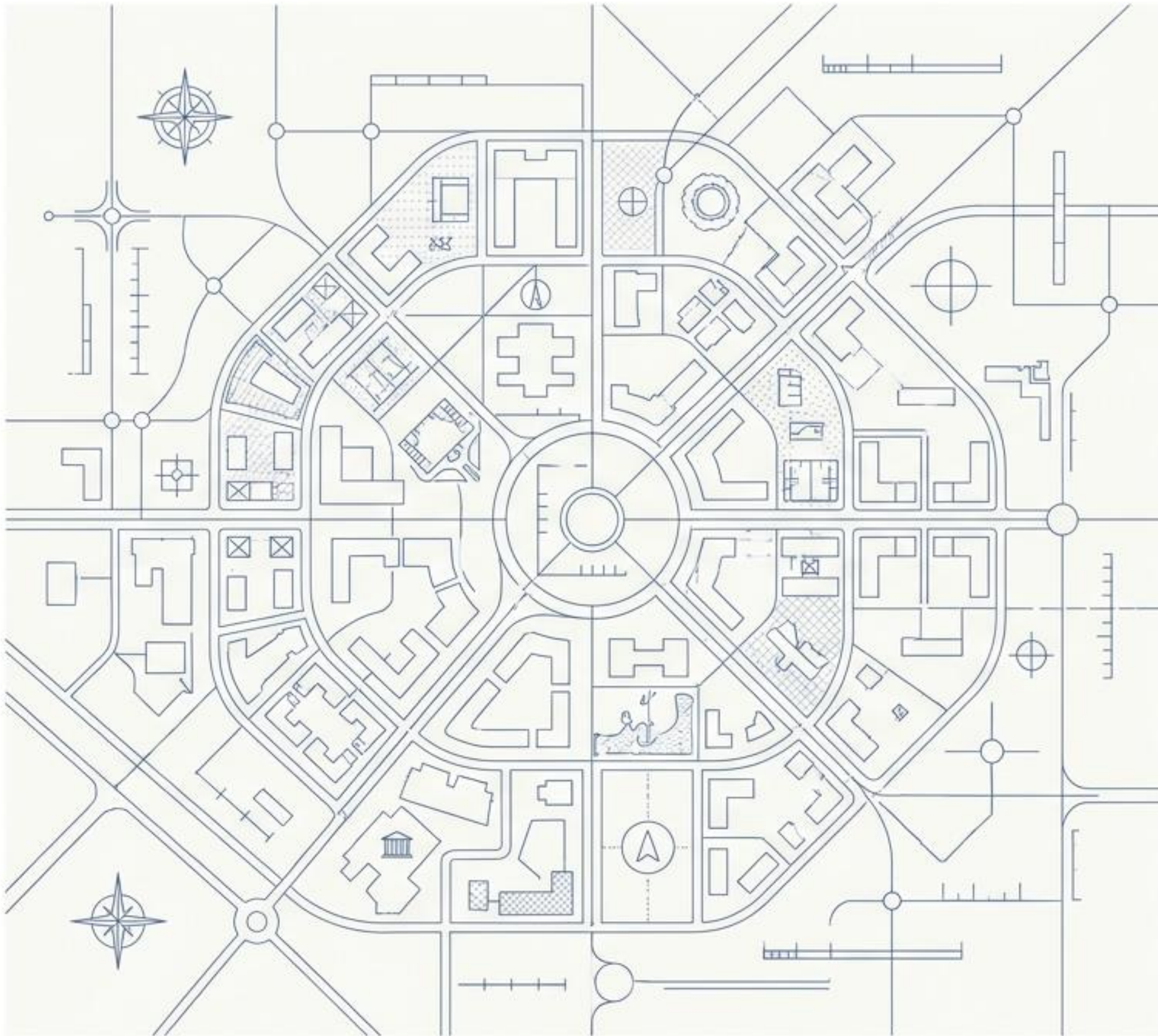




Cocksackie-Athens Central School District

Enrollment Study (2026-2032)

Prepared for the CACSD Superintendent
and Board of Education.

