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**District Growth and  
Enrollment Projections**

**Little Chute Area  
School District**

**May 5, 2008**

**Martenson & Eisele, Inc.**

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## Recent Trends in Little Chute Area School District Enrollments

- ❑ Enrollment numbers for the last seven school years have been fairly steady, with mostly increasing enrollments. Nonetheless, since the 2001-2002 school year total enrollment in all schools has decreased by 23 students because of large drops in 2003-2004 and 2005-2006.
- ❑ A five-year projection predicts a steadily declining enrollment, except for a small rebound in the last year.

**Table 1**

**Third Friday of September Pupil Count, 2000-2007 and Projection Summary**

Year	Total Enrollment	Annual Change	Percent Change
2001-2002	1,546	81	+5.5%
2002-2003	1,554	8	+0.5%
2003-2004	1,505	-49	-3.2%
2004-2005	1,540	35	+2.3%
2005-2006	1,511	-29	-1.9%
2006-2007	1,511	0	0.0%
2007-2008	1,523	12	+0.8%
<b>Seven-Year Change</b>	<b>-23</b>		
2008-2009	1,507	-16	-1.1%
2009-2010	1,495	-12	-0.8%
2010-2011	1,494	-1	-0.1%
2011-2012	1,489	-5	-0.3%
2012-2013	1,498	9	0.6%

Source: Little Chute Area School District.

2001-2002 through 2007-2008 school years are actual Third Friday headcount numbers

Projection done by Martenson & Eisele Inc.

50 Color represents **decline in** enrollment

50 Color represents **increase in** enrollment

## 2007 - 2008 Enrollment by Grade Level

- ❑ The number of full-time enrolled students per grade in 2007-08 is listed in Table 2. The individual grade sizes show lower elementary numbers compared to high school grade sizes.
- ❑ More specifically, Table 2 shows that all of the grades in the elementary and middle schools are under the average grade size. Grade sizes become above average at the high school level. The change can be mostly attributed to parochial school students are coming into the public school system after the eighth grade. Another contributing factor could be families having fewer children in recent years.
- ❑ Even though there were only a few lots available for construction, and building permits are down, the Kindergarten class in the 2007-08 3<sup>rd</sup> week count was larger than all the other elementary and middle school grade levels. This may be due in part to a higher than normal birth rate experienced by the village in 2002, and the transformation of older neighborhoods where elderly residents are selling homes to young families with children.

**Table 2**  
**Student Enrollment on September 17, 2007**

Grade	Total Students	Students from Parochial School	Ave. No. of Students/Grade	Deviation from Average
K	110		110	0
1	88		110	-22
2	88		110	-22
3	82		110	-28
4	87		110	-23
5	93		110	-17
6	107		110	-3
7	99		110	-11
8	97		110	-12
9	141	*41	110	+31
10	144	*37	110	+34
11	141	*42	110	+31
12	147	*56	110	+37
<b>Total</b>	1,424			

Source: Little Chute Area School District

50 Color represents less than average enrollment

50 Color represents more than average enrollment

\*Number of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that graduated from St. John's School in 2003-4 to 2006-7. It cannot be assumed that all of these students enrolled in the Little Chute Area School District.

## Assumptions for Projected Enrollment

This projection takes into account the following variables:

- There is great loyalty on the part of Little Chute residents to remain in the village and the school district.
- Based on conversations with Realtors, affordable housing for young families - under \$120,000 - is being sold by elderly residents in Little Chute. A realtor indicated that young families moving into these affordable homes typically do not have more than two children. This trend, including parents who can no longer afford private school fees, may be the reason for the increased 2007-08 enrollment in the kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade levels.
- Commercial growth around the CTH "N" and USH "41" interchange will continue to occur, which in turn will create more jobs. When the housing market rebounds, annexation and residential development of land in the Kaukauna Area School District will likely occur.
- The Little Chute Area School District has seen more students petitioning to get into the district than to get out. Because of energy costs, future homeowners north of USH 41 are likely to petition for open enrollment to the Little Chute Area School District, especially in the higher grades where extra-curricular activity is important.

## Projected Enrollment

- ❑ A modified cohort survival method that carries the number of students in each grade to the succeeding year is combined with the assumption that birth rates will hold steady, and that there will be a net transfer of more students in than out.
- ❑ Student numbers in each grade have had minor fluctuations. Enrollment projections also show small variations.
- ❑ Student projections in table 3 show declining enrollments for the next four years, with a slight upturn in year five. More drastic declining student enrollments would have been projected, had it not been for historic and potential student net transfers and young families moving into more affordable housing in Little Chute.

