
DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

for the

HACKETTSTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hackettstown, Warren County, State of New Jersey

Prepared By:

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Whereas, all New Jersey Public School Districts are required by N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.1 to prepare a Long Range Facility Plan and,

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.2 requires the certification of the school district's Long Range Facility Plan demographics by a qualified demographer and,

Whereas, Whitehall Associates, Inc. is considered a qualified demographer by the New Jersey Department of Education.

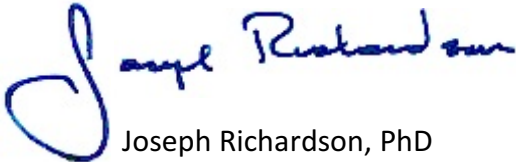
Therefore, Whitehall Associates, Inc. states that the demographic report it prepared for the Hackettstown Board of Education was prepared in compliance with the appropriate law and administrative code.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The enrollments for these demographics begin with the 2009-2010 school year and end with the 2014-2015 school year. The enrollment projections are through the 2019-2020 school year. They take into account the dynamics of the district and may or may not agree with the report posted on the web by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The NJDOE report does not take into account some of the dynamics such as residential development or changes in programs. Bernard Piaia, at the NJDOE Office of School Facilities, has agreed to accept this report, if it is submitted in its complete final form, with an original signature, along with the NJDOE cohort survival worksheets for the Long Range Facility Plan.

The original of this report is on electronic file at the offices of Whitehall Associates, Inc. and is available for examination by the appropriate authorities.

For:

WHITEHALL ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Richardson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joseph Richardson, PhD
President

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INTRODUCTION

Whitehall Associates was retained by Settembrino Architects to prepare a demographic study for the Hackettstown Public Schools. The information in this demographic report is suitable for inclusion in any document to be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Education for matters concerning school facilities.

OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT

[Hackettstown Town](#) is a community covering 3.70 square miles in Warren County, New Jersey approximately midway between Stroudsburg, PA and New York City. The school district is in District Factor Group **DE**. The Board of Education maintains four schools in a K-12 district. Board offices are located at 315 Washington Street in Hackettstown. Students from Allamuchy, Independence, and Liberty Townships attend high school in Hackettstown.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING THE LONG RANGE FACILITY PLAN SUBMISSION

If the cohort projections, as developed in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) electronic data sheets, do not fit a particular district, the correct information may be entered manually. Even so there are some cells on the worksheets that cannot be modified, such as the birth to kindergarten ratio in districts where the birth figures are inaccurate. If a reason exists not to use the birth to kindergarten ratios and some other

method is used, such as a regression analysis of the kindergarten figures, the information may be entered manually. Any modification to the NJDOE worksheets will be fully explained in this report. In some instances there is no way to rectify this report with the NJDOE worksheets. The Office of the Chief of Staff - School Facilities of the NJDOE will accept this report in its final form if submitted, in its entirety, along with the NJDOE worksheets. This report must be submitted with an original signature on page 2.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING PRE-SCHOOL REPORTING

As of June 13, 2008, The NJDOE promulgated N.J.A.C. 6A-13A which established the ground rules for state funded pre-school programs. One of the factors was determining the “universe”. According to the definitions in paragraph 1.2, “Universe of eligible three- and four-year-old children” means all three- and four-year-old general education children eligible for preschool pursuant to the School Funding Reform Act (P.L. 2007, c. 260) in a public school district providing a *universal* or *targeted* pre-school program. This is different than what was previously used by demographers. Previously, the “universe” was considered the maximum number of students that could be expected to be enrolled in pre-school programs. It was generally accepted that this figure would be the live births for that cohort. The NJDOE Data Center now combines the pre-kindergarten figures and list them as **PK**.

NOTE CONCERNING THE SOURCE OF ENROLLMENT DATA

In 2010 the Fall Survey Report, which was previously used as the

basis for demographic projections dealing with facilities, was eliminated by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). Official student enrollments are now computed from NJSMART using the **Program Type Codes**. This was done to standardize reporting and make it simpler for the NJDOE to prepare reports that are needed by Federal, State, and local entities.

The projections for the pre-school students are calculated by the cohort survival method. We have found this to be the most accurate method.

ENROLLMENT DATA AND PROJECTIONS

In studies for the New Jersey Department of Education, enrollment data, by grade, as of October 15th of each year for the past six years is required. A five year enrollment projection based on these data and computed by the cohort survival method is required. The resulting enrollments are used as a factor in determining the adequacy of the educational facilities. Birth figures are obtained from the Center for Health Statistics of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Enrollment figures are as described in the previous section. The only special education students in this report are those in self-contained classrooms. Self-contained students are defined as those with 39 percent or less time in regular classes. Prior to the 2010-11 school year these students were reported by classification as special education students and by grade grouping such as pre-kindergarten, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Now they are grouped together as

“ungraded” or “UG”.