Data analysis and projections conducted
by Dr. Jerome D. Steele & Jerome A.
Steele.

A systemic demographic shift requires strategic adaptation.

-32%

The Trend

Enrollment has fallen from 1622 (in 2000) to 1108 (in 2026), reflecting a regional rural pattern.

84%

The Drivers

A vast majority of the district population is no longer school-age, compounding with rising alternative schooling choices.

33

The Housing Myth

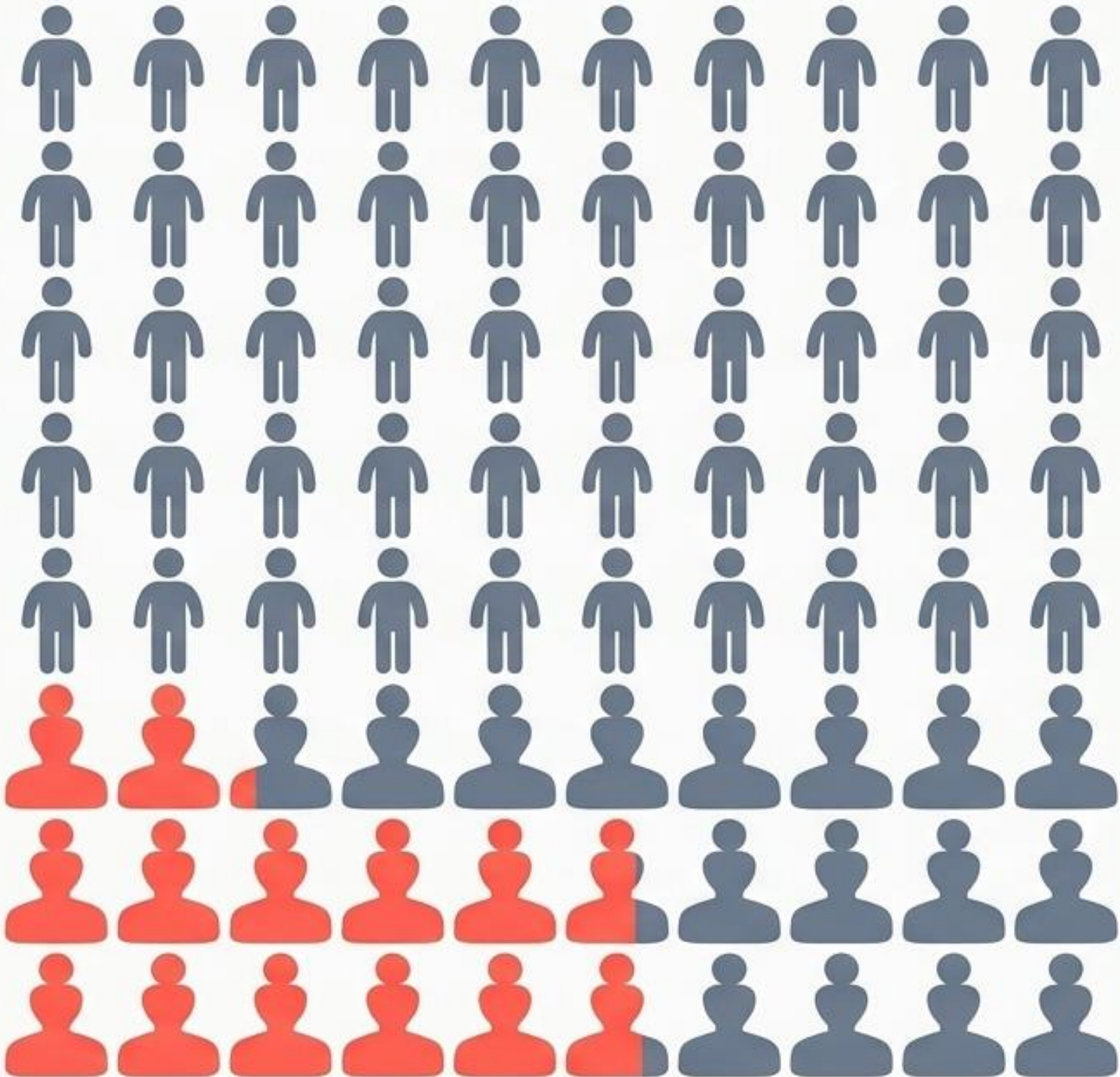
New residential developments, like the UMH property, yield minimal new students (approx. 33 kids per 100 units).

