

## School Choice Overview

All school-age children living in Massachusetts are entitled to attend a public school free of charge and all children between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school. Although most children attend school in the district in which they live, parents may choose to enroll their children in public schools outside their district through the school choice program. Parents may also choose to educate their children in non-public settings through private schools or home schooling.

Children have the right to attend public school in the city or town where they actually reside, whether they live with their parents, other relatives, or in a foster or group home. These districts are referred to as the local or municipal school districts. The school district of Hopedale is governed by an elected school committee which consists of five members. Each year the school committee in each district decides whether it will accept new enrollments under the school choice program and if so, in what grades. A sibling of a child currently enrolled in the district and/or the child of a staff member will receive preference in the admissions process. If more students apply than there are spaces available, the district will conduct a lottery to select which students will be admitted. If a district receives fewer applications than available seats it may choose to accept school choice students at any time during the school year.

In Hopedale we have one school serving each grade level whereas many communities have multiple schools serving the same grade levels. Therefore with regard to school choice options for residents of Hopedale, the choices are all out of district. If a parent/guardian is interested in having their child attend school in another district under the school choice program and that district is accepting applications for enrollment, contact with the superintendent's office in the chosen district will provide the necessary information to initiate the process. It is advisable to contact districts during the winter or spring prior to the year in which you want to enroll.

Once accepted into a district as a school choice student he or she is entitled to attend that district's schools until high school graduation. Transportation services that are required by a student's IEP are the responsibility of the sending district. For all other choice students, there is no obligation on the part of either the sending or receiving district to provide home-to-school transportation.

## School Choice Funds Overview

School choice tuition charges are assessed against sending districts and are paid to receiving districts. Payments are distributed through monthly local aid distributions. The tuition charge is based on the number of full-time equivalent students multiplied by the per pupil tuition rate. Information on enrolled choice students is obtained from receiving districts' Student Information Management System (SIMS) submissions as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Per pupil tuition rates are based on receiving districts' per pupil costs for the prior fiscal year. A student's tuition equals 75% of the per pupil cost, up to a limit of \$5000. For a student with an individualized education plan (IEP) a special education increment augments that tuition.

The DESE provides both sending and receiving districts with preliminary reports in January showing name, grade, program, and estimated annual tuition for each pupil reported the previous October. Actual school choice tuition expenditures are entered by the Department on Schedule 1 of the End of Year Financial Report. Expenditures for "sending" school choice tuition are included in the district's net school spending requirement.

Upon receipt of the monthly local aid distributions, the town treasurer transfers the amount received for school choice tuition into the school choice revolving account. These funds are then available for expenditure by the school committee without further appropriation. Because cities and towns must account separately for school choice assessments and revenues, it is improper to "net out" the assessments from the revenues and only deposit the balance in the revolving account.

While the school choice statute does not provide explicit guidance as to the allowable uses of school choice revenue, the requirement that municipalities place such revenues in a special account for use by the school committee indicates a legislative intent that they be used for the general purposes of the school choice program. Allowable expenses include any expenditure for staff, materials, equipment, or services that directly enhance the quality of a district's educational programs and benefit students who currently attend a district's schools. Local school committees may not transfer funds for the payment of debt service, even if the debts were incurred by the municipality for a school-related capital expenditure, as such expenditures are not within the scope of the school committee's authority.

Expenditures made from the school choice revolving account do not count toward meeting the district's net school spending requirement.

**Anticipated Enrollment by Grade – 2017-2018**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Residents</b>	<b>School Choice</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	66	TBD	66 +
<b>Grade 1</b>	63	13	76
<b>Grade 2</b>	66	9	75
<b>Grade 3</b>	63	6	69
<b>Grade 4</b>	77	9	86
<b>Grade 5</b>	64	16	80
<b>Grade 6</b>	80	9	89
<b>Grade 7</b>	75	14	89
<b>Grade 8</b>	101	5	106
<b>Grade 9</b>	73	17	90
<b>Grade 10</b>	64	10	74
<b>Grade 11</b>	74	8	82
<b>Grade 12</b>	83	8	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>124 +</b>	<b>1073 +</b>

Student List by Grade level - Active Students

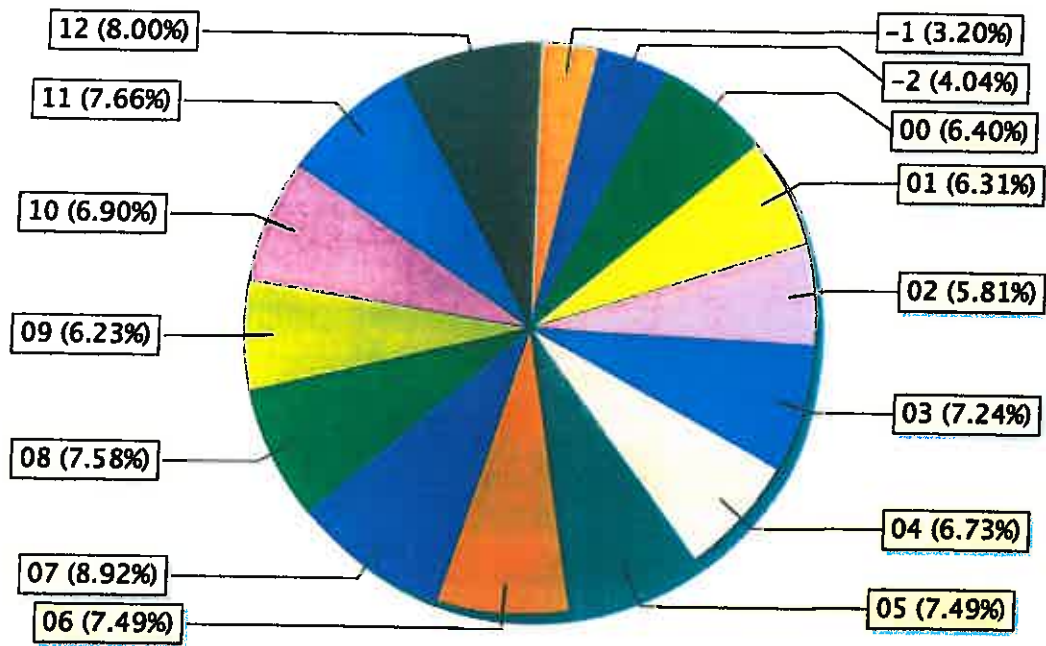


Chart			
Data Set	Grade level	Number	Percent
	-1	38	3.20%
	-2	48	4.04%
	00	76	6.40%
	01	75	6.31%
	02	69	5.81%
	03	86	7.24%
	04	80	6.73%
	05	89	7.49%
	06	89	7.49%
	07	106	8.92%
	08	90	7.58%
	09	74	6.23%
	10	82	6.90%
	11	91	7.66%
	12	95	8.00%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1188</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Kindergarten Projected Enrollment**

