

## Kendall Central joins Urban-Suburban program

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The Kendall Central School District in Orleans County has joined the Urban- Suburban program, becoming its farthestflung participating district and one of the smallest.

The school board's unanimous vote came in April, a month after Spencerport, East Irondequoit, East Rochester and Hilton joined the seven districts that already participate.

Superintendent Julie Christensen said the district sees it as a way to combat declining enrollment.

Kendall had 737 students in 2013-14, down from 812 in 2009-10, according to state data.

"Since our class sizes are small, we have a hard time offering electives and other things," she said. "Our students have done very well but we're declining in enrollment so we're looking for ways to bring more children into our programs."

Kendall is the secondsmallest district in Monroe 1 or 2 BOCES or the Urban-Suburban program. Only Wheatland-Chili, with 671 students, has a lower enrollment.

It is 29 miles from Rochester School District headquarters downtown to Kendall High School. The next farthest Urban-Suburban districts are Brockport, at 19 miles, and Hilton and Wheatland- Chili at 18 miles.

Kendall has not yet decided how many students it will take in through the program, or at what grades.

At their March meeting, board members discussed bringing in up to 30 students, according to the minutes.

That is not only from Urban-Suburban, though. The district also plans to allow non-residents to enroll if they pay a tuition fee based on New York State Education Department funding.

That idea is aimed in particular at staff members with school-age children who do not live in the district; they would get a discount.

Webster is considering joining Urban-Suburban in 2016-17. At an event Tuesday, Jeff Crane, the West Irondequoit superintendent and chairman of the program governance committee, said Rush-Henrietta is considering it as well.

A Rush-Henrietta spokesman said in a written statement said the school board "is in the very early stages of exploring" Urban-Suburban. That process is expected to take about six months, he said.

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