



9. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES



EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Educational Facilities

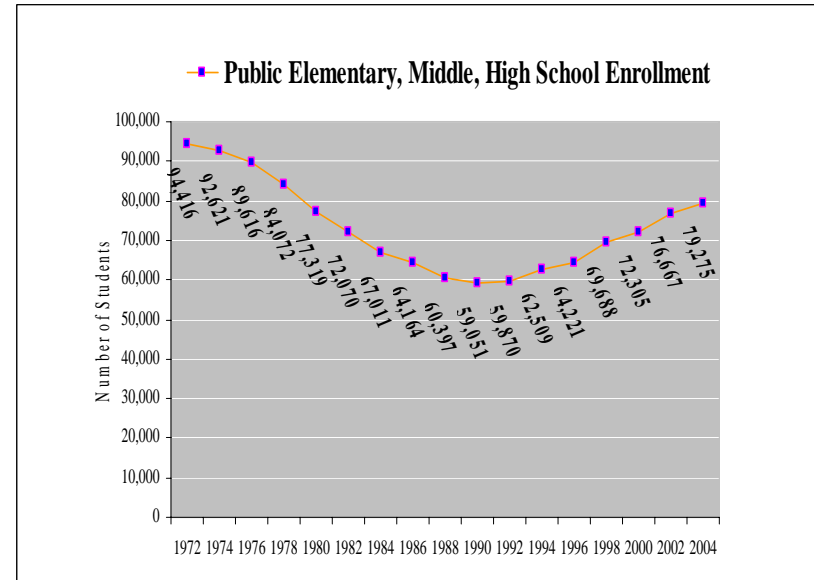
Public Elementary and Secondary Education

While the total population has risen over the last 30 years, public school enrollment has declined. From 1976-77 to 2004-05, public elementary, middle and high school enrollment dropped by 10,342 students or 12%. This decline reflects the overall drop in average household size experienced in Morris County and throughout New Jersey during these years.

In 1976, elementary, middle and secondary public school enrollment was 89,616 students. At that time, there were 162 public elementary, middle or secondary schools in Morris County.¹ As of the 2004-2005 school year, total enrollment for public elementary, middle and secondary schools was 79,275 students, including special education students.² The number of public school facilities has also declined, with 153 public elementary, middle and secondary schools currently located in Morris County according to the New Jersey Department of Education.³

District mergers, school closings, school expansions and regionalization have combined to reduce the number of individual school sites. This number is constantly changing as schools are closed, refurbished, expanded and re-opened, sold or replaced to meet changing requirements.

School facility needs have also varied with the changing student age populations in the county, which, like the rest of the state, has gone through a baby boom, baby bust and baby boom “echo” cycle. This demographic phenomenon is demonstrated through enrollment figures. Public school enrollment in Morris County peaked in 1972, with a total enrollment in elementary, middle and secondary school of 94,416 students.⁴ From that time, enrollment dropped to a low of about 59,000 students in 1990. Since 1990, public school enrollments have been generally increasing, although still well below their previous levels.



Source: NJ Department of Education- Morris County Office, NJDOE , Compiled by the Morris County Department of Planning Development and Technology

¹ Morris County Public School Directory, 1976/77, and New Jersey Educational Management Information System Databases, NJDOE Division of Administration and Finance, March 1976.

² NJ Department of Education, <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/data/enr/enr05/county2.htm>

NJ School Report Card, NJ Department of Education -

<http://education.state.nj.us/rc/rc05/menu/27.html>.

³ Ibid.

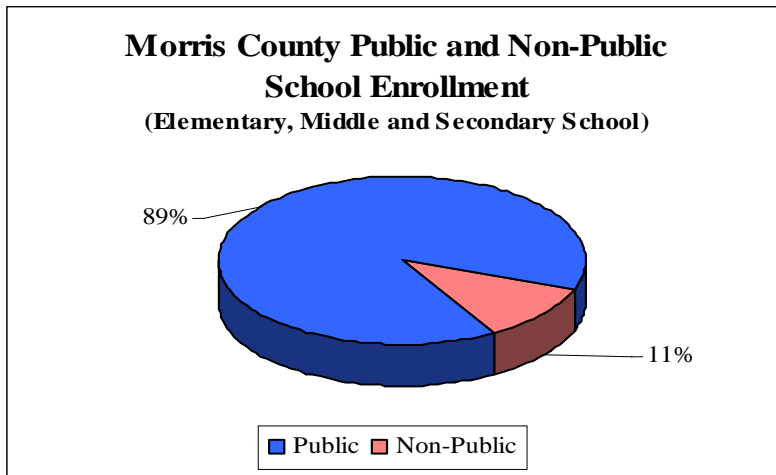
⁴ State Department of Education, Morris County Office, Morris County Superintendent of Schools, 5/2/06.