**Table 3**  
**2002-2007 Student Enrollment and 5-Year Projections (includes open enrollment in and out)**

Grade	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07	'07-'08	'08-'09	'09-'10	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13
<b>EC &amp; S/L</b>	6	5	8	9	7	8	14	7	8	8	9	9	10
<b>B-4</b>	10	53	69	66	66	73	81	92	85	80	78	76	75
<b>K(all - 1/2 D)</b>	95	101	94	84	88	94	97	110	102	98	100	95	96
<b>1</b>	98	102	106	92	87	77	82	88	109	102	99	101	95
<b>2</b>	93	89	91	98	93	88	79	88	93	110	100	102	102
<b>3</b>	95	96	88	98	100	89	87	82	88	94	111	96	104
<b>4</b>	108	98	92	86	99	101	92	87	84	89	92	113	98
<b>5</b>	91	102	101	96	95	96	98	93	86	85	90	94	115
<b>6</b>	116	90	94	102	96	94	96	107	93	87	85	91	96
<b>7</b>	96	114	90	99	110	100	94	99	107	92	90	87	93
<b>8</b>	97	101	110	90	104	110	99	97	100	108	94	93	87
<b>9</b>	139	155	145	151	147	150	146	141	125	128	145	126	123
<b>10</b>	163	144	159	143	151	144	150	144	141	127	129	144	127
<b>11</b>	130	165	143	152	143	151	147	141	144	143	130	130	146
<b>12</b>	128	131	164	139	154	136	149	147	142	144	142	132	131
<b>FTE</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,498</b>
<b>In/Tuition</b>	-35	-35	-42	-42	-59	-67	-69	-74	-76	-78	-81	-82	-86
<b>Out/Tuition</b>	14	14	24	36	41	58	67	74	71	72	74	73	75
<b>Actual Enr.</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,487</b>

Source: Little Chute Area School District

Projections done by Martenson & Eisele, Inc.

\*2004-2006 had lower than average birth rates, which is why kindergarten classes in 2012-2014 are projected to be somewhat lower than average.

## St. John's Enrollment Projections

- ❑ St. John's School in Little Chute is open to anyone, and draws students from Little Chute, Appleton, Kaukauna, and surrounding towns. However, for purposes of this study, only Little Chute students are included on Table 4.
- ❑ The primary reason for a substantial increase in Little Chute Area School District Middle School and High School grade levels is the arrival of St. John's students. Some of St. John's School graduates may attend area parochial middle schools or high schools, or open enroll in schools outside the Little Chute Area School District.
- ❑ The 2007-2008 enrollment at St. John's (224) is nearly half of the 2001-2002 enrollment (430). Student numbers in the last seven years have fluctuated up and down by grade level, but St. John's enrollments over a longer period of time have also had peaks and valleys. A number of reasons may cause enrollment fluctuations, such as fewer children per family, the cost of living due to economic slowdown and increasing energy costs, and the quality of competing public education.
- ❑ St. John's is anticipating stronger enrollment numbers as compared to the 2007-08 school year, due to free kindergarten being offered in the next five years, a tuition credit for each family this coming school year, and the addition of a marketing director in summer of 2008.
- ❑ Table 4 shows much improved Little Chute enrollments in the coming school year, with a slight drop in enrollments in the following four years. In the next five years, enrollment projections are all higher than the 2007-08 enrollment numbers.

**Table 4**  
**2002-2007 St. John's School Enrollment and Five-Year Projection**

Grade	'01-'02	'02-'03	'03-'04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07	'07-'08	'08-'09	'09-'10	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13
<b>Pre-school</b>	26	17	13	11	14	10	6	18	19	18	20	19
<b>4-yr Kndrgtn</b>	39	30	22	26	21	12	13	20	19	21	20	19
<b>Kindergarten</b>	39	27	27	23	21	21	10	23	20	20	21	21
<b>1</b>	34	39	28	24	25	22	22	17	23	20	22	22
<b>2</b>	31	33	37	27	23	23	22	27	19	25	21	23
<b>3</b>	42	29	33	36	28	22	20	27	27	20	26	22
<b>4</b>	40	42	26	32	36	27	22	24	29	28	21	27
<b>5</b>	42	40	42	26	32	36	26	26	27	30	28	23
<b>6</b>	59	41	36	42	23	28	35	31	25	29	29	29
<b>7</b>	42	55	40	35	42	24	25	37	30	27	30	31
<b>8</b>	36	41	56	39	37	42	23	28	39	32	30	29
<b>Little Chute Students</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>265</b>

Source: St. John's Elementary School

Projections done by Martenson & Eisele

The 06-07 student count for Little Chute students was estimated, based on before and after school years.

## Causes of Enrollment Variations

### Birth Rates

- ❑ The State of Wisconsin has maintained records of birth rates by civil divisions since 1996. They are available in Wisconsin Birth and Fertility Rate reports.
- ❑ The following table identifies the number of births in Little Chute from 1997 to 2006.