Optimize

The Imperative

The district must reconfigure building footprints and execute a long-range strategic plan to match constrained resources.

The district population leans heavily away from school-age demographics.



Total Population: 11,714

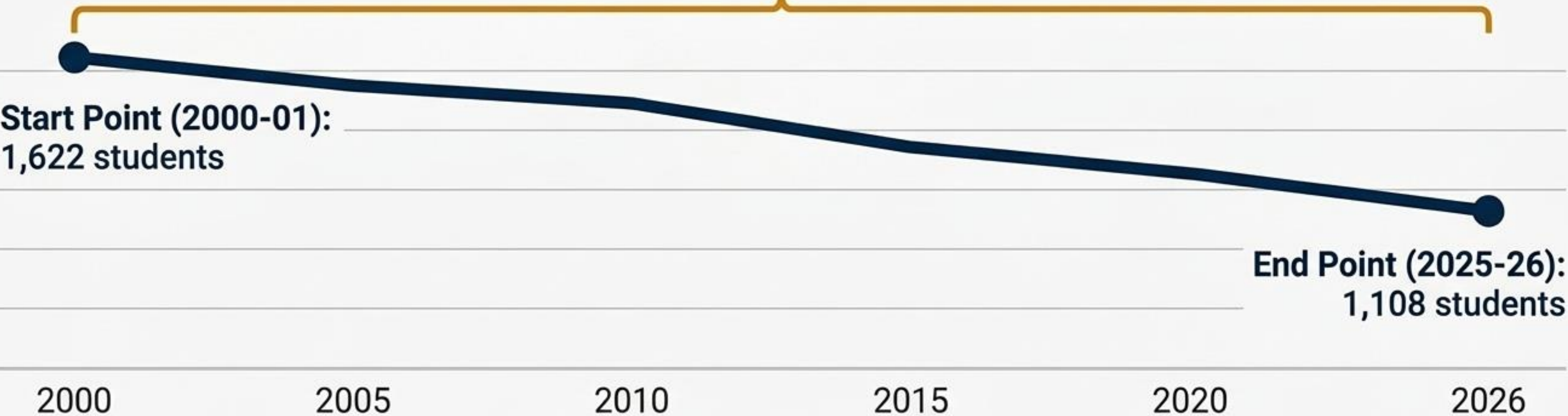
16%
Youth (19 or younger)

5% Early Childhood
(Under age 9)

Context: This skew is more severe than both Greene County and New York State averages, establishing a unique local challenge.

CACSD has experienced a steady 25-year decline in student enrollment.

Overall Loss: 514 students (-32%)



-61

Coxsackie Elementary
(2015-2025 loss)

-73

Edward J. Arthur
(2015-2025 loss)

-124

Middle School
(2015-2025 loss)

-77

High School
(2015-2025 loss)

Declining enrollment is a macro-trend across neighboring districts.

