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# DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

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for the

## **BERGENFIELD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Bergenfield, Bergen County, State of New Jersey

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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 Bergenfield Board of Education was prepared in compliance with the appropriate law and administrative code.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The enrollments for these demographics begin with the 2013-2014 school year and end with the 2018-2019 school year. The enrollment projections are through the 2023-2024 school year. The enrollment projections in this report take into account the dynamics of the district. The NJDOE Cohort Survival Worksheet does not take into account some of the dynamics within the district such as residential development or changes in programs. Bernard Piaia, at the NJDOE Office of School Facilities, has agreed to accept this report for review and consideration, 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.

Joseph Richardson, PhD  
President

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Whitehall Associates was retained by the Bergenfield Board of Education to prepare a demographic study for the Bergenfield Borough School District. 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**

Bergenfield Borough covers 2.89 square miles in Bergen County, New Jersey. The school district is in District Factor Group **FG**. The Board of Education maintains seven schools in a K-12 district. Board offices are located at 225 West Clinton Avenue in Bergenfield.

## **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 for review and consideration 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.

## **NOTE CONCERNING THE SOURCE OF ENROLLMENT DATA**

Official student enrollments are now obtained from the NJSMART data base 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 special education students are defined as those with 39 percent or less time in regular classes. All other special education students are listed in their respective grades. The self-contained students 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 developed by the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University and Whitehall's research. In Bergenfield'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 Bergenfield since 1930.

### **TABLE 1**

The pre-kindergarten data for the district, both the "universe" and the actual is provided. 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.

### **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 (NJDOH). This also is standard and is required by law.

### **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 eight 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 Bergenfield 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 decrease by 8 students or 0.22 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 Marisol Lopez of the Bergenfield Municipal Offices..

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 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.

Usually the **Net Development Impact** is added to the last year of enrollment projections. This becomes the planning figure for new facilities. It is understood that the developments could contribute additional students throughout the five year period of projections. However, there is no guarantee as to how many students will be added in any particular year.

#### TABLE 5

The enrollment projections by school, by grade for the year 2023-24 are based on enrollment data supplied by the district. The ratio of students was taken from the October 15, 2018 enrollment data, and applied to the 2023-24 district wide projections. This method is required by the NJDOE in the Long Range Facilities Plan.

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD  
MUNICIPAL POPULATION TRENDS**

**LAND AREA = 2.89 Sq. Mi.**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>
1930	8,816		
		1,459	16.55%
1940	10,275		
		7,372	71.75%
1950	17,647		
		9,556	54.15%
1960	27,203		
		1,797	6.61%
1970	29,000		
		-3,432	-11.83%
1980	25,568		
		-1,110	-4.34%
1990	24,458		
		1,789	7.31%
2000	26,247		
		517	1.97%
2010	26,764		
		1,163	4.35%
2017	27,927		

**TABLE 1**  
**BERGENFIELD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PRE-SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT HISTORY**

YEAR	PK
<b>ACTUAL</b>	
13-14	27
14-15	23
15-16	25
16-17	27
17-18	33
18-19	28
<b>PROJECTED</b>	
19-20	24
20-21	24
21-22	25
22-23	24
23-24	24

**PRE-SCHOOL UNIVERSE CALCULATIONS**

District Factor Group: CD

Universal Districts = 1st Grade X 2 = 414

Targeted Districts = 1st Grade X 2 X % of free and reduced (K-12) = 153

Number of free and reduced lunches (K-12) = 1309

Percent of free and reduced lunches = 36.98

**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 2018-19 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  
BERGENFIELD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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
2013-14	328	0.08 27	0.68 222	0.99 239	1.00 242	1.02 217	0.98 227	1.00 233	233	242	308	293	284	293	296	150	3506
2014-15	338	0.08 23	0.64 215	1.08 219	1.02 238	0.98 247	1.05 213	1.04 228	238	246	235	321	289	289	282	158	3441
2015-16	285	0.08 25	0.78 222	1.05 232	1.02 223	1.02 233	1.04 260	1.00 222	251	248	264	274	325	285	290	152	3506
2016-17	299	0.10 27	0.68 203	0.98 234	1.02 237	1.08 227	1.04 242	1.05 260	234	267	258	294	263	326	282	172	3526
2017-18	269	0.11 33	0.74 198	1.05 199	1.06 239	1.07 255	1.02 237	1.03 253	270	256	278	264	297	270	322	166	3537
2018-19	301	0.10 28	0.80 240	1.05 207	1.06 211	1.07 255	1.02 260	1.03 244	262	275	259	315	266	283	269	166	3540
<b>Average Survival Ratio</b>		0.09	0.72	1.03	1.02	1.03	1.03	1.02	1.05	1.03	1.10	1.00	1.00	0.99			

**TABLE 3**  
**BERGENFIELD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**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
2019-20	286	24	0.72 205	247	212	218	262	266	1435	256	276	283	815	284	314	265	280	1142	167	3559
		0.09	1.03	1.02	1.03	1.03	1.02			1.05	1.05	1.03		1.10	1.00	1.00	0.99			
2020-21	266	24	191	211	253	219	224	268	1389	280	270	284	834	310	282	313	262	1167	167	3556
2021-22	257	25	184	196	216	261	225	229	1337	282	295	278	854	311	308	282	309	1210	167	3568
2022-23	272	24	195	190	201	223	268	230	1331	241	297	303	841	304	310	307	278	1199	166	3537
2023-24	263	24	189	201	194	207	229	275	1319	242	254	305	801	332	303	309	304	1247	166	3532
NET DEVELOPMENT IMPACT		0	1	1	1	1	1	2	8	2	2	2	5	2	2	2	2	7	1	21
2023-24 TOTAL ENROLLMENT		24	190	202	195	209	231	276	1327	243	255	307	806	334	305	311	305	1254	167	3553

- 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 **2023-24 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  
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**

DEVELOPMENT	TYPE OF UNIT	NUMBER OF		REMARKS	TOTAL STUDENTS
		UNITS	BEDROOMS		
VARIOUS LOCATIONS	Single Family - Detached	18	3		9
15 West Johnson Avenue	Multifamily (5+ units - own)	52	1		6
	Multifamily (5+ units - own)	10	2		1
121 N. Washington Avenue	Multifamily (5+ units - own)	16	1		2
Proposed for 2019- 51 East Main Street	Multifamily (5+ units - own)	20	1		2
	Multifamily (5+ units - own)	5	2		0
	Multifamily (5+ units - own)	1	3		0
<b>PAGE TOTAL</b>					<b>21</b>

**NOTES:**

1. The name of the development, type, number of units, number of bedrooms, and remarks were supplied by Marisol Lopez of the Bergenfield **Municipal Offices**.
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 there is a projected decrease in student population in Table 3, the entire Table 4 impact is considered and shown on the line labeled **NET DEVELOPMENT IMPACT** in Table 3.
4. Any net development impact must be added to the normal 2023-24 projection and entered manually into the Long Range Facility Plan Worksheet along with an appropriate explanation.

**TABLE 5**  
**BERGENFIELD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2018 ENROLLMENT, BY SCHOOL, BY GRADE**

SCHOOL	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UG	TOTAL
Bergenfield High School (020)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	315	266	283	269	30	1163
Roy W. Brown Middle School (075)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	262	275	259	0	0	0	0	28	824
Franklin Elementary School (040)	0	68	46	51	54	67	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	348
Hoover Elementary School (050)	0	40	39	25	26	39	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	235
Jefferson Elementary School (060)	0	36	41	45	51	50	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	263
Lincoln Elementary School (070)	28	55	35	47	73	42	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	413
Washington Elementary School (080)	0	41	46	43	51	62	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	294
<b>TOTAL</b>	28	240	207	211	255	260	244	262	275	259	315	266	283	269	166	3540

**PROJECTED ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL, BY GRADE - FOR 2023-24**

SCHOOL	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UG	TOTAL
Bergenfield High School (020)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	334	305	311	305	30	1284
Roy W. Brown Middle School (075)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	255	307	0	0	0	0	28	834
Franklin Elementary School (040)	0	54	45	47	44	59	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	319
Hoover Elementary School (050)	0	32	38	23	21	35	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	220
Jefferson Elementary School (060)	0	28	40	42	42	44	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	241
Lincoln Elementary School (070)	24	43	34	44	60	37	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	382
Washington Elementary School (080)	0	32	45	40	42	55	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	272
<b>TOTAL</b>	24	190	202	195	209	231	276	243	255	307	334	305	311	305	167	3553

<b>TABLE 3 PROJECTIONS FOR 2023-24</b>	24	190	202	195	209	231	276	243	255	307	334	305	311	305	167	3553
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