**Table 5**  
**Birth Rates of Communities in Little Chute Area School District, 1997-2006**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Avg.
<b>V. Little Chute</b>	120	128	135	124	127	134	121	110	115	112	123

Source: State Web site [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/births](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/births)

- ❑ The highest number of births in Little Chute occurred in 1999, when 135 were recorded. The lowest was 110 births in 2004.
- ❑ The last four years were all consistently below the ten-year average of 123 births, which is a trend that will need to be observed in the coming years.

## Realtor Comments Regarding the Market

Preliminary interviews and general knowledge by local Realtors working in the Little Chute area yielded the following comments:

- ❑ The Little Chute School District is “landlocked”, with very little land available for residential development.
- ❑ If people want to move up to a newer home, they will either move out of the district or attempt to build a home on remaining scattered vacant lots.
- ❑ Due to strong ethnic ties to the community, some long-time retirees stay in their homes rather than move to an elderly housing project.
- ❑ Few homes actually turn-over in Little Chute, and if they do, good homes in a moderate price range are on the market for a relatively short time.
- ❑ There is not that much difference academically between the Little Chute Area School District and surrounding districts, so there is not a strong incentive to move to another community because of school districts.
- ❑ Those who have allegiance to Little Chute will likely stay and remodel their homes rather than move.
- ❑ As the Village of Little Chute grows out of school district boundaries into the Kaukauna School District, open enrollment of students into the district may increase.
- ❑ The average home in the older areas of Little Chute is selling for about \$99,000. Most of these homes are being vacated by elderly people and purchased by young families with perhaps one child, but probably no more than two. Homes in the \$130,000 to \$160,000 range are more typically being purchased by people that want to retire in Little Chute.
- ❑ In 2007, 39 homes were sold in Little Chute. There are currently 48 homes for sale in the village.

## Building Permit Records and Trends in Residential Growth

- ❑ Table 6 illustrates the housing permit trends in the Little Chute Area School District in the last six years. The number of building permits are for the entire village, which includes homes in the Kaukauna Area School District. The Village Zoning Administrator estimated that approximately ten percent of the permits were issued in the Little Chute School District.
- ❑ The overall building permit counts have dropped significantly since 2003, reflecting the depressed housing market and slumping economy.

**Table 6**  
**Building permits issued by Village of Little Chute, 2002 – 2007**

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		Total
Housing	Permits	Units	Permits	Units	Permits	Units	Permits	Units	Permits	Units	Permits	Units	Units
Single-Family	13	13	23	23	21	21	11	11	7	7	5	5	155
2-4-Family	8	16	3	6	10	20	5	10	2	4	3	6	87
Multi-Family	0	0	3	27	1	4	5	85	2	32	0	0	242
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>401</b>

Source: Village of Little Chute

## Potential Development

- ❑ The Vacant Lot Inventory Map on the following page identifies the location of buildable lots that are still on the market.
- ❑ Table 7 lists the number of lots per plat that corresponds to the Vacant Lot Inventory Map (see following page). The number of lots left within existing plats, along with a few other lots in unnamed subdivisions, have not been built on within the Little Chute School District. They may or may not be for sale.
- ❑ Once these lots have been absorbed, there will be no more home construction in Little Chute unless homes are demolished or land use changes to make more land available for residential development.
- ❑ Additional students are based on an average of 0.5 new students per household added to the community.

**Table 7**  
**Subdivision Lots Available in School District**

	Name of Subdivision	S-F Lots	Duplex Lots	Duplex Units	Lots Under Development	Total Housing Units	Additional students
1	Hietpas East	3	0	0	None within the Little Chute School District	3	1.5
2	Homestead Estates	1	0	0		1	.5
3	VanAsten Estates	5	0	0		5	2.5
4	Crestview Plaza	1	0	0		1	.5
5	Sunnydale Park Estates	0	0	0		2	1
6	Cloverdale Park	1	0	2		1	.5
7	Talent Estates	1	0	0		1	.5
8	Unnamed Lots	3	0	0		5	2.5
		<b>15</b>				<b>19</b>	<b>9.5</b>