**2017-2018**

**Have not yet held Kindergarten Registration**

**This information is as of March 21, 2017**

**2017-2018**

**Projected Incoming Hopedale Residents: 66**

**School Choice Applications as of 1/24/17: 11**

**2016-2017 Kindergarten Information**

**Current Kindergarten Enrollment: 76**

**Current Hopedale Residents: 63**

**Current Kindergarten School Choice: 13**

**2015-2016 Kindergarten Information**

**Current Kindergarten Enrollment: 72**

**Current Hopedale Residents: 63**

**Current Kindergarten School Choice: 9**

**2014-2015 Kindergarten Information**

**Kindergarten Enrollment: 66**

**Hopedale Residents: 61**

**Kindergarten School Choice: 5**

**2013-2014 Kindergarten Information**

**Kindergarten Enrollment: 86**

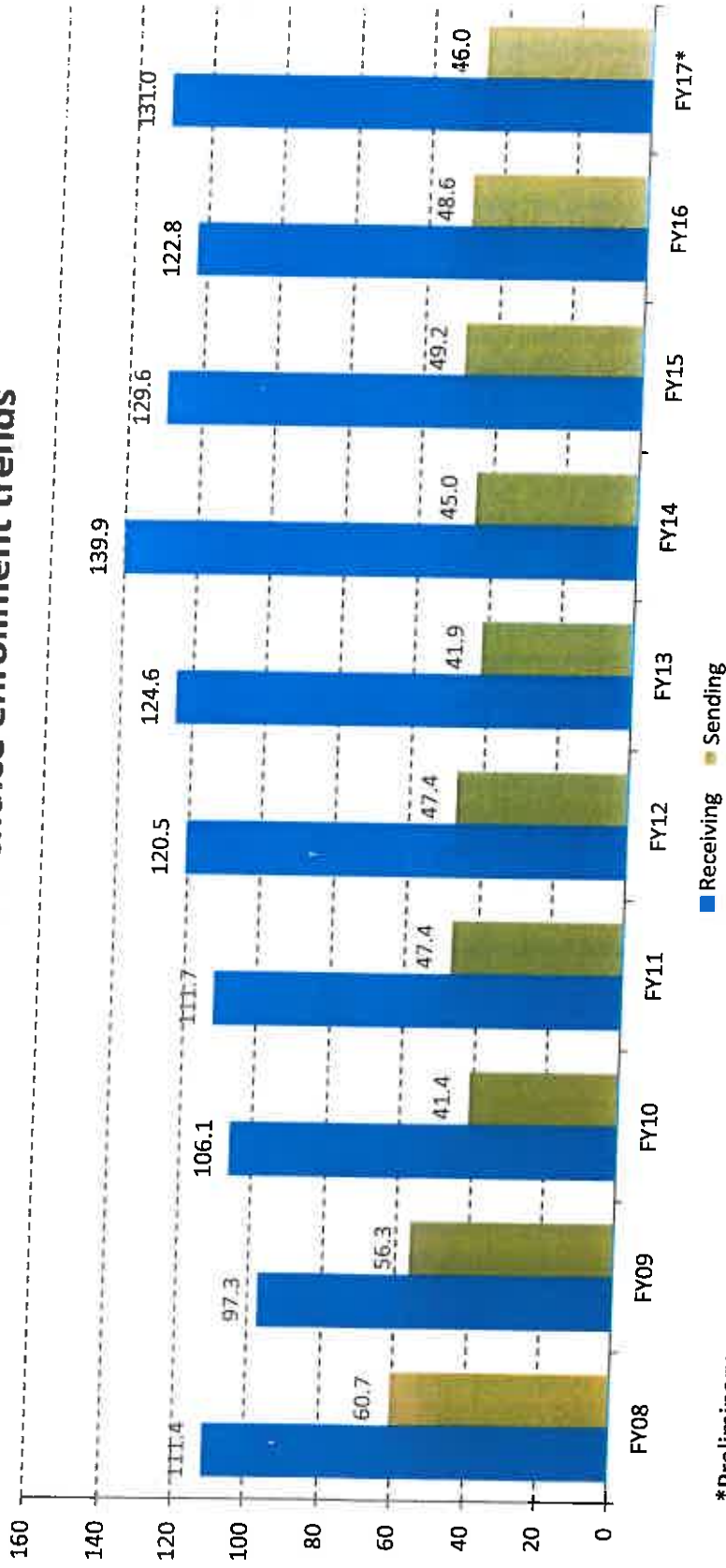
**Hopedale Residents: 73**

**Kindergarten School Choice: 13**

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of District and School Finance