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Non-Public Elementary and Secondary Education

“Non-public” schools include pre-schools, Montessori schools, religiously affiliated elementary, middle and secondary schools and schools dedicated to specialized education programs for children with physical or learning disabilities. These schools are found throughout the county, with the highest concentration located in the Morristown area.⁵



Source: NJ Department of Education, compiled by the Morris County Department of Planning, Development and Technology

Total enrollment in non-public schools and the number of non-public schools have risen, although at an inconstant rate. In 1984, there were 70 non-public schools registered in Morris County.⁶ The earliest period for which both non-public enrollment and school site figures are available is the 1992-1993 school year. At that time there

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ NJ Department of Education, Division of Administration – Information Resources. Management, NJ Non-public School District and School Codes, 1984-1985, for the County of Morris, July 1984. Enrollment figures not available.

were 62 non-public schools with a total enrollment of 9,713 students, accounting for 14% of the total elementary, middle and secondary school enrollment in the county.⁷ As of the 2004-05 school year, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) identified 84 non-public schools located in Morris County, with a total enrollment of 11,273 students, representing about 11% of total elementary, middle and secondary school enrollment in Morris County.⁸ These changes indicate that non-public schools have also been subject to the overall baby boom, baby bust, baby boom echo cycle impacting the public school system.

Charter Schools

There is one charter school located in Morris County; the Unity Charter School located in Morristown, serving Kindergarten through grade 8 with an approximate enrollment of 100 students.⁹ A charter school is a specialized public school open to all students on a space-available basis. These schools operate independently of the district board of education under a charter granted by the New Jersey Department of Education. Although autonomous from the local school district, their funding comes from state and local taxpayers through the district board of education, which is also responsible for providing transportation of charter students residing in the district.

Charter schools operate under more flexible regulations than traditional public schools and are typically formed along a particular educational orientation or vision. For example, the Unity Charter School stresses “ecological and social sustainability” in its education program.¹⁰

⁷ NJ Department of Education, Division of Administration, 1992. Non-public Enrollment Report.

⁸ NJ Department of Education, Nonpublic School Services, Office of Program Support Services, Division of Student Services, 2004-2005 Non-public Enrollment Report.

⁹ NJDOE website, April 2007.

¹⁰ Ibid., April 2007.



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Vocational – Technical Education

Vocational-Technical schools or “Vo-Techs” provide public secondary school education with emphasis on career preparation, offering students an alternative to traditional comprehensive high school. They also offer adults a variety of adult-oriented education and career programs. Graduates from vocational-technical schools receive a state endorsed high school diploma and a certificate of competency in their career area. In New Jersey, vocational schools are organized on a county-wide basis.

Preparing both secondary school students and adults to enter the labor market through a combination of academic, technological and specialty training, the Morris County School of Technology (MCST) in Denville Township provides vocational education for residents of Morris County. Founded in 1969 and supported by the County of Morris, the school offers many programs that blend both academic and technical knowledge. Within MCST, secondary school students attend distinct schools or academies concerning their technical area of study:

- ◆ The Academy of Automotive Sciences
- ◆ The Academy of Construction Arts
- ◆ The Academy for Math, Science and Engineering
- ◆ The Academy for Law and Public Safety
- ◆ The Academy for Networking Information Technology & Communications
- ◆ The Academy for Visual Performing Arts
- ◆ The Academy for Health Care Sciences
- ◆ The Academy for Finance and International Business
- ◆ The School of Culinary Arts
- ◆ The School of Cosmetology

For the 2004-2005 school year, enrollment consisted of 218 full-time and 468 part time secondary school students for a total of 686 students. In 2005, 3,503 adults also took part in classes offered by the school.¹¹

