

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN ELEMENT

This element of the Master Plan relates to the public, semi-public and private facilities, resources and properties that serve the residents of Chatham Township. It discusses the status of current municipal resources and evaluates future community facility and service needs.

The Community Facilities Plan provides an inventory of existing facilities and identifies the location and extent of land devoted to these facilities. It addresses the availability of sufficient additional land in appropriate locations to meet future community facilities requirements.

Related Master Plan elements include the Open Space Plan, the Walkway/Bikeway Plan and the Utility Plans.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Municipal Offices

The Township's administrative offices are located in the Municipal Building, the former Mountainview School, which was acquired in 1987 from the Board of Education. Acquisition of this space allowed for the consolidation of most municipal agencies and departments into a single facility. The departments that operate from the Municipal Building include administration, tax, construction and zoning, recreation, municipal court, board of health, and planning. There are currently thirteen Township employees working in the Municipal Building.

The Municipal Building is a multi-purpose facility that serves not only municipal office and operating functions but provides a focal point for recreational activities and a wide variety of community programs. The main level is devoted to municipal offices, a courtroom and meeting room facilities. A gymnasium and the Senior Center are located on the lower level.

The existing building currently has a significant amount of available space.

Exhibit 6
COMMUNITY FACILITIES INVENTORY
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM - 1999

Federal Properties

- a. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

Morris County Parks

- a. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center
- b. Loantaka Brook Reservation - Helen Hartley Jenkins Woods
Loantaka Park
- c. Passaic River Park

Municipal Properties

- a. Municipal Complex - Municipal Building
Senior Center
- b. Department of Public Works Complex
- c. Police Headquarters
- d. Wilson Avenue Property - Sewage Pumping Station
- e. Tanglewood Lane Properties - Wastewater Treatment Plant
Recycling Center
Settling Ponds

Municipal Properties - Parkland and Fields

- a. Colony Pool and Recreational Areas
- b. Esternay Field
- c. Fairmount Park
- d. Gates Avenue Park
- e. Green Village Green
- f. Nash Field
- g. Shunpike Field and Recreation Area
- h. Spring Street Properties

Exhibit 6 (continued)

Board of Education Properties

- a. Chatham High School
- b. Lafayette School
- c. Southern Boulevard School
- d. Cougar Field

Fire Departments and Rescue Squad

- a. Britten Road Training Facility
- b. Chatham Emergency Squad Rescue Station
- c. Green Village Firehouse
- d. River Road Firehouse
- e. Southern Boulevard Firehouse

Religious Facilities

- a. Chatham Church of Christ
- b. Chinese Christian Church
- c. Congregation Beth Hatikvah
- d. Corpus Christi Catholic Church
- e. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
- f. Long Hill Chapel
- g. The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township
- h. The Religious Society of Friends

Private Recreation

- a. Chatham Squash and Racquet Club
- b. Fairmount Country Club
- c. Madison Golf Club (portion)
- d. Noe Pond Swim Club

Semi-Public Land

- a. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- b. St. Hubert's Giralda

Senior Center

The Senior Center, operated by Senior Services Center of the Chatham's, Inc., is located on the lower level of the Municipal Building. It utilizes four kindergarten classrooms and the gymnasium of the former Mountainview School facility. It is a focal point for activities and services for senior residents of Chatham Township, Chatham Borough and several surrounding communities.

The Senior Resource Office offers medical, financial, and legal information and referral services. The Senior Community Center provides opportunities to senior adults to participate in health and physical fitness, educational and craft programs. In addition, bus transportation is available three days a week.

Municipal Court

The Municipal Court is located on the upper level of the Municipal Building. The 1,700 square foot courtroom was built during the 1988 conversion of Mountainview School with a grant from the Hyde and Watson Foundation. The courtroom also serves as a meeting room for the Township Committee and can accommodate up to one hundred persons for other public functions. The municipal court is staffed by a full time court clerk and a deputy clerk, a part time judge, prosecutor and public defender.