In developing a projection of five year enrollments, the cohort-survival method has been used as a base. This method is the one required by law and expected by the New Jersey Department of Education unless a cogent reason exists for another method to be used. The use of a different method must be explained and justified to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Education.

The cohort-survival method acquires its name from the use of grade to grade survival figures derived from a recent history of the school district. Grade survival ratios at each level can then be computed on the basis of the recent years' known enrollment with an average survival ratio per grade determined. Ratios less than one usually reflect such factors as out-transfers, ex-migration from the school district and other such losses. A survival ratio of more than one usually reflects such factors as in-transfers and in-migration. Projections of enrollment can then be made by applying the individual grade by grade survival ratio to each grade level for future years with a base of known enrollments for the present year. In reports for districts with self-contained special education students, projections are made by using the percent of population method. That is, the number of special education students is divided by the total school population to arrive at a percentage for each year. The last year's percentage in Table 2 is used to project the number of special education students reported in Table 3.

With some adaptation to local circumstances, the cohort survival

method is the most accurate we have to project enrollments. In rapidly developing districts, the impact of new residential development must be taken into account. This is accomplished by using data derived from the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University and Whitehall's research. In Hackettstown's case there is proposed residential development that will warrant the modification of the cohort survival projections.

MUNICIPAL POPULATION TRENDS

This table lists the population of Hackettstown since 1930. The town population increased substantially in the 1960's and then declined in the next two decades. There was a 28 percent increase in the 1990's followed by a 6.53 percent drop between 2000 and 2010.

TABLE 1

The pre-kindergarten data for the district, both the "universe" and the actual is provided. Please refer back to the special comments on page 4 concerning pre-school enrollment projections.

TABLE 2

The district's enrollment history is exhibited wherein the survival ratios mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are developed. Student enrollments used were those provided by the district administration to the New Jersey Department of Education or to Whitehall Associates directly. These figures are for students housed in the district schools

and do not include out of district placements. This method is standard and is fully acceptable by the Department of Education and required by law as the source of enrollments. Birth figures were obtained from the Center for Health Statistics of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDOH). This also is standard and is required by law.

There has been a 28 percent increase in the birth rate in Hackettstown within the past ten years. This has contributed to a marked increase in the school population. Care must be exercised to keep abreast of these changes and projections should be updated on a yearly basis.

TABLE 3

This is the main table and is designed to be used in conferences and meetings and conforms to the NJDOE worksheet. It allows the participant to be able to refer to one page rather than searching through a document for more information. The back-up for Table 3 entries will be found in other tables. All calculations are carried to eight or more decimal places. Since there cannot be fractions of a student, the district totals may vary by one or two students if added manually. These projections can and should be updated every year.

The solid boxed area to the lower left of the table is an area of low confidence in that these children have either not been born or reported. Births in the red dashed boxed area may be shown as a regression, an average of the last nine year's births, or the last known

birth figure. In this case we used a regression analysis.

Table 3 shows the live births attributed to Hackettstown for the five years prior to the kindergarten year shown. The projection of student enrollment for the next five years has been made. The total school population is expected to increase by 103 students or 5.45 percent in the next five years, excluding any residential development impact.

TABLE 4

This table shows the population impact of planned and approved residential development in the district. The name of the development, type, number of units, number of bedrooms, and remarks were supplied by Paul Sterbenz, PE, PP of Maser Consulting for Allamuchy and Hackettstown; and Eric Snyder, the Zoning Official for Liberty Township and, Michael Finelli, PE of Finelli Consulting Engineers, planner for Independence Township.

We begin with some assumptions. The cohort survival method assumes that the rate of growth during the period the data is collected will remain the same for the period of population projection. Therefore the rate of growth indicated in Table 2 will carry over to Table 3 in all cases. Now if something were to happen that changes the rate of growth, that event must be taken into account. Residential development is one of those factors. There are several options at this point:

- a. If the development impact in Table 4 is less than the projected

five year increase in student population shown in Table 3, the Table 4 impact is ignored. To do otherwise would be double counting.

- b. If the development impact in Table 4 is more than the projected five year increase in student population shown in Table 3, the net impact is shown on the line labeled **Net Development Impact** in Table 3.
- c. If there is a projected decrease in the student population in Table 3, the entire Table 4 impact is considered and shown on the line labeled **Net Development Impact** in Table 3.
- d. If, within the past five years, there has been no development of the magnitude shown in Table 4, the entire Table 4 impact is considered and shown on a line labeled **Net Development Impact** in Table 3.

