



Estimating the Impact of Future Immigration in New Brunswick on K-12 Student Enrolment

Revised: February 2021

Summary of Findings

- This model was built to forecast the increase in the K-12 student population from the expected significant boost in the immigrant population in the coming years.
- There were an estimated **5,800 immigrant students and temporary international students studying K-12 in New Brunswick in the 2018-2019** school year. With the impact of new arrivals, this number increased to an **estimated 7,500 by 2020-2021**.

Scenario #1

Immigration rises from 6,000 in 2019 to 7,500 in 2021 and by 7% per year thereafter

- Using estimates of annual provincial immigration growth, temporary international students, the age breakdown of immigrant arrivals, an expected loss from outward migration and other assumptions, **the total immigrant/intl. student population is expected to rise from 7,500 in 2020-2021 to nearly 13,700 within five years and 23,500 within 10 years.**
- **Without** the immigrant/intl. student population, total K-12 enrolment is projected to **decline by 9% over the 10 school years 2020-2021 and 2030-2031**. **With** the immigrant/intl. student population, total K-12 enrolment across the province is forecasted to **rise by more than 7%**. To put this another way, **the total student population in 2029-2030 will be over 28% higher as a result of the immigrant/intl. student population.**
- The immigrant/intl. student population in K-12 will **rise by 83% from 2020-2021 to 2025-2026 (from 7,500 to 13,689)** and **more than triple by 2030-2031 (from 7,500 to 23,507)**.

Scenario #2

Immigration rises from 6,000 in 2019 to 7,500 in 2021 and by 10% per year thereafter

- In this scenario the total immigrant/intl. student population is expected to rise from **7,500 in 2020-2021 to 14,300 within five years** (2025-2026) and **26,800 within 10 years** (by 2030-2031).

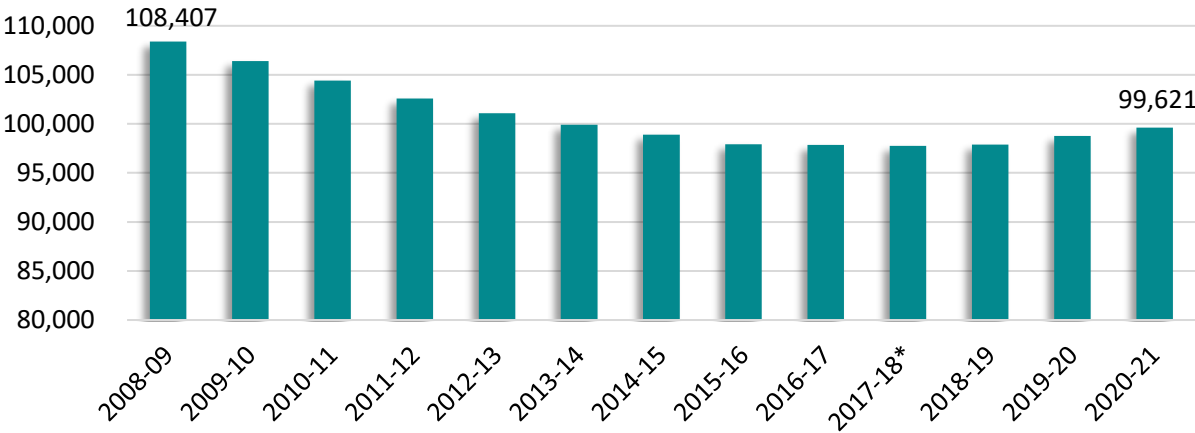
Implications for the K-12 education system

- These are preliminary projections based on the assumptions used but are a realistic view of how the immigrant/intl. K-12 student population will change over the coming decade. This is not a far out into the future challenge/opportunity. **It is happening right now.** In the last four years, the average annual population arriving in New Brunswick that is K-12 aged has risen from around 500 per year in 2015 to more than 1,300 per year – twice as many as the recent past.
- Most of the increase in K-12 immigrant students has occurred in the three large urban centres but that is changing. In 2014 there were only 380 permanent residents settling in New Brunswick outside of the urban centres of Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. By 2019, **that number had risen nearly four-fold to 1,475.** The K-12 education system will need to accommodate a significant rise in immigrant students across most of the province in the coming years.