District	Enrollment Change (2013 to 2026)
Coxsackie-Athens (CACSD)	-25%
Catskill (CCSD)	-25%
Cairo-Durham (CDCSD)	-21%
Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk (RCSCSD)	-18%
Kinderhook/Ichabod Crane (KCSD)	-16%
Greenville (GCCSD)	-12%
Hudson (HCSD)	-11%



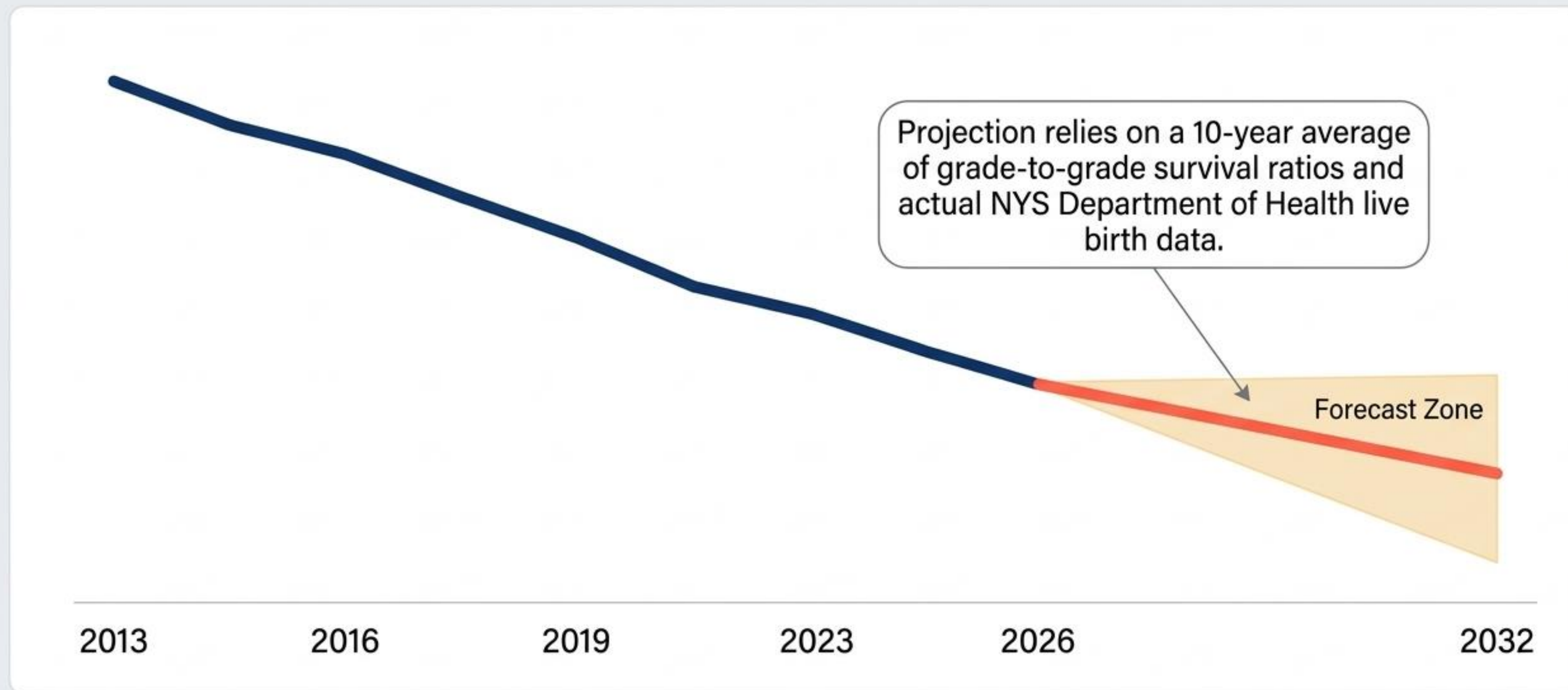
Synthesis Note:
Athens and
Coxsackie census
data shows a
combined
population
decrease of 611
people, directly
aligning with this
regional school
contraction.

