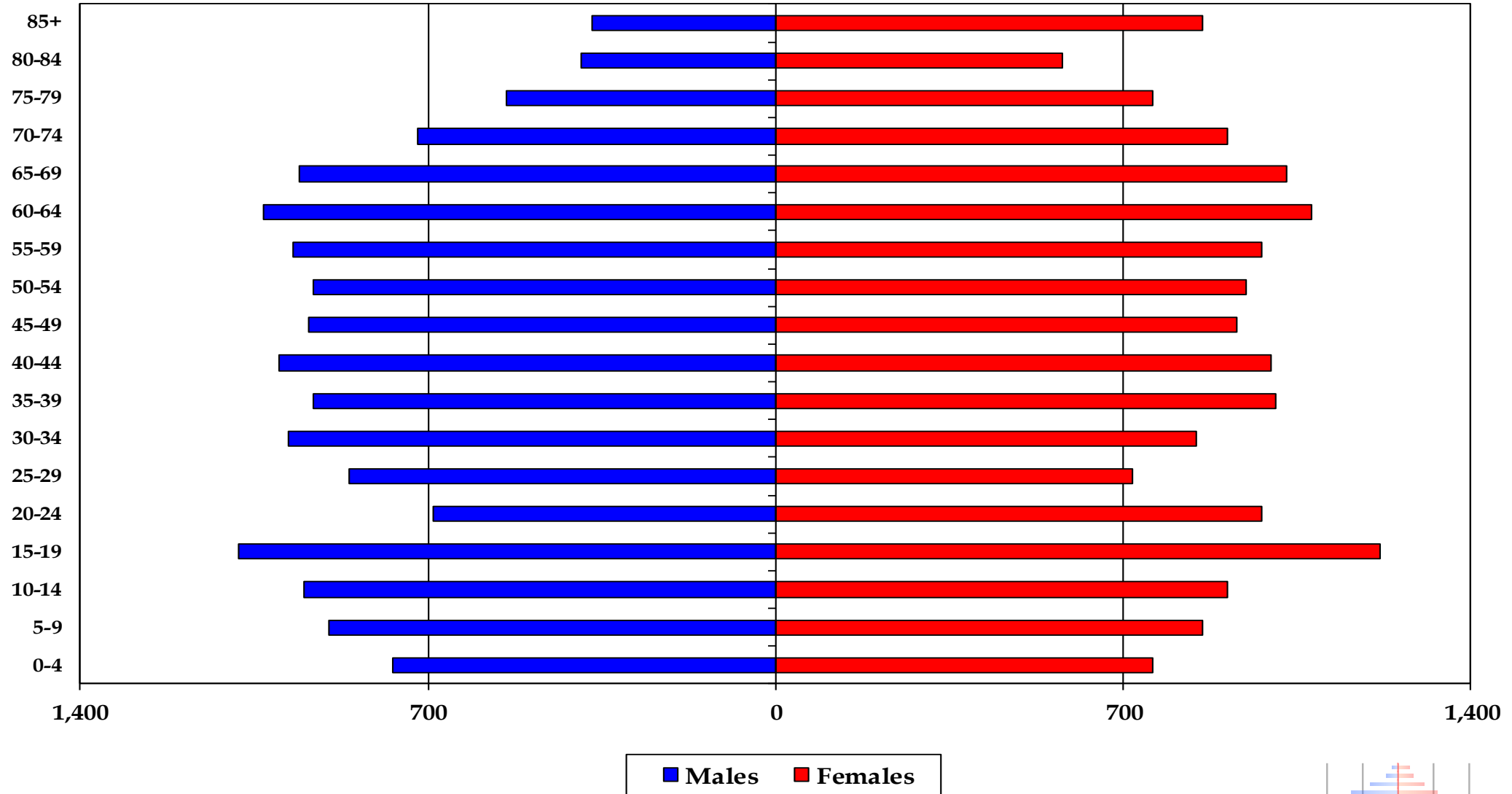


ONE: County population has and will continue to decline. As the median age continues to increase, fewer children who will attend school will be born.