K-12 enrolment trends

K-12 enrolment in New Brunswick had been on a steady year-over-year decline since the 1990s, dropping 10 percent between 2008-2009 and 2017-2018. However, in large part as a result of the boost in immigration, the decline stopped in 2018-2019 and there was an increase in total enrolment. Growth in K-12 enrolment is occurring in the larger urban centres, notably Fredericton and Moncton (see the Fredericton example below).

Figure 1: Actual enrolment in New Brunswick public K-12 schools by year



*Note the upswing in enrolment coincided with the increase in immigration to New Brunswick.
Sources: Actual enrolment, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Projection Scenario #1

Immigration rises from 6,000 in 2019 to 7,500 in 2021 and by 7% per year thereafter

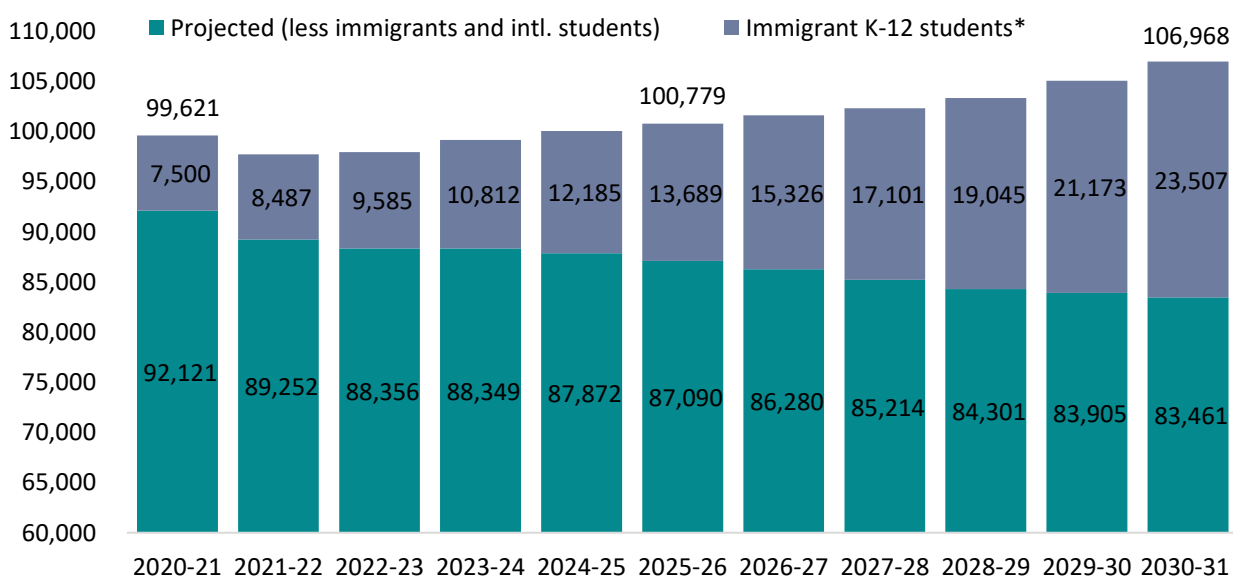
In this scenario, total immigration to New Brunswick rises from 6,000 in 2019 to 7,500 by 2021 and to 13,788 by 2030. This represents an immigration rate of slightly less than 1% per year in 2021 to around 1.6% per year in 2030.

Using the K-12 population projection model summarized in Table 1, Figure 2 shows the forecasted trend in K-12 enrolment including the impact of immigrants and international students. The immigrant/ international student population in the 2020-2021 school was removed from the baseline projections to show the total impact of the current and future immigrant/international students on the K-12 education system in the years ahead.

As shown in Figure 2, the domestic (born-in-Canada) K-12 student enrolment is expected to continue declining through 2030-2031. This is based on Statistics Canada's low growth population projection scenario which assumes only a modest decline in the school aged population over the period. However, the immigrant/international student population is expected to rise sharply – doubling to nearly 14,000 by 2025-2026 (just five years out) and more than tripling to 23,507 by 2030-2031 (10 years out).

Without immigrants, the expected K-12 student population would have been 83,461 by 2030-2031. With immigrants it is expected to be 106,968 – a 28 percent increase over the non-immigrant student population estimates.

Figure 2: Scenario #1 - projected enrolment in New Brunswick public K-12 schools by year and source



Sources: Actual enrolment, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Projected enrolment – derived using Statistics Canada, IRCC and Jupia Consultants Inc. projections.

Table 1: Scenario #1 - potential impact on K-12 enrolment from a boost in immigration

Year:	Projected enrolment (less immigrants and intl. students)	Immigrant K-12 students*	Total projected enrolment:	Total K-12 % increase over baseline (no immigrants/intl. students):	Immigrants/intl. students as a % of total K-12 students
2020-21	92,121	7,500	99,621	8%	8%
2021-22	89,252	8,487	97,739	10%	9%
2022-23	88,356	9,585	97,940	11%	10%
2023-24	88,349	10,812	99,161	12%	11%
2024-25	87,872	12,185	100,058	14%	12%
2025-26	87,090	13,689	100,779	16%	14%
2026-27	86,280	15,326	101,606	18%	15%
2027-28	85,214	17,101	102,315	20%	17%
2028-29	84,301	19,045	103,346	23%	18%
2029-30	83,905	21,173	105,079	25%	20%
2030-31	83,461	23,507	106,968	28%	22%
2031-32	82,626	26,052	108,678	32%	24%

*Includes 700 international students. Sources: Actual enrolment, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Projected enrolment – derived using Statistics Canada and Jupia Consultants Inc. projections.

Projection Scenario #2

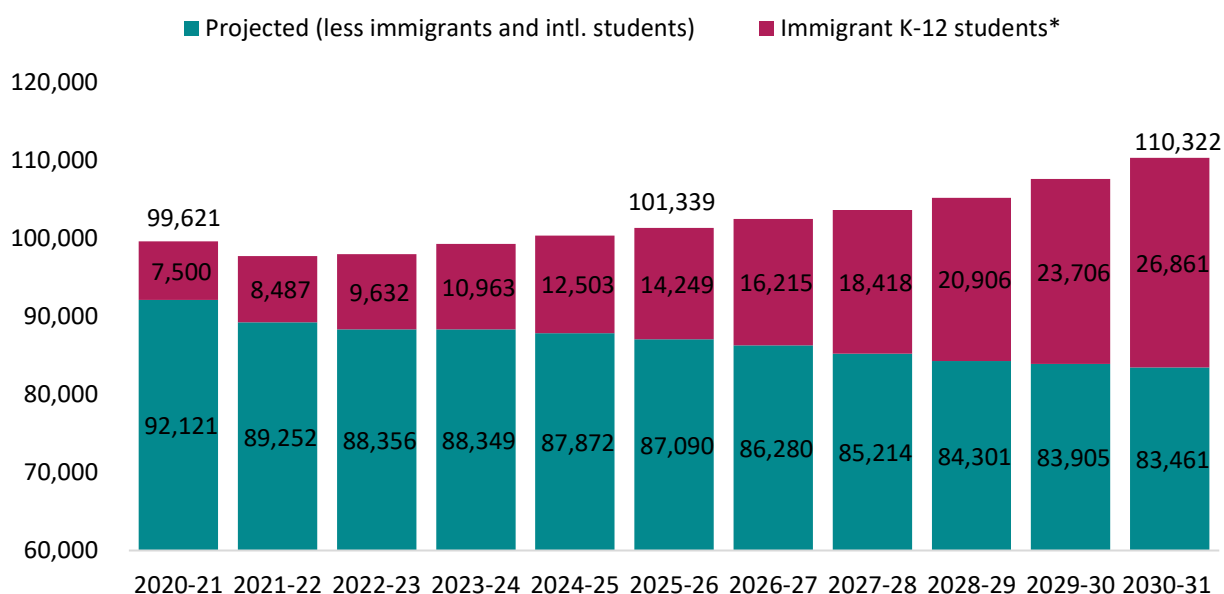
Immigration rises from 6,000 in 2019 to 7,500 in 2021 and by 10% per year thereafter

In this scenario, total immigration to New Brunswick rises from 6,000 in 2019 to 7,500 by 2021 and to 17,685 by 2030. This represents an immigration rate of slightly less than 1% per year in 2021 to around 2% per year in 2030. Please note the increase in immigration in both scenarios offsets other sources of population decline (natural decline, interprovincial migration) and the overall population is expected to grow.

The total immigrant/international student population in this scenario is expected to rise from **7,500 in 2020-2021 to 14,300 within five years** (2025-2026) and **26,800 within 10 years** (by 2030-2031).

Table 2 shows the detailed breakdown by year under scenario #2.

Figure 3: Scenario #2 - projected enrolment in New Brunswick public K-12 schools by year and source



Sources: Actual enrolment, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Projected enrolment – derived using Statistics Canada, IRCC and Jupia Consultants Inc. projections.

Table 2: Scenario #2 - potential impact on K-12 enrolment from a boost in immigration

Year:	Projected enrolment (less immigrants and intl. students)	Immigrant K-12 students*	Total projected enrolment:	Total K-12 % increase over baseline (no immigrants/intl. students):	Immigrants/intl. students as a % of total K-12 students
2020-21	92,121	7,500	99,621	8%	8%
2021-22	89,252	8,487	97,739	10%	9%
2022-23	88,356	9,632	97,988	11%	10%
2023-24	88,349	10,963	99,312	12%	11%
2024-25	87,872	12,503	100,376	14%	12%
2025-26	87,090	14,249	101,339	16%	14%
2026-27	86,280	16,215	102,495	19%	16%
2027-28	85,214	18,418	103,633	22%	18%
2028-29	84,301	20,906	105,206	25%	20%
2029-30	83,905	23,706	107,612	28%	22%
2030-31	83,461	26,861	110,322	32%	24%
2031-32	82,626	30,397	113,024	37%	27%

*Includes 700 international students. Sources: Actual enrolment, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Projected enrolment – derived using Statistics Canada and Jupia Consultants Inc. projections.

Regional impacts

The Fredericton Example

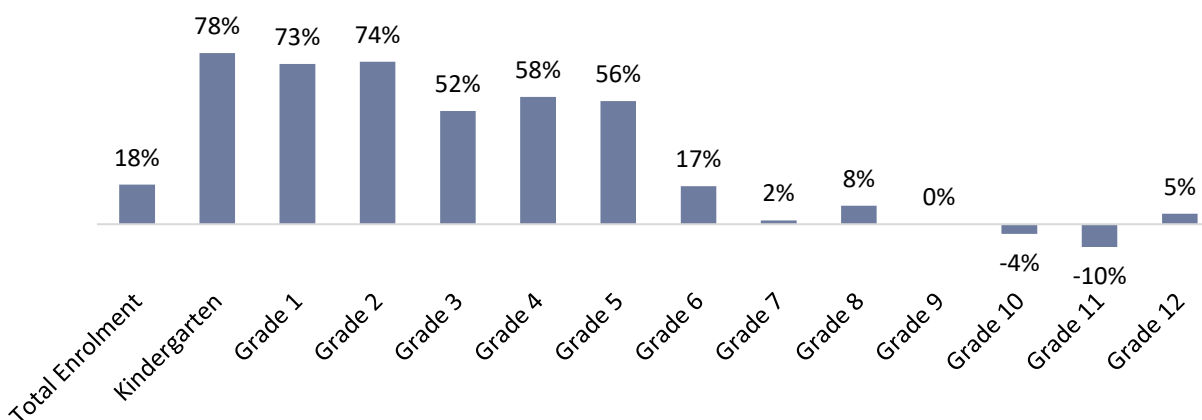
A detailed regional forecast would require significant additional analysis. However, a look at recent boost in student population in Fredericton provides an instructive example of how a boost in immigration impacts the K-12 population. The number of immigrants attracted to the Fredericton Census Agglomeration (CA) started to grow strongly in 2011-2012 – just about the time the K-12 student population had plateaued in the region (there were 7,700 K-12 students in 2010-2011 and only 7,756 in 2011-2012 and slightly less in 2012-2013 at 7,751). Then the numbers started to increase steadily every year as the immigrant numbers increased. Between 2012 and 2013, enrollment has risen by over 2,000.

Table 4: Growth in K-12 student enrolment by year, Fredericton*

2008-09	6,892
2009-10	7,489
2010-11	7,700
2011-12	7,756
2012-13	7,751
2013-14	8,290
2014-15	8,286
2015-16	8,497
2016-17	9,570
2017-18	9,664
2018-19	9,794
Increase since 2012-13	2,043

Includes: Barker's Point School, Bliss Carman Middle School, Connaught Street School, Devon Middle School, École Les Éclaireurs, École Sainte-Anne, Forest Hill School, Fredericton High School, Garden Creek School, George Street Middle School, Gibson-Neill Memorial Elementary School, Kingsclear Consolidated School, Leo Hayes High School, McAdam Avenue School, Nashwaaksis Middle School, Nashwaaksis Memorial School, New Maryland Elementary School, and Park Street School. Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Figure 4: Growth in total K-12 student enrolment by grade level – 2013-14 to 2018-19, Fredericton