Projecting the future using the Cohort Survival Model



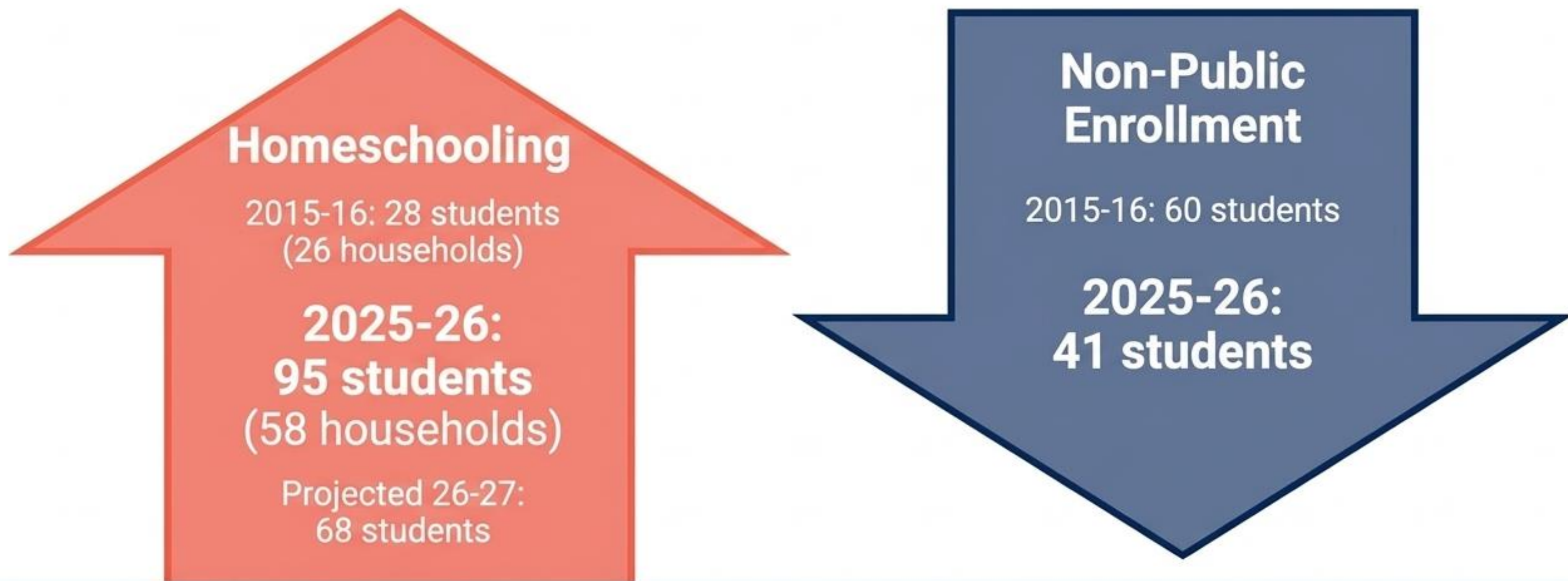
Real-World Example: If 76 children were born in CACSD in 2018
→ Only 72 entered Kindergarten in 2023 → The CSV Ratio is 0.947

Cohort projections anticipate continued enrollment contraction through 2032.



*Ungraded students are calculated separately and are not included in these specific ratios.

Post-pandemic homeschooling surges while non-public enrollment dips.



Synthesis Note: The localized spike in homeschooling aligns with a massive national macro-trend (over 4 million US children currently homeschooled).
macro-trend (over 4 million US children currently homeschooled).

Affordability gaps and a lack of family rentals limit new demographic influx.

Median Household Income

\$98,245

Median Home Value

\$305,500

High-End Second Homes

Available inventory heavily skews to the Sleepy Hollow Lake area, priced up to \$1.12M+ (often second homes, not yielding students).

Zero Affordable Inventory

Nationally, an affordable home-to-income ratio is 2.0. In Athens/Coxsackie, affordability ratios have surged past 4.0.

Rental Scarcity

A recent market scan showed only 6 rental properties available, ranging from \$1,650 to \$2,000/month.