Since development impact in Table 4 is more than the projected five year increase in student population shown in Table 3, the net impact is shown on the **Net Development Impact** line in Table 3.

TABLE 5

The enrollment projections by school, by grade for the year 2019-20 are shown here. The ratio of students was taken from the October 15, 2014 enrollment data supplied by the district, as mentioned in the section on the source of enrollment data, and applied to the 2019-20 district wide projections. This method is required by the NJDOE in the Long Range Facilities Plan.

**HACKETTSTOWN
MUNICIPAL POPULATION TRENDS**

LAND AREA = 3.70 Sq. Mi.

YEAR	POPULATION	INCREASE	% INCREASE
1930	3,038		
		251	8.26%
1940	3,289		
		605	18.39%
1950	3,894		
		1,382	35.49%
1960	5,276		
		4,196	79.53%
1970	9,472		
		-622	-6.57%
1980	8,850		
		-730	-8.25%
1990	8,120		
		2,283	28.12%
2000	10,403		
		-679	-6.53%
2010	9,724		

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 1
HACKETTSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PRE-SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT HISTORY

PRE-SCHOOL UNIVERSE CALCULATIONS

District Factor Group: DE

Universal Districts = 1st Grade X 2 = 236

Targeted Districts = 1st Grade X 2 X % of free and reduced (K-12) = 49

Number of free and reduced lunches (K-12) = 394

Percent of free and reduced lunches = 20.84

YEAR	PK
ACTUAL	
09-10	0
10-11	0
11-12	0
12-13	0
13-14	1
14-15	2
PROJECTED	
15-16	0
16-17	1
17-18	1
18-19	1
19-20	1

NOTES:

1. The method for Pre-school universe calculations shown to the left above is that required by the NJDOE Pre-School Education Office.
2. The table to the right is a cohort survival calculation of regular pre-school enrollments as of the 2014-15 school year, exclusive of Pre-K handicapped. Pre-K handicapped students are accounted for with the "UNGRADED" students.
3. Please read the narrative concerning the Pre-school projections.

**TABLE 2
HACKETTSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ENROLLMENT HISTORY**

School Year	Births 5 Yrs. Ago	PK	K	1st Gr.	2nd Gr.	3rd Gr.	4th Gr.	5th Gr.	6th Gr.	7th Gr.	8th Gr.	9th Gr.	10th Gr.	11th Gr.	12th Gr.	UNGRADED	DISTRICT TOTAL
2009-10	132	0.00	0.70	0.96	1.00	0.96	1.00	0.96	1.02	0.96	2.16	0.99	0.97	0.96			
		0	93	102	85	100	89	106	115	103	102	237	215	276	222	11	1856
2010-11	141	0.00	0.78	1.05	0.93	0.94	1.04	0.95	0.95	1.07	2.58	0.97	1.00	0.98			
		0	110	89	102	82	100	85	106	117	99	220	234	208	266	10	1828
2011-12	168	0.00	0.59	1.08	0.90	1.13	1.02	0.94	0.99	0.94	2.03	0.94	0.97	1.01			
		0	99	115	83	96	85	95	86	101	125	255	214	235	204	16	1809
2012-13	124	0.00	0.85	1.01	1.10	0.93	1.04	1.00	1.07	1.04	2.59	0.97	0.97	1.04			
		0	105	107	104	94	98	80	97	85	95	254	240	207	237	20	1823
2013-14	155	0.01	0.72	1.05	0.95	1.03	1.04	0.98	1.00	1.02	2.52	0.96	0.99	0.94			
		1	112	106	118	97	98	98	87	104	88	246	247	232	215	43	1892
2014-15	123	0.02	0.98	1.00	1.03	1.04	0.98	1.02	1.00	1.02	2.38	0.97	0.98	0.99			
		2	120	118	101	121	101	96	100	87	106	222	237	245	218	17	1891
Average Survival Ratio		0.00	0.77	1.03	0.98	1.00	1.03	0.97	1.01	1.00	2.38	0.97	0.98	0.99			

**TABLE 3
HACKETTSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

School Year	Births 5 Yrs. Ago	PK	K	1st Gr.	2nd Gr.	3rd Gr.	4th Gr.	5th Gr.	PK-5 Total	6th Gr.	7th Gr.	8th Gr.	6-8 Total	9th Gr.	10th Gr.	11th Gr.	12th Gr.	9-12 Total	UNGRADED	DISTRICT TOTAL
2015-16	126	0	0.77 97	124	115	101	124	97	659	99	101	87	287	252	215	232	242	940	17	1903
		0.00	1.03	0.98	1.00	1.03	0.97			1.03	1.01	1.00		2.38	0.97	0.98	0.99			
2016-17	121	1	93	100	121	115	104	120	654	100	99	101	301	208	244	210	229	891	17	1862
2017-18	205	1	158	96	98	121	119	100	692	123	101	100	324	240	201	239	207	887	17	1920
2018-19	169	1	130	162	94	98	124	115	723	103	124	101	329	237	232	197	235	902	18	1971
2019-20	170	1	131	134	159	94	100	120	738	118	104	125	346	241	229	228	194	892	18	1994
NET DEVELOPMENT IMPACT		0	7	7	7	6	7	7	42	7	6	6	19	14	13	13	13	54	1	116
2019-20 TOTAL ENROLLMENT		1	138	141	166	100	107	126	780	124	110	131	365	255	243	241	207	946	19	2110

- NOTES:**
1. Births in the dashed box were calculated by a regression analysis. Students in that year group have not been born or reported to date.
 2. The solid boxed area to the lower left of the table is an area of low confidence in that these children have not been born or reported to date.
 3. All calculations are carried to eight or more decimal places. Since there cannot be fractions of a student, the district total may vary by one or two students if added manually.
 4. The line **2019-20 TOTAL ENROLLMENT** must be entered manually into the Long Range Facility Plan Worksheet along with the explanation that the normal cohort did not consider residential development impact.

**TABLE 4
HACKETTSTOWN
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**

DEVELOPMENT	TYPE OF UNIT	NUMBER OF		REMARKS	STUDENTS	
		UNITS	BEDROOMS		9-12	PK-8
ALLAMUCHY						
Mountain Ridge at Panther Valley	Single Family - Attached	180	3	units remaining to be built	21	60
Village of Bowers Glen	Single Family - Detached	25	4	units remaining to be built	5	18
HACKETTSTOWN						
Princess Towers	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	40	1	not started	1	2
	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	120	2	not started	8	31
↓	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	40	3	not started	9	30
Lions Gate	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	36	1	not started	1	2
	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	105	2	not started	7	27
↓	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	36	3	not started	8	27
Bergen Tool Site	Multifamily (5+ units - rent)	99	2	application filed - no action to date	7	25
LIBERTY						
NONE					0	0
INDEPENDENCE						
Asbury Hills Estate	Single Family - Detached	4	5	remaining units	1	4
Kingston Hill Estates	Single Family - Detached	7	5	remaining units	2	7
Pio Costa	Single Family - Detached	4	5	roadway construction began	1	4
Woodmont Homes - Redevelopment Project	Single Family - Attached	2	3	affordable	1	3
	Single Family - Attached	6	2	affordable	1	3
	Single Family - Attached	4	1	affordable	0	1
	Single Family - Attached	81	2		3	8
↓	Single Family - Attached	27	1		0	1
TOTALS					76	252
TOTAL IMPACT ON HACKETTSTOWN					76	143

NOTES:

1. The name of the development, type, number of units, number of bedrooms, and remarks were supplied by Paul Sterbenz, PE, PP of Maser Consulting for Allamuchy Hackettstown; and Eric Snyder, the Zoning Official for Liberty Township and, Michael Finelli, PE of Finelli Consulting Engineers, planner for Independence Township.
2. All calculations are carried to eight or more decimal places. Since there cannot be fractions of a student, the district total may vary by one or two students if added manually.
3. If the development impact in Table 4 is more than the projected five year increase in student population, the net impact is shown on the line labeled **NET DEVELOPMENT IMPACT** in Table 3.
4. Any net development impact must be added to the normal 2019-20 projection and entered manually into the Long Range Facility Plan Worksheet along with an appropriate explanation.

**TABLE 5
HACKETTSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 15, 2014 ENROLLMENT, BY SCHOOL, BY GRADE**

SCHOOL	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UG	TOTAL
Hackettstown H.S. (050)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	222	237	245	218	1	923
Hackettstown M.S. (060)	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	100	87	106	0	0	0	0	0	389
Hatchery Hill E.S. (070)	2	48	57	38	43	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	246
Willow Grove E.S. (090)	0	72	61	63	78	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	333
TOTAL	2	120	118	101	121	101	96	100	87	106	222	237	245	218	17	1891

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL, BY GRADE - FOR 2019-20

SCHOOL	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UG	TOTAL
Hackettstown H.S. (050)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	255	243	241	207	1	947
Hackettstown M.S. (060)	0	0	0	0	0	0	126	124	110	131	0	0	0	0	0	492
Hatchery Hill E.S. (070)	1	55	68	62	36	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	285
Willow Grove E.S. (090)	0	83	73	104	65	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	387
TOTAL	1	138	141	166	100	107	126	124	110	131	255	243	241	207	19	2110

TABLE 3 PROJECTIONS FOR 2019-20	1	138	141	166	100	107	126	124	110	131	255	243	241	207	19	2110
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