

District Context

The City of Hermosa Beach is unique in many ways. Small in land area and population, this beach oriented community has a highly energized and involved populace. Approximately 10% of the City population of 18,566 (from the 2000 census) is under the age of 15. This age group of 1,922 is down significantly from the under 15 group reported in 1980 but is back up from the recent lows of 1990. In that same period of time the median age of the community has increased from 29.9 to 34.2 with most of that growth taking place at the two extremes of the age spectrum. The number of housing units in the City has increased only 2.4% since 1980 but the number of owner occupied homes has increased by 25.3% in that same period of time.

A review of this data is intended to reveal any underlying forces that might help to explain the upturn in student population in the District over the past ten years. The most significant statistic is the increase of 25.3% in owner occupied housing. This indicates a more stable population base, a major shift for a beach community in the past 20 years. This is consistent with many settlement patterns seen relative to the "Baby Boom Echo". From all of the data collected the reason for the ongoing increase in student population cannot be identified with certainty, therefore, the ability to predict the continued and sustained growth in students cannot be predicted with certainty.

A review of the character of the District reveals the following attributes. It is part of an active and engaged community that cares deeply about the quality of its children's education. The perceived quality of life in Hermosa Beach is intrinsically tied to the quality of the City Schools. This is a K-8 District with an excellent working relationship with the City of Hermosa Beach and strong roots in the community.

The District currently owns three properties:

- **Hermosa Valley School (Grades 3 to 8)**
- **Hermosa View School (Grades K to 2)**
- **Hermosa North School (Currently Leased out)**

The two District operated sites house a total student population of 1,014 students according to the current District reports. Both schools operate on a traditional school calendar with all children at each grade level attending only one school. Interdistrict transfers have been allowed for many years and account for a number of the current students.

The student population growth over the past years has averaged approximately 2.6%. While this trend has persisted for some time, the data is fragile and without any of the typical underlying factors that could be addressed as the generator of student growth. Some data examined would indicate that there may be no additional growth over the coming years and others would support continued growth at the 2.6% level. Prudence indicates that the District should plan for the upper growth, implement on a phased basis and be prepared to shift gears at the 5 year mark in the process. It is also important to note that, growth aside, the Middle School does not currently contain many of the facilities of a typical Middle School. Gymnasium space, specialized labs and support spaces should be considered.