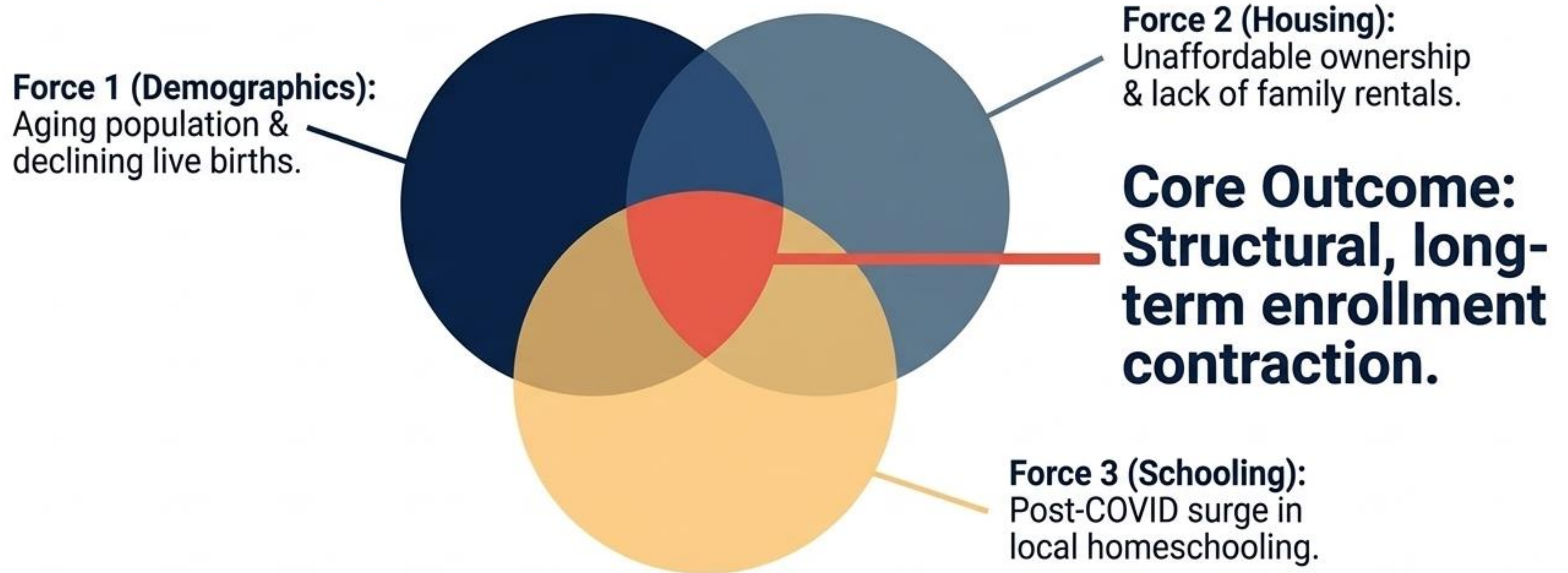
The planned UMH housing development will yield a minimal enrollment bump.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \boxed{[100]} & \times & \boxed{[0.33]} & = & \boxed{[\sim 33]} \\ \text{Units} & & & & \text{Students} \end{array}$$