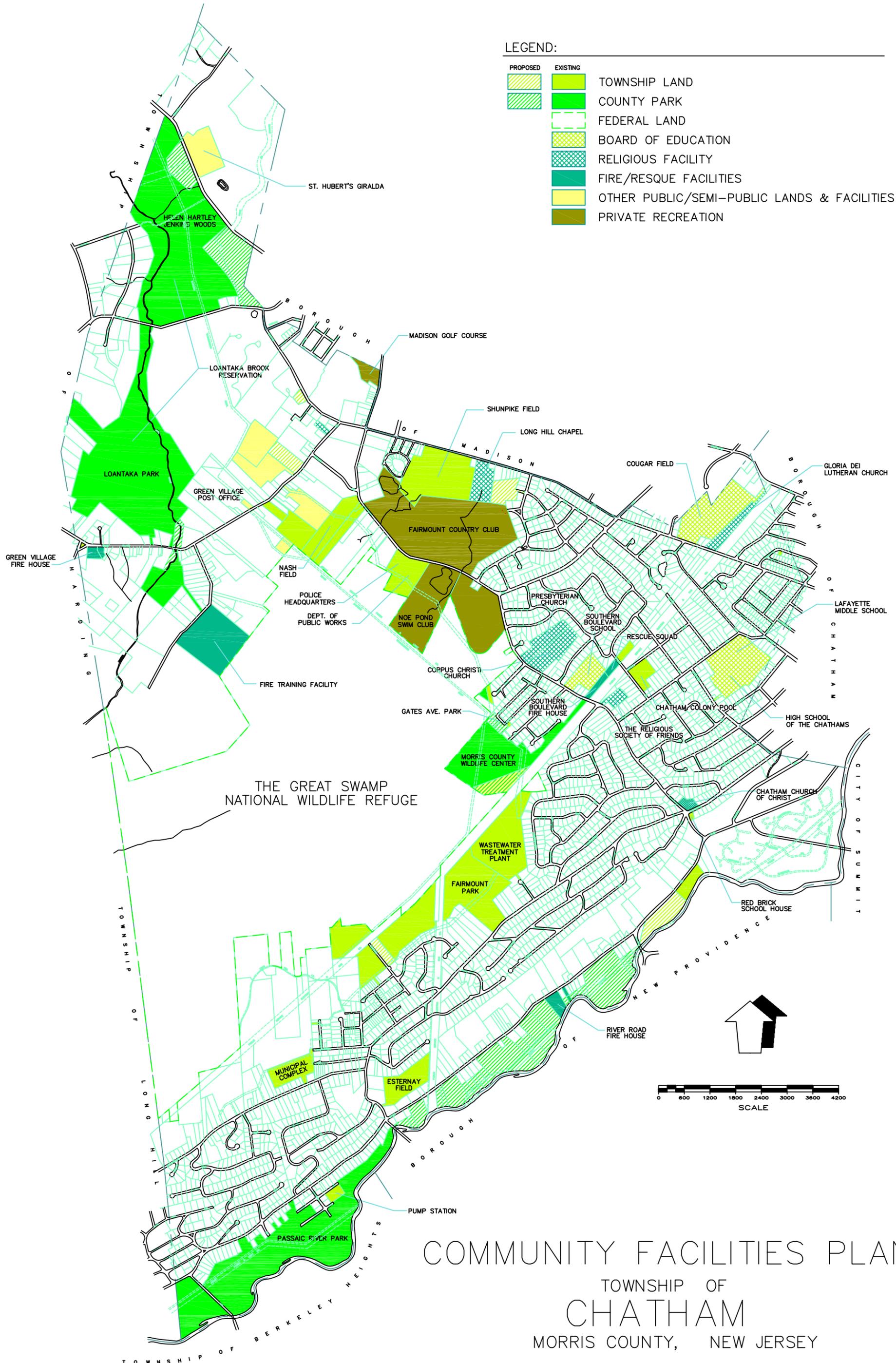
Police Department

Police Headquarters occupies a modern, one-story structure, completed in 1976. The building is approximately 6,700 square feet in size. The site is located on Township property on Southern Boulevard. Facilities in the building include the following:

- Communications Desk
- Offices for Chief and 2 Lieutenants
- Processing Room for report preparation, finger printing and photography
- Detective Bureau
- Conference Room
- Records
- Detention Cells
- Locker Room

LEGEND:

PROPOSED	EXISTING	
		TOWNSHIP LAND
		COUNTY PARK
		FEDERAL LAND
		BOARD OF EDUCATION
		RELIGIOUS FACILITY
		FIRE/RESQUE FACILITIES
		OTHER PUBLIC/SEMI-PUBLIC LANDS & FACILITIES
		PRIVATE RECREATION



COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 18, 1999
 BASE MAP REVISED PER TAX MAP: OCTOBER 1, 1997

PREPARED BY ROBERT CATLIN AND ASSOCIATES
 CITY PLANNING CONSULTANTS DENVER, NEW JERSEY

Emergency Operating Center for the Office of Emergency Management

Police Department personnel include the Chief, two lieutenants, five sergeants, two detectives, four dispatchers and twelve patrolmen. There are four patrol squads with three patrolmen and a sergeant assigned to each squad. There is also a traffic safety officer.

The Police Department maintains radio frequency communication with Harding Township. The Department is equipped with six patrol cars and four unmarked cars.

Fire Protection

Chatham Township has two fire districts and is served by two volunteer fire departments, the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Green Village Volunteer Fire Department.

The Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department serves that portion of the Township east of Noe Avenue. It has two fire stations, one located on a 3 acre site at 495 River Road and the other on a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acre site adjacent to the PSE&G easement on Southern Boulevard.

The River Road Firehouse has three bays, a meeting hall, training room, offices and a kitchen/recreation room. Apparatus housed at this station includes a 1998 1250 GPM Quint, a 1997 Explorer command vehicle and a 1979 Emergency One Attack Pumper.

The Southern Boulevard Firehouse is a three-bay substation with no meeting or recreational facilities. Equipment at this substation includes a 1988 Mack 1250 GPM Pumper, a 1973 Great Eastern Attack Pumper, a 1979 300 GPM pumper/rescue and the Department's standby radio and generator.

The Green Village Volunteer Fire Department is an independent department that serves all of Chatham Township west of Noe Avenue as well as a small portion of Harding Township. It has one four bay fire station located on Green Village Road near the Harding boundary. The two-story structure also contains offices and a meeting room. Present apparatus consists of one 1250 GPM pumper, two 1000 GPM pumpers and a utility van that carries an assortment of supplementary equipment.

Some issues of concern for the volunteer firefighters include:

1. Volunteerism is on the decline due in part to enormous time constraints on the general public at work and at home. This coupled with the fact that many of the younger firefighters can not afford to live in the Township means that available manpower will decrease in the near future.
2. The financial aspect of running a volunteer fire department is becoming very burdensome to its members.
3. The Township needs to carefully consider each phase of development and its impact on fire fighting capabilities. Building height as well as density and traffic flows will be crucial to the Fire Departments and their ability to provide adequate protection commensurate with the development of the Township.

Public Works

The Public Works facility is located behind Police Headquarters on a fifteen acre site on Southern Boulevard. The complex consists of three main structures - a 5,700 square foot main building with offices, garages and storage facilities; a 9,300 square foot storage building; and a 2,000 square foot yard storage building. There are also several smaller sheds and storage bins.

The Department of Public Works maintains numerous pieces of road equipment. Major equipment includes pick-up trucks, dump trucks, vans, a ladder truck, a street sweeper, a shop truck and various other pieces. Road equipment is replaced on an as-needed basis in accordance with the annual Department schedule.

Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of Township roads and recreational facilities, solid waste recycling, snow removal, vehicle repair and maintenance, and several other functions.

Ambulance Services

The Chatham Emergency Squad provides ambulance service jointly to Chatham Township and Chatham Borough. The rescue squad is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

There is one ambulance station in the Township located on Spring Street across from the Colony Pool. This station houses two ambulances and was recently expanded to include a training facility. The Borough station on North Passaic Avenