

EXISTING SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY DATA

EDUCATION

Of the population 25 years and over, 77.2 percent had attained a high school degree or higher in 2000. An additional 10.7 percent had a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 3.7 percent had a graduate or professional degree. Between 2004 and 2005, the Pennsylvania Department of Education reported an increase in the dropout rate, from 1.9 to 2.2 in Schuylkill County, with the state's average remained constant at 1.9. The Department reports that 35.9 percent of children enrolled in Schuylkill County school districts during the 2004-2005 school year were in low income families. The highest proportion of low income students were in the Shenandoah Valley (62.4 percent) and Mahanoy Area (60.1 percent) School Districts, while the lowest percentage was in the Blue Mountain School District (12.8 percent). An October 2006 report indicates 33.9 percent of children were eligible for free or reduced lunches, with 25.1 percent of those receiving free lunch. Source: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Schuylkill County, Prepared by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, July 5, 2007

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment in public, private and Nonpublic schools is declining, as is the general population. An analysis of school enrollment projections by grade (K through 12th) shows a decrease in the number of children entering 2nd, 4th, 9th, 10, 11th, and 12th grade by the 2011-2012 school year.

Public, Private, and Nonpublic School Enrollment				
02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07
22,566	22,237	21,815	21,794	21,800

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Dropout Rates

Drop out rates for public schools for the 2001-2002 through 2005-2006 school years remain steady at about 2% over a five (5) year period. However, the dropout rate in 1995-1996 was 1.8%, which shows that over the span of ten (10) years, the rate has increased to 2.1% in 2005-2006.

While the dropout rate seems to have increased on the county level, the rate has decreased on the state level from 2.7% in 1995-1996 to 1.9% in 2005-2006.

Public School Drop Out Rates			
YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	DROPOUT RATE
2005-06	117	80	2.1
2004-05	114	94	2.2
2003-04	103	81	1.9
2002-03	116	85	2.1
2001-02	103	89	2.0

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Education

Overall, the number of male student drop outs exceeds the number of female student drop outs. During the 05-06 school year, Pottsville Area School District experiences the highest drop out rate of 3.5%, while Mahanoy Area School District experiences the lowest at 0.7% (the Pottsville Area School District is the largest school district in the County).

Highest Level of Educational Attainment	County	State
Persons Age 25 Years & Older, 2000	108,010	8,266,284
No High School Diploma	22.8%	18.1%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	48.3%	38.1%
Some College or Associate Degree	18.2%	21.4%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	10.7%	22.4%
Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County Profile, data from Department of Education		

Highest Level of Educational Attainment

The highest level of educational attainment for almost half of all persons age 25 years and older (48.3%) is a high school diploma or equivalent.

Postsecondary Participation Rates

During the 1995-1996 school year, most (69%) high school graduates reported plans to pursue post-secondary education. Following state trends, this rate increased to 76% in 2005-2006.

Academic Achievement

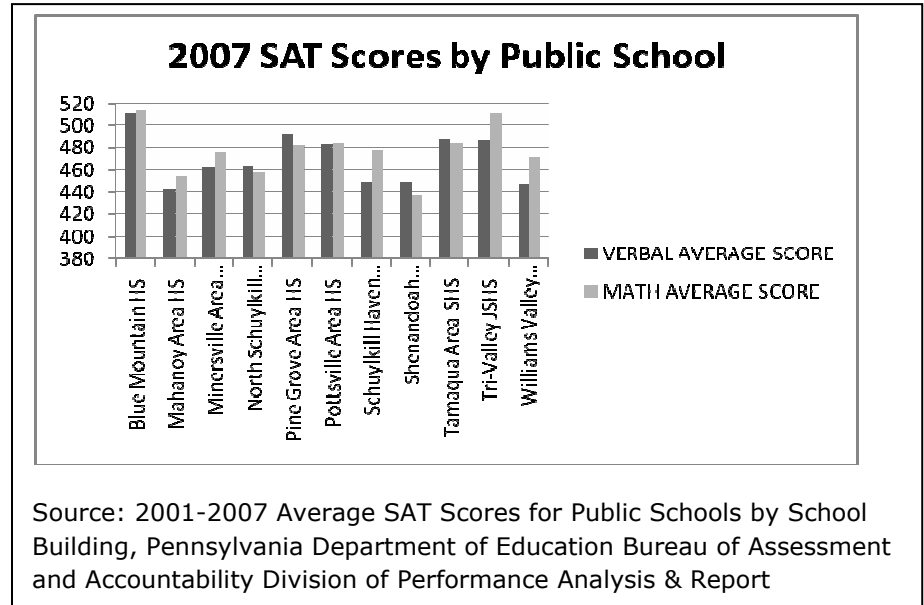
PSSA Test Scores	PA	County
% Students Who Score Math Advanced	39.3%	33.7%
% Student Who Score Math Proficient	31.2%	34.6%
% Students Who Score Math Basic	15%	17.6%
% Students Who Score Math Below Basic	14.5%	14.1%
% Students Who Score Reading Advanced	32%	27.6%
% Students Who Score Reading Proficient	36.6%	40.2%
% Students Who Score Reading Basic	15.7%	17.5%
% Students Who Score Reading Below Basic	15.6%	14.7%
Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, County Profile for Schuylkill County, Data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education		

The annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards based criterion-referenced assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the academic standards while also determining the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of the standards. Overall, Schuylkill County students score higher than students on average statewide.

2007 Community Needs Assessment

Education

Blue Mountain High School students score the highest average SAT scores of all Schuylkill County Public Schools. Shenandoah and Mahanoy Area High School students score the lowest on SATs.



Education

Child Care Subsidy and Early Care

Child care subsidies are available to low-income working families to increase the opportunity for parents to obtain high-quality child care for their children while they work. **In Schuylkill County, the number of infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children increased from 590 in 2005 to 758 in 2007.** The number of school age children receiving a subsidy increased from 228 in 2005 to 293 in 2006, as did the total number of children receiving a subsidy.

Source: CLIKS (Community Level Information on Kids), KIDS Count, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Infant/Toddler Early Intervention

The number of children receiving early intervention services in Schuylkill County is increasing. Early intervention in Pennsylvania includes services and supports designed to help families with

children with developmental delays, between the ages of birth to the start of school-age. Early intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in those first few years. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, service providers, and others significantly involved with the child. For children from birth to age three, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), operates the infant/toddler early intervention program. OCDEL provides early intervention services through county mental health/mental retardation programs. Source: Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

The number of children receiving early intervention services in Schuylkill County is increasing.

Early Intervention - Number Of Children Receiving Early Intervention Services		
2004	2005	2006
773	805	857

Source: CLIKS (Community Level Information on Kids), KIDS Count, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Early Intervention in Pennsylvania Annual Report

Teachers		
The number of students per full-time teachers and the percentage change in the number of full-time teachers is higher than state averages.		
	County	State
Students per full-time teachers	15.2	14.9
Change in rate, 00-01 to 05-06	13.2%	4.8%
Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County Profile, data from Department of Education		

Teachers, School Revenues and Expenditures

During the 2005-2006 school year, school districts employed a total of 1,298 full time classroom teachers, which resulted in 15.2 students per full-time teacher. There was a 13.2% change in full-time classroom teachers from 2000-2001 to the 2005-2006 school years. The average salary for a full-time teacher during 2005-2006 was \$48,174, \$5,869 less than the state average salary.

Most school revenue originates from either state or local sources. Most monies are expended on instruction (56.5%), a percentage that is slightly lower than state averages, (57.4%). On average, Schuylkill County school districts

expend more funds on special and vocational education instruction than other school districts statewide.

2007 Community Needs Assessment—Final Report. Report prepared by Schuylkill Community Action. March 2008. Project made possible by **Susquehanna Bancshares** (formerly Community Banks) and Schuylkill Community Action.



2007 Community Needs Assessment

Education

The overall change in real expenditures per student from 1999-2000 to the 2005-2006 school year is 24.7%, a higher percentage than state averages of 18.8%. Source: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County Profile, data from Department of Education