Phase 1 (2028) NAHB Manufactured Home Yield Ratio Total new enrollment potential

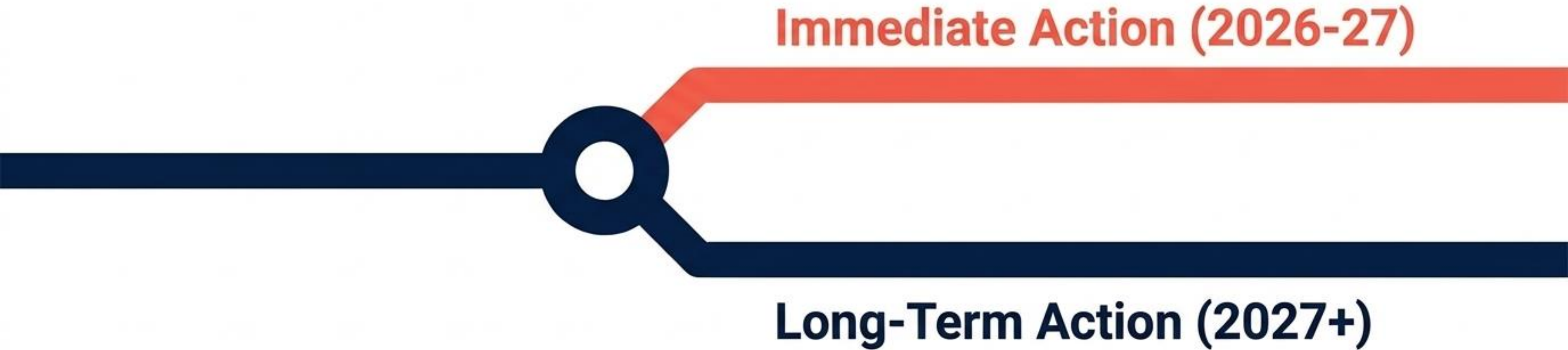
Context: While the full UMH proposal is 360 units over ten years (North of Van Dyck/Noble Streets in Coxsackie), the immediate phased impact gives the district ample time to absorb the minor enrollment influx.

Three converging forces shape the true enrollment picture for CACSD.

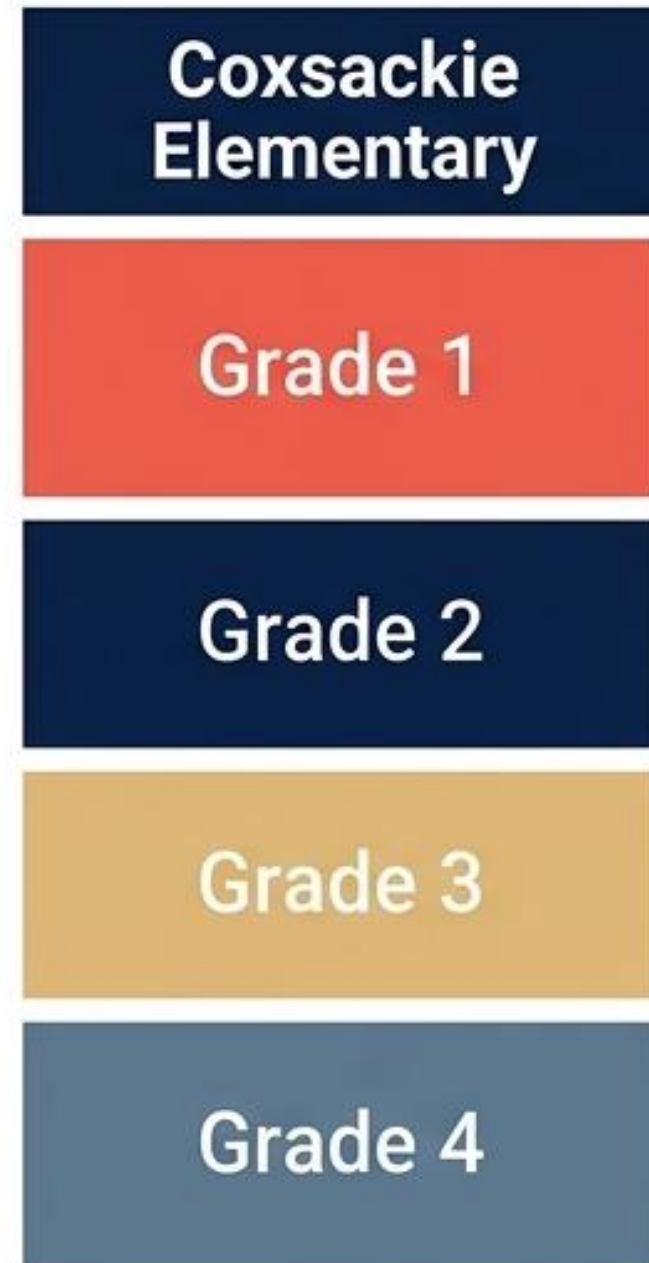


The data reveals that enrollment decline is not an anomaly—it is a structural reality. External development will not reverse it. The district must adapt from within.