The school recently began teaching core curriculum studies (e.g. English, Mathematics), in addition to vocational-technical studies. Most secondary school students still spend part of their day at their local school districts for core curriculum studies before moving to MCST. Enrollment has remained fairly steady over the past ten years, with 699 part-time high school students participating during the 1995-1996 school year.¹²

The Morris County School of Technology also hosts the Educational Technology Training Center (ETTC). This county-based resource center is dedicated to providing strategies that integrate technology and education through training programs that assist teachers in implementing New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. This program provides teachers with a comprehensive education in all aspects of educational technology.¹³

The Morris County School of Technology is undergoing a \$20 million expansion and renovation program at its Denville campus. The expansion includes a new 41,000 square foot building with 16 academic classrooms, two (2) performing arts rooms, a media center and gymnasium. Renovations to existing structures include the construction of new science rooms, a fitness center, locker rooms, dining facilities, and cosmetology labs.¹⁴

¹¹ Enrollment information from the MCVTS Superintendent’s office.

¹² Enrollment information from the MCVTS Superintendent’s office. Enrollment information prior to 1995/96 unavailable.

¹³ NJDOE website - www.nj.gov/njded/techno/ettc/

¹⁴ Morris County School of Technology Business Administrator, 5/06.



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Higher Education

Morris County is home to several prestigious colleges and universities offering a wide variety of degree programs. These schools present numerous educational opportunities and their graduates help provide the highly educated workforce that fuels the County's high tech and corporate employment base. Major colleges and universities include:

- ◆ Fairleigh Dickinson University. Located in Madison, FDU offers over 100 undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs. Identified as the largest private university in New Jersey, Fairleigh Dickinson University is an independent, nonsectarian, coeducational, multi-campus institution with major campuses; the College of Florham in Madison and the Metropolitan Campus, located in Teaneck, New Jersey. The university was founded in 1942, receiving its four-year status in 1948 and approval as a university in 1956. FDU offers degrees from associate to PhD, in disciplines and careers from the traditional liberal arts and sciences to hotel and restaurant management, among many others.
- ◆ Drew University. Also located in Madison, Drew University is a small liberal arts university, comprised of a college, graduate school, and theological school. Started as a Methodist seminary in 1867, Drew is an independent university that stresses liberal arts and the use of technology in support of teaching and learning. Its undergraduate college is recognized as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation, and ranks in the top third of the nation's top liberal arts colleges.
- ◆ The College of Saint Elizabeth. Located in Morristown, the College of Saint Elizabeth began as a women's college, founded in 1899 by the Sisters of Charity and incorporated in 1900. It is the oldest college for women in New Jersey and one of the first Catholic colleges in the United States to award degrees to women. The college became a coeducational institution in 1976 and has offered Master's degrees since 1994.
- ◆ The County College of Morris. The County College of Morris is located on over 200 acres in Randolph Township. It was established in 1965 and first began educating students in 1968. In 1992, a satellite campus was opened at the Headquarters Plaza complex in downtown Morristown and this facility has been expanded several times to meet popular demand. This two-year public community college offers 76 different degree and certificate programs and has the highest graduation rate among the 19 community colleges in New Jersey.¹⁵