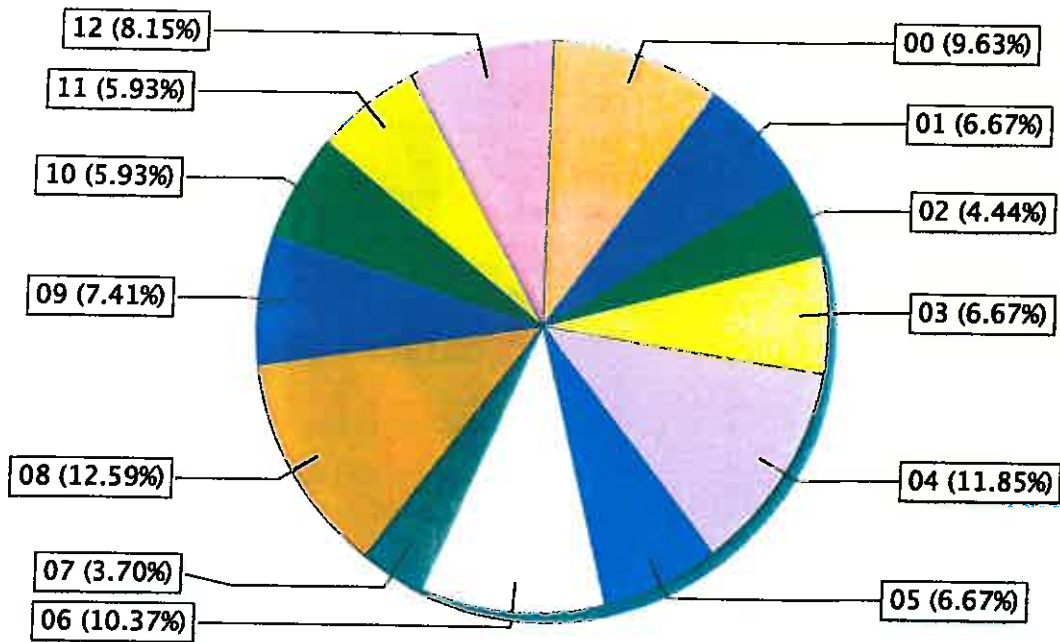
1.13 HOPEDALE

Hopedale school choice enrollment trends



\*Preliminary

School Choice By Grade - 2016-2017



Chart

Data Set	Grade level	Number	Percent
	00	13	9.63%
	01	9	6.67%
	02	6	4.44%
	03	9	6.67%
	04	16	11.85%
	05	9	6.67%
	06	14	10.37%
	07	5	3.70%
	08	17	12.59%
	09	10	7.41%
	10	8	5.93%
	11	8	5.93%
	12	11	8.15%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

School Choice By Town - 2016-2017

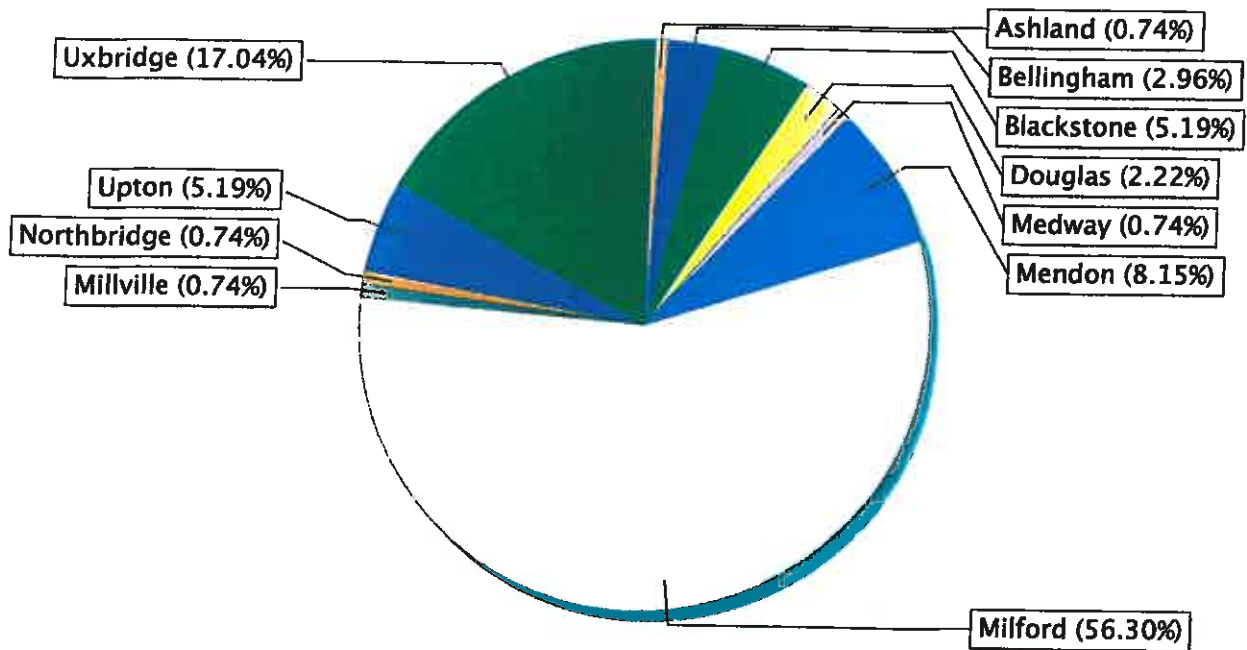
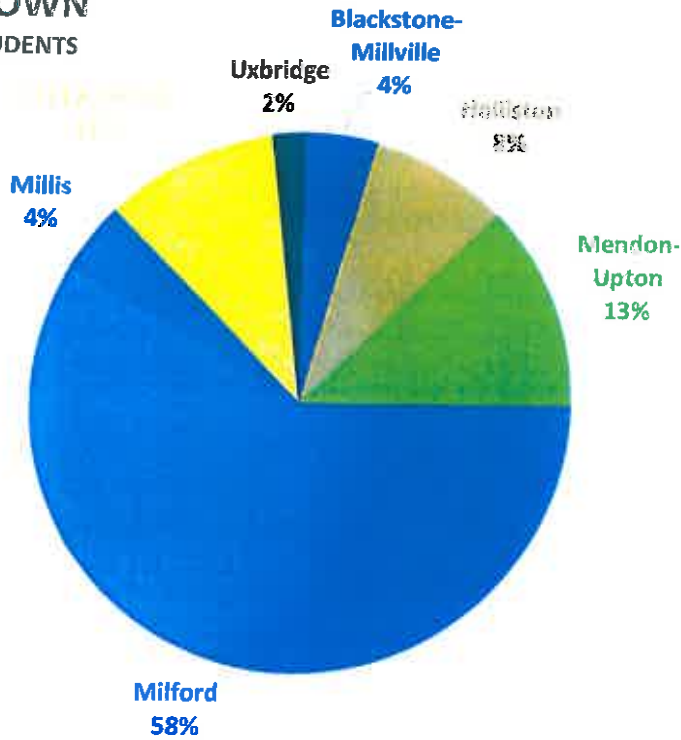


