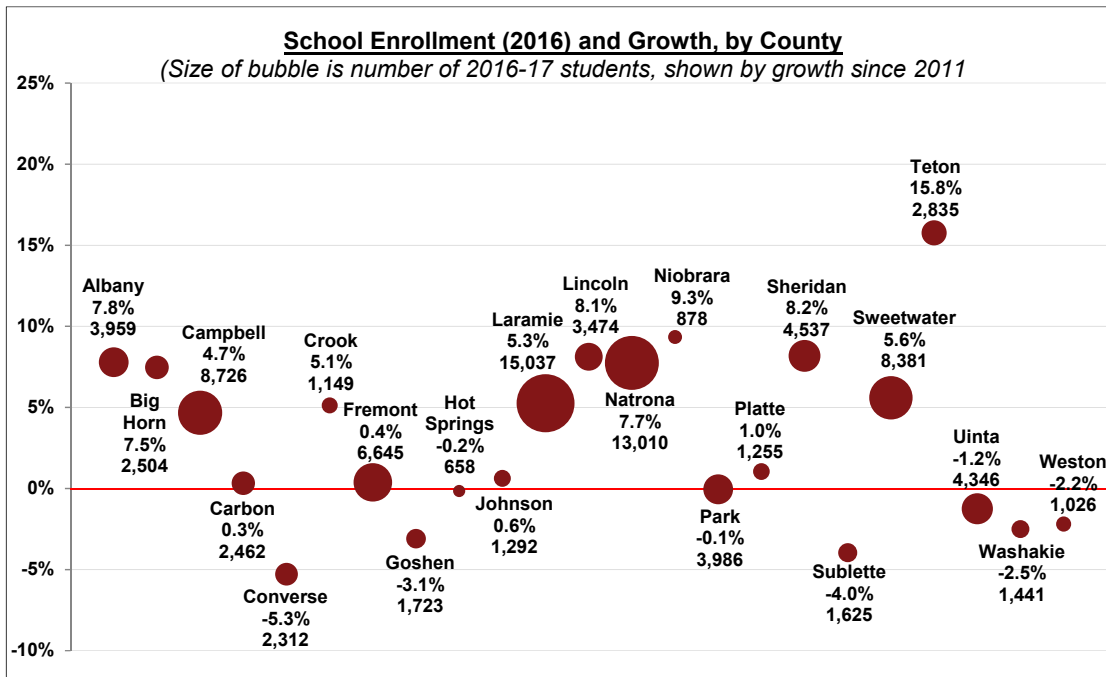


Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) is a Wyoming-based consulting firm that specializes in community and economic development, including feasibility studies and planning. Each monthly *CBI Focus* newsletter provides current economic data and analytical graphs for one of Wyoming's 23 counties (and one covering the entire state). The *CBI Focus* newsletter archive, source notes, and data explanations are online at www.consultCBI.com. CBI principal consultants are Bobbe Fitzhugh and Joe Coyne. Contact CBI at 873 Esterbrook Road, Douglas, WY 82633; email Joe@consultCBI.com; or call (307) 359-1640. © 2017 Community Builders, Inc.



School Enrollments (and growth rates)

Student enrollment at most Wyoming public schools is contracting after several years of growth. The Wyoming Department of Education tracks enrollment for each school, as well as many other aspects of public education. Many education-related reports and data on several topics are available online at <http://edu.wyoming.gov/>.



The chart on this page presents total student enrollment at all public schools in each county of Wyoming. The size of each bubble represents the number of enrolled students (as of Fall 2016), and each bubble is placed on the chart according to how much growth that county has had since 2011. Thus, Laramie County has the most students (15,037) enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year, and student enrollment in Laramie County has grown 5.3% since 2011. Since 2011, Wyoming's total student enrollment has grown

by 4.2% (gaining 3,785 students), up to a total of 93,261 students enrolled for school year 2016-2017.

The four largest counties in Wyoming account for nearly half of all public school students in Wyoming. In addition to Laramie County, Natrona County (13,010 students), Campbell County (8,726 students), and Sweetwater County (8,381 students) combine to represent 48.4% of all Wyoming students. These four counties also represent 66.6% of all student enrollment growth in Wyoming, collectively adding 2,519 students. Natrona County has added the most students since 2011 (935 more), followed by Laramie County (751 more), Sweetwater County (444 more), and Campbell County (389 more).



Teton County has had the fastest growth rate since 2011 (24.5%), adding 178 more students. In fact, Niobrara has led all counties in school enrollments since 2011, by growing 15.8% and adding 386 students. Hot Springs County has the fewest enrolled students (658). Niobrara County has also had strong growth since 2011, adding 9.3% (or 75) students, followed by Sheridan County (8.2%, or 343 more students) and Lincoln County (8.1%, or 261 students).

Eight counties have experienced a net loss in the number of enrolled students since 2011, including Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Park, Sublette, Uinta, Washakie, and Weston Counties. All other counties in Wyoming have increased student enrollments since 2011.

Short-term (annual) growth rates have been harshly negative. While they are not shown in the chart above, it is important to note that many counties in Wyoming have lost a significant number of enrolled students in the last year. Several counties have recently been faced with the economic fallout that is challenging the entire state: Campbell County (-451 students, or -4.9%), Converse County (-101 students, or -4.2%), and Sweetwater County (-78, or -0.9%) are all losing students as their parents move away because of the economic change. Yet, other counties seem to be growing: Lincoln County (66 new students, or 1.9% growth), Teton County (65 new students, or 2.3% growth), and Albany County (52 new students, or 1.3% growth).

Community Builders, Inc. (CBI) can provide you with much deeper analysis of the topics presented in this newsletter. CBI's principal consultants collectively have more than 60 years of community and economic development experience. CBI provides master plans, business plans, feasibility studies, senior living analysis, economic and strategic planning, and other consulting services.

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