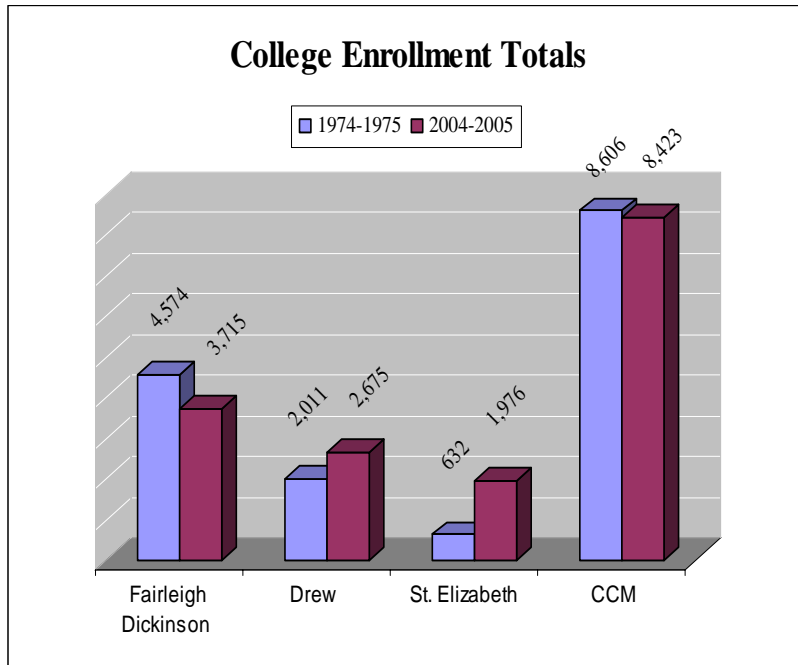


County College of Morris, Randolph Township

¹⁵ As of 2004-05 school year.



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Source: Morris County Department of Planning, Development and Technology. (FDU Madison campus only) Figures provided by respective institutions.

Other Specialized Education

In addition to traditional public and private educational facilities, the county also hosts many other educational facilities, public and private, that provide a wide variety of degrees, programs, certificates and specific skills-based curriculums. For example:

- ◆ Both college degrees and religious instruction are provided by the Assumption College for Sisters, located in Mendham and at the Rabbinical College of America, located in Morristown.
- ◆ Numerous private trade and business schools, computer learning centers, schools for health care and culinary institutes and other schools offering specialized skills training are located throughout the Morris County. For example, the Chubb Institute, located in Parsippany, is perhaps one of the most well known technical schools, offering various programs with a focus on computer technology and health care.
- ◆ Morris County continues to attract educational facilities. New York-based Touro College is proposing to locate a new medical school; the “Touro University College of Medicine,” in Florham Park. The proposed college, to be housed in an existing 75,000 square foot building, has received approval from the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners and is currently seeking approval by the American Medical Association’s Liaison Committee on Medical Education.
- ◆ The Morris County Fire Fighters and Police Training Academy, located in Parsippany is a county sponsored multi-faceted training facility providing professional training for fire, law enforcement, corrections and first aid squad personnel, volunteer and salaried.



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Cultural Contributions

In addition to providing the education and skills needed by tomorrow's workforce, the county's colleges and universities support various cultural opportunities. World class libraries and lecture series are made available to the public, in addition to performances and exhibitions provided by theater, music and other arts programs. These programs are augmented by a full range of athletic programs and inter-collegiate sporting events. In effect, the presence of these institutions raises the overall prestige of Morris County and plays a large part in supporting both educational needs and local quality of life.

Cultural Activities

Over the years, Morris County has evolved into a focal point for diverse cultural and artistic organizations and activities. Visitors are attracted to the county to sample the wide range of cultural activities supported by the multitude of literary, arts and educational organizations located here. This attraction is further enhanced by the county's rich heritage and historic tourism opportunities. Dance companies, literary societies, symphonies, bands, and musical organizations, museums, theaters and venues for the visual arts and arts-related schools and support organizations are located in and/or operating throughout the county.

Well known attractions include the Community Theater in Morristown. A former movie theater built in 1937, the Community Theater underwent a major transformation in the mid 1990's, creating a destination for nationally and internationally known theater, dance and popular entertainment. Another well known attraction is the famous Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey located at Drew University in Madison. Located in Morris County since 1972, it is recognized as one of the leading Shakespeare theatres in

the nation, and the state's only professional theatre company dedicated to Shakespeare's works and other classics.

The county's cultural institutions help support the high quality of life enjoyed by residents, and also help to fuel the county's economic engine. By attracting visitors to downtown areas, these artistic enterprises are particularly supportive of local retail, services and restaurants. Correspondingly, the many cultural venues and opportunities help shape the foundation upon which a thriving tourism economy is based.

As evidence of this tourism economy, in 2002, the private, non-profit Morris County Visitor Center¹⁶ served nearly 8,000 visitors and local residents and reached nearly 120,000 persons through their website. Inquiries often relate to the many cultural activities available in Morris County. These attractions, in combination with the county's historical, educational and recreation opportunities, make Morris County a prime tourism destination.



Complementing the many cultural organizations and venues devoted exclusively to art and music, most houses of worship, elementary

¹⁶ Morris County is a sponsor of the Morris County Visitor Center.