The district must optimize constrained resources for a changing student body.



Reconfiguring elementary footprints to balance class sizes and manage costs.



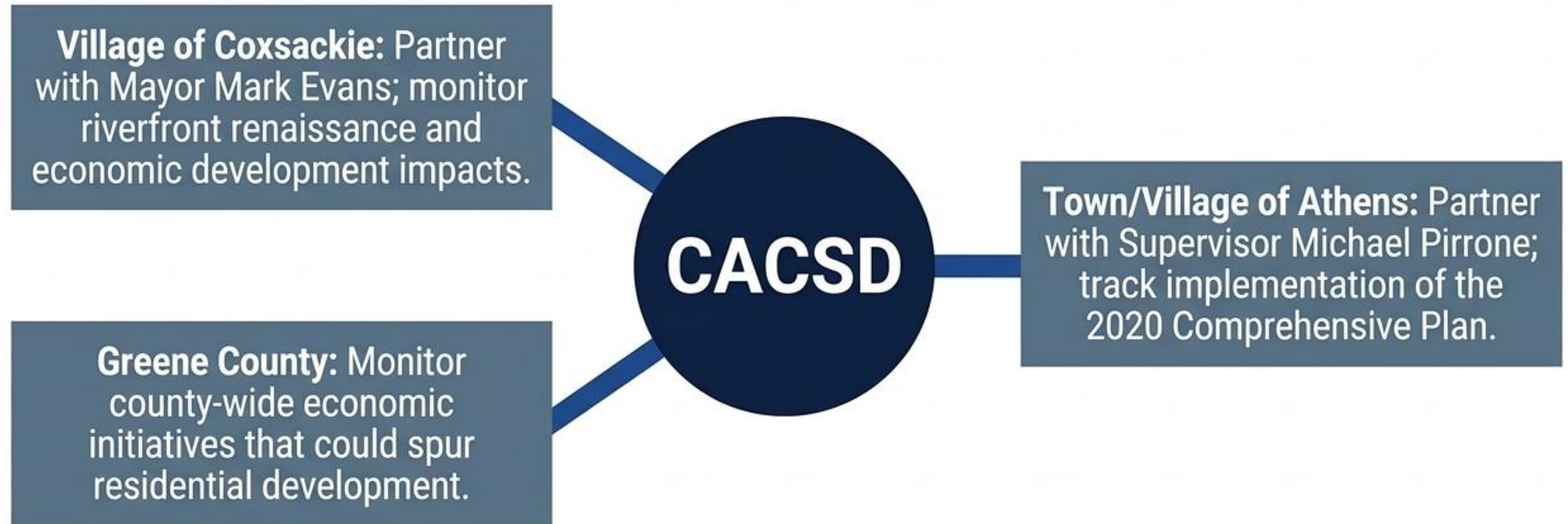
Action Items

1. Assess the financial efficacy of this configuration.
2. Continue monitoring Cohort Survival ratios annually.
3. Track local real estate sales data with local agencies.

A comprehensive strategic plan is required for sustainable operations.

Finances	Curriculum	Operations	Contracts
Budgeting Taxes & Assessment Tax Rates	Curriculum & Instruction optimization	Maintenance Facilities Transportation Staffing	Instructional Non-instructional Insurance Other obligations

Municipal collaboration is essential for aligning district and community planning.



The district cannot plan in a silo. Active engagement with ongoing municipal comprehensive plan updates is vital for future readiness.