Source: Martenson & Eisele estimate

# Little Chute School District Vacant Lot Inventory



Land Use Categories

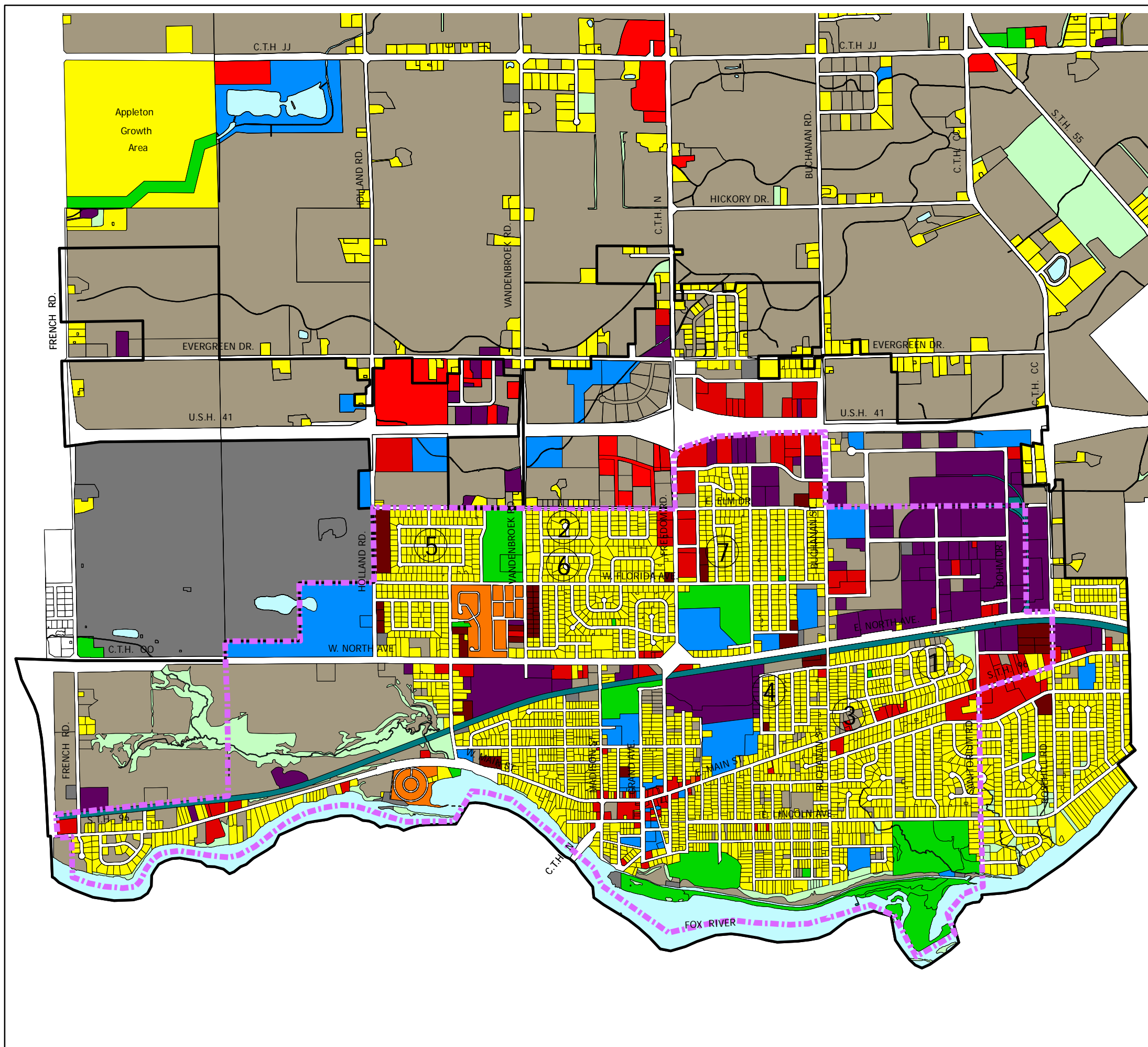
- Single and Two Family Residential
- Mobile Homes and Parks
- Multiple Family
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Public / Institutional
- Recreational
- Utilities/Landfill
- Transportation
- Railroads
- Agricultural / Vacant / Open Space
- Water
- Woodlands

Corporate Limits

Little Chute School District Boundary

Location of Vacant Lots

- 1 Hietpas East
- 2 Homestead Estates
- 3 Vanasten Estates
- 4 Crestview Plaza
- 5 Sunnydale Park Estates
- 6 Cloverdale Park
- 7 Talent Estates



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## Observations

- ❑ The Little Chute Area School District cannot expect new students that would come from new housing units. Other than a few lots in existing plats, there is no potential for subdivision development within school district boundaries (other than an infill housing project on land not presently classified as residential in the adopted Little Chute Comprehensive Plan).
- ❑ Enrollments may be boosted by open-enrollment of students from future home construction in Little Chute and the Town of Vandebroek within the Kaukauna Area School District. Ever-increasing fuel costs and limited time to transport students to extra-curricular activities may be the major reasons for making open-enrollment choices.

## Conclusion

The Little Chute School District has had relatively steady enrollments. The District is in a good position geographically to be the closest educational facility to future residents in Little Chute. The District will also need to maintain a high standard for teaching excellence and student test scores and count on its good reputation to draw open-enrollment students from growing areas to the north.

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