Wabash County, IN Total Population - 2010 Census



Wabash County 2025 Total Forecasted Population



Demographic Findings

- The total population of Wabash County declined by 211 residents (0.6%) between 2010 and 2015.
- An additional decline of 390 residents (1.2%) is forecast between 2015 and 2020.
- The trend accelerates with a further forecast decline of 630 residents (2.0%) anticipated between 2020 and 2025.

Demographic Findings

When the county median age rises above 40 years, the number of children born will drop dramatically, reducing the number of resident children to attend school in the county.

Attendance area median ages from 2010 to 2025:

- MCS increases from 37.9 to 39.6 years
- MSD Wabash County increases from 43.9 to 46.6 years
- Wabash City increases from 39.8 to 42.3 years

Demographic Importance

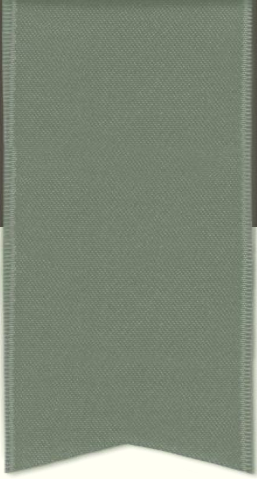
- Wabash County total population is forecast to decrease by 3.1% between 2015 and 2025.
- Wabash County student enrollment is forecast to decrease by 6.1% between 2015 and 2025.
- The “aging” of the county is a primary factor contributing to the decrease in school enrollment.



TWO: Currently, the majority of school transfers occur between county districts.



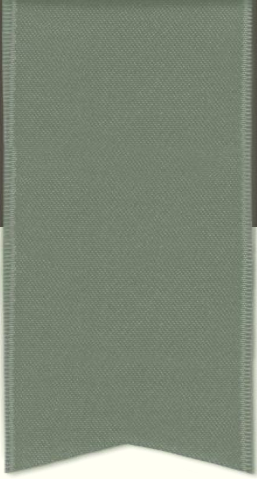
THREE: State funding levels are not keeping pace with state and federal program expectations.



FOUR: Current academic programs in all three districts meet state requirements but offering specialized or advanced learning opportunities is increasingly difficult.

Compounding impact of enrollment decline...

- Having fewer students requires a district to choose between offering low enrolled, less cost efficient courses and not offering the courses at all.
- The breadth of program offered is often scaled back because of insufficient participation levels.
- The cost of operating facilities remains level despite fewer students using them.
- Attracting and retaining teachers with specialized credentials is difficult if they cannot be fully utilized.



FIVE: Future workforce needs differ from those in the Region and State, with a high proportion of jobs in the county requiring low skill levels whose compensation can threaten economic self-sufficiency.

IMPACTING FACTORS

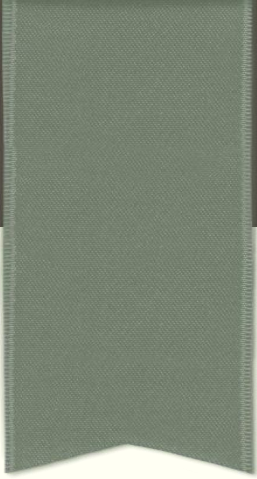
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PROJECTED OCCUPATIONS

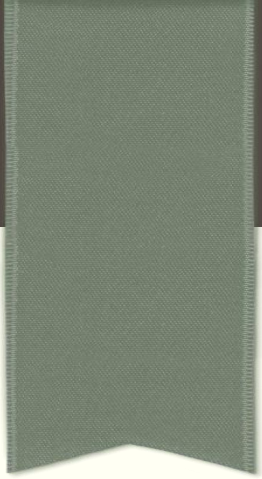
- While there is overlap among some of the projected occupations on the Hoosier Hot 50, the Region 3 Hot 50, and the Wabash Top 40 jobs, important patterns emerge when examining the educational levels required.
- Of the Wabash Top 40 projected occupations:
 - 13 (32.5%) require a post-secondary degree
 - 1 (2.5%) requires some college
 - 8 (20%) require an industry certification
 - 18 (45%) require a high school diploma, its equivalent, or on-the-job training