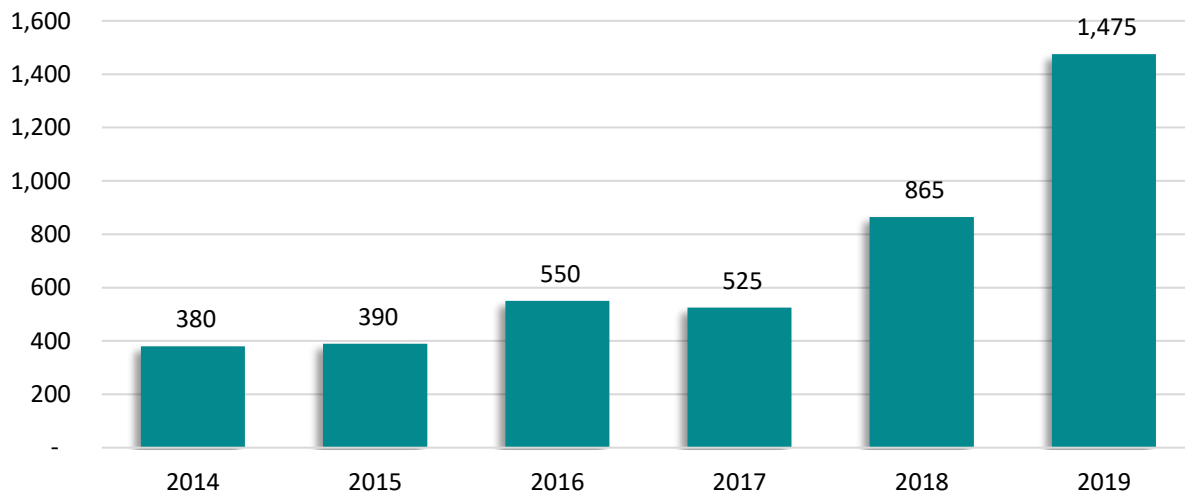


Enrolment source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The Rise of Immigration into the Rest of New Brunswick

The increase in immigration to New Brunswick over the past few years has mostly centred on the three large urban centres. In the future, a larger number will be settling elsewhere in New Brunswick as all regions of the province are facing the impacts of the aging population on the workforce. This trend is already beginning. In 2019, there were 1,475 admissions of permanent residents into New Brunswick but outside of the Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John urban centres - up 71% compared to 2018. The K-12 education system will need to accommodate a significant rise in immigrant students across most of the province in the coming years.

Figure 5: Increase in permanent residents in New Brunswick, excluding Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John



* Source: IRCC.

Appendix:

Assumptions

- **The immigrant/international student baseline population (2018-2019):** According to Statistics Canada there were approximately 4,500 immigrants and non-permanent residents enrolled in New Brunswick K-12 education in 2015-2016 (or 4.6 percent of the total student population). This number likely understates the impact of immigration on K-12 enrolment as students born to immigrant parents after arriving here are not included in the total. The timing of the Census could also impact the non-permanent resident numbers. Since the 2015-2016 school year, another 3,900 K-12 age students have arrived in New Brunswick. The model assumes grade 10, 11 and 12 immigrant students since the 2015-2016 school year have graduated by the first projection year (2020-2021).
- **Immigrant retention:** It was assumed that 85% of annual immigrants would be retained in New Brunswick.
- **Age at arrival:** 21% of all new immigrants each year arrive school aged (K-12). This is consistent with existing immigration patterns (New Brunswick).
- **The immigrant female fertility rate:** 2.0 children per female.
- **Distribution pattern of new births after arrival:** Equal annual distribution of additional births (beyond those arriving as children) over a six-year period after arrival (i.e. assumes some women will start having additional children right away but it will take six years from the year of immigration for all children of the women arriving during the year to be born).
- **Age at school entrance:** All new children will attend school starting at age 5.
- **The baseline K-12 student projection:**
 - Base - 2018-2019 enrolment numbers (Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)
 - Projected future enrolment in subsequent years using Statistics Canada Projection Scenario LG: low-growth forecasts of population growth by age through the forecast period.
 - Excludes the forecasted new immigrant student population starting in 2020-2021. It was assumed that the age distribution (aged 5 to 17) would be the same each year for new immigrant cohorts each year through the forecast period.
- The model includes an estimate of 700 international students per year.