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and high schools and most colleges engage in presentations of music, theatre and/or arts within their regular programs of activity. They also provide performance space and/or exhibit space for outside artists, performers and artistic entities.

Morris County's historic sites and structures add to local cultural diversity and many are open to the public on a regular basis or at special times throughout the year. These sites often double as museums and may provide a venue for exhibits highlighting community history. Some are owned and maintained by the County Park Commission as part of the County Park System and others are operated by local Historic Commissions or Historical Societies.



Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, Madison

Arts Council of the Morris Area (ACMA)

One of the more comprehensive support groups for the arts in Morris County is the Arts Council of the Morris Area (ACMA). Founded in 1973, the ACMA is a not-for-profit service organization dedicated to fostering the artistic and cultural vitality of the region. The mission of the organization is to help artists, arts organizations and community groups and to promote and sustain the arts. The ACMA also administers several grants programs that support area artists and artistic organizations.

The ACMA maintains a directory of arts and cultural organizations found or operating in Morris County. The directory focuses on public, not-for-profit and/or organizations that receive public funding support for the arts. Although this directory is too long to be included in this report, information on the ACMA and local arts and cultural organizations can be obtained at www.morrisart.org. It should be noted that the number arts and cultural organizations is constantly expanding and there are additional organizations that provide historic and cultural opportunities that are not members of the ACMA.

Additional information on the wide variety of cultural and historic resources found in Morris County can be obtained by contacting:

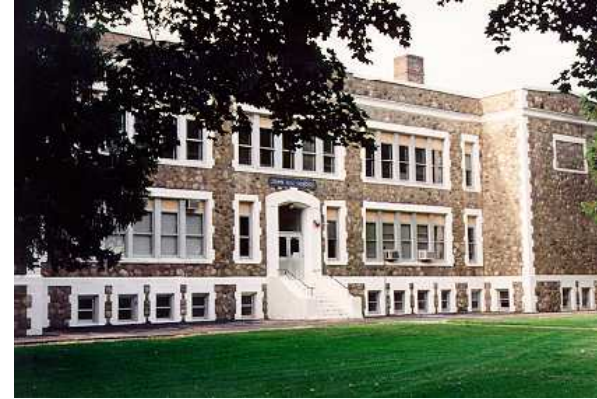
- ◆ Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net
- ◆ Morris County Preservation Trust
www.morrispreservation.org
- ◆ Morris County Heritage Commission
www.co.morris.nj.us/MCHC/
- ◆ Morris County Visitors Center
www.morristourism.org



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In addition to Morris County-based organizations, a small sample of regional performing arts organizations that regularly perform in Morris County include:

- ◆ NJ Ballet Company - Livingston
- ◆ Colonial Symphony - Basking Ridge
- ◆ New Philharmonic of NJ – Cedar Knolls
- ◆ Philharmonic Orchestra of NJ- Warren
- ◆ Actors Exchange/Experience Theater – Pompton Plains
- ◆ Pied Piper Theater Group – Basking Ridge
- ◆ New Jersey Center of Visual Arts- Summit
- ◆ New Jersey Symphony Orchestra – Newark



John Hill School, Town of Boonton

Trends / Issues

- ◆ As the amount of developable land in the county continues to decrease, fluctuations in the number of school age children caused by new development may stabilize. Where rises in this population do occur due to such factors as high density redevelopment or changes in birth rates, opportunities for the creation of entirely new facilities will be limited. State educational program and facility requirements may also necessitate school facility expansions, even if school populations remain constant.

- ◆ The County College of Morris and the Morris County School of Technology are both supported through funding supplied in the annual County budget. Complementing the other colleges, universities and schools in the county, these county-sponsored schools play an important role in maintaining the quality of life in Morris County. Both also educate and train Morris County's future workforce. Continued accessibility to this highly skilled and educated workforce is a key factor to retaining the county's major employers.



Community Theater, Morristown



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- ♦ Cultural facilities continue to play an important role in maintaining the overall quality of life in Morris County. Concurrently, these activities generate economic benefits in the areas in which they are located, i.e., typically the county's downtown areas. By bringing people to downtown locations, cultural facilities help support local shopping and dining, which sustains and generates new business opportunities and employment in these areas. A thriving tourism economy relies on the continued protection and promotion of cultural and educational facilities, as well as historic resources and recreational opportunities.