IMPACT of PROJECTED OCCUPATIONS

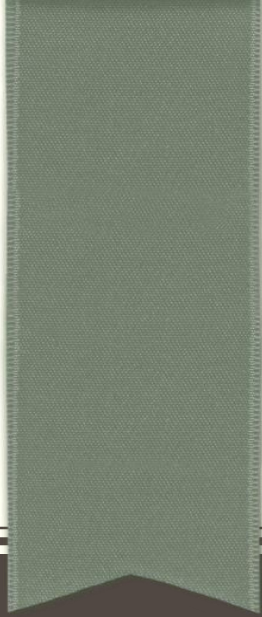
- Of the 9 jobs projected for the county but not the state or region, 7 place a family of four at or near qualification for free/reduced school meals.
- County high school graduates who earn a bachelor's degree are less likely to live and work in the county.
- Employability skills are important to all jobs.
 - Communication Skills Enthusiasm and Attitude
 - Teamwork Problem solving, Critical Thinking
 - Networking Professionalism



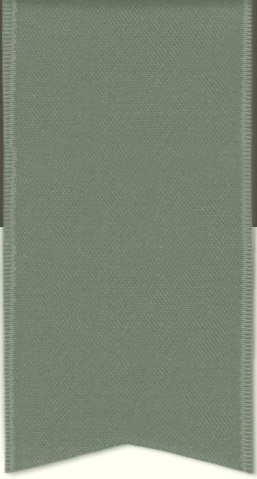
SIX: School facilities are well-maintained but reflect the times they were built. Each district is challenged to find appropriate spaces for current and future educational needs.

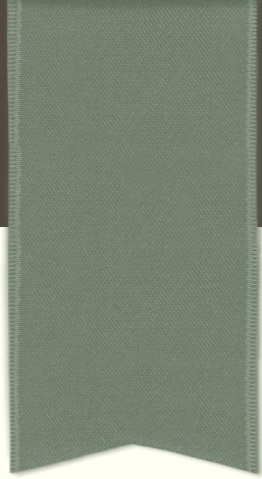


SEVEN: Junior high school students have unique developmental needs that are not distinguished fully from what is provided to high school students.



CALL TO ACTION

- 
- 1. Advocate for the viability of the public schools in Wabash County.**
 - 2. Establish a definition of “success” for each school district and identify reachable targets for academic, fiscal, operational, and community-based services desired by their respective school communities.**

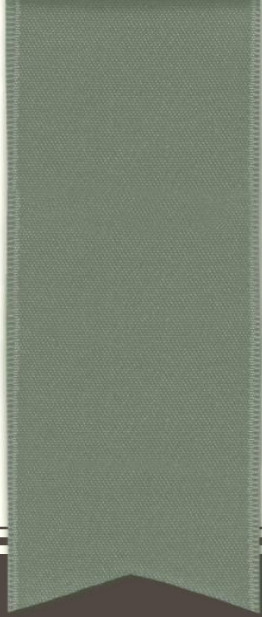


- 3. Utilize community-based collaborative efforts to help build coalitions in support of current and future educational efforts.**

- 4. Enhance the desirability of Wabash County educational programs as a means of attracting families that seek exemplary educational opportunities for their children.**

UNIQUE and APPEALING OPPORTUNITIES

- Specialized rigorous/authentic classes
- Content organization
- Instructional approaches



WABASH COUNTY ASSETS

Wabash County is home to...

- three strong public school districts whose educators are deeply committed to helping every student succeed.
- two distinct, readily identifiable population centers that should be honored for their individuality and the diverse gifts they bring to the county.

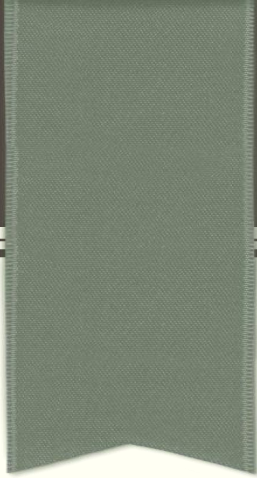
Wabash County is home to...

- multiple expanding efforts to collaborate around social, cultural, and economic stimulation
- a visionary Community Foundation that provides leadership in initiating public discussion on various topics that can enhance quality of life for all residents.



HEALTHY COMPETITION

HEALTHY COOPERATION



WABASH COUNTY

COMMUNITIES BUILD STRONG
SCHOOLS BUILD STRONG