Chart			
Data Set	City	Number	Percent
	Ashland	1	0.74%
	Bellingham	4	2.96%
	Blackstone	7	5.19%
	Douglas	3	2.22%
	Medway	1	0.74%
	Mendon	11	8.15%
	Milford	76	56.30%
	Millville	1	0.74%
	Northbridge	1	0.74%
	Upton	7	5.19%
	Uxbridge	23	17.04%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



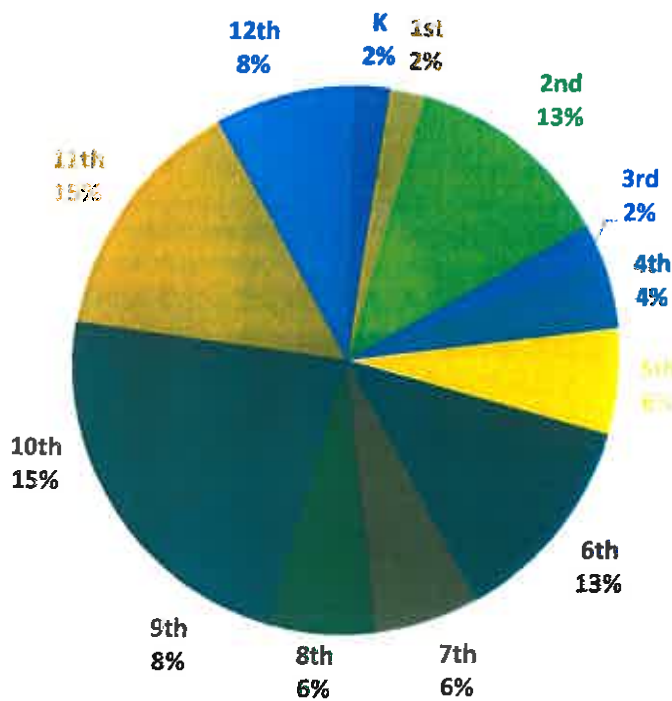
# Outgoing School Choice 2016-2017

## BY TOWN 48 STUDENTS



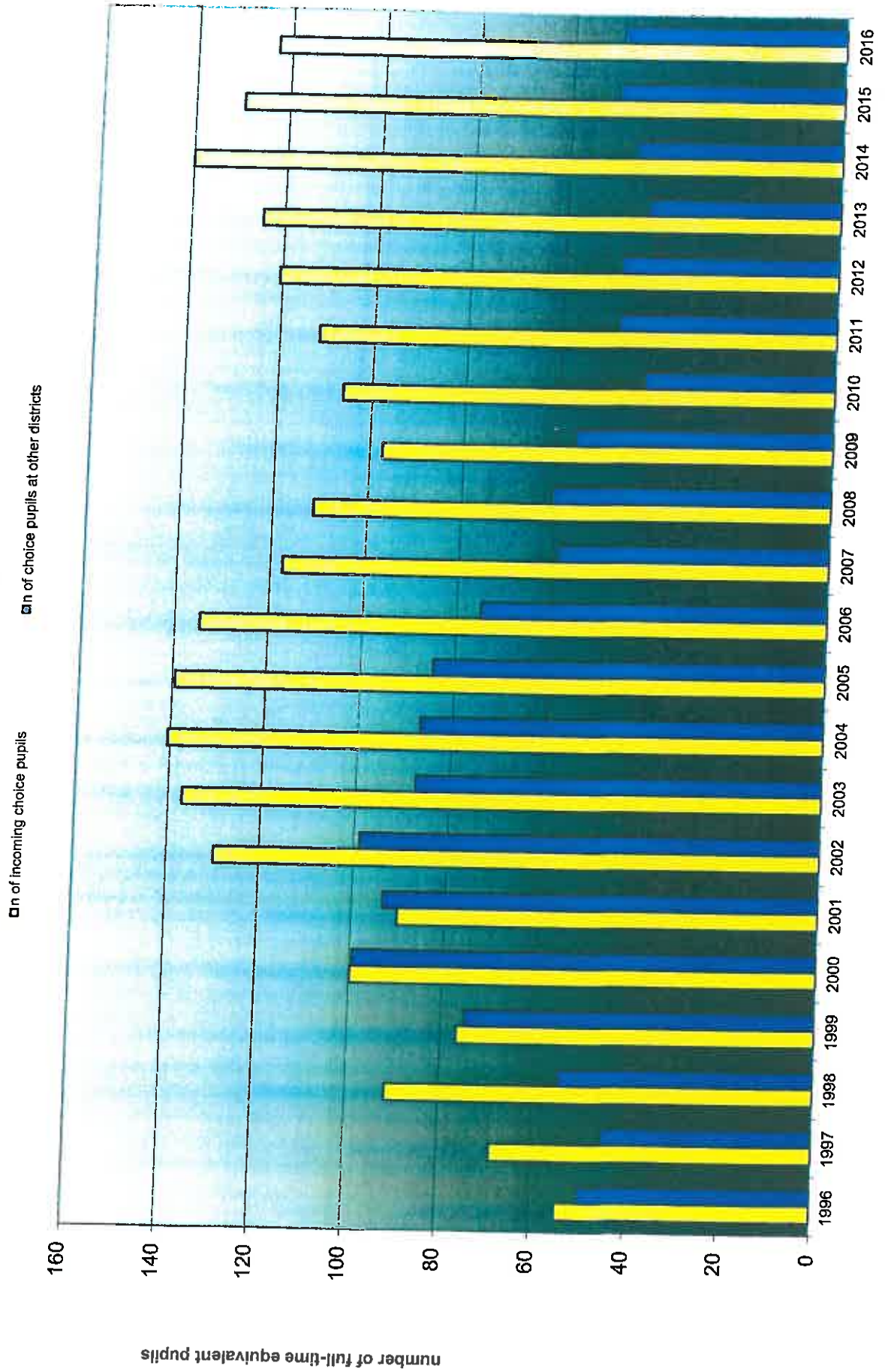
Blackstone-Millville	2
Holliston	4
Mendon-Upton	6
Milford	28
Millis	2
TECCA Virtual	5
Uxbridge	1

## BY GRADE 48 STUDENTS



Kindergarten	1
1st	1
2nd	6
3rd	1
4th	2
5th	3
6th	6
7th	3
8th	3
9th	4
10th	7
11th	7
12th	4

### HOPEDALE



## HOPEDALE

FY	---Receiving---		---Sending---	
	FTE Pupils	Tuition	FTE Pupils	Tuition
1996	54.45	194,322	49.71	179,067
1997	68.77	253,029	44.82	188,812
1998	91.56	300,862	54.64	229,988
1999	76.62	266,348	74.99	291,558
2000	99.80	468,324	99.42	437,356
2001	90.15	437,698	93.29	428,114
2002	129.65	679,098	98.70	435,365
2003	136.88	762,932	87.22	391,467
2004	140.48	792,284	86.75	402,628
2005	139.41	772,783	84.51	448,246
2006	134.56	780,279	74.76	392,859
2007	117.39	634,319	59.03	332,451
2008	111.39	641,094	60.74	347,179
2009	97.31	532,844	56.32	314,322
2010	106.11	593,889	41.38	222,170
2011	111.67	576,547	47.42	250,322
2012	120.50	655,595	47.42	276,563
2013	124.60	690,221	41.88	240,233
2014	139.91	782,450	44.97	266,756
2015	129.58	709,439	49.21	296,247
2016	122.77	694,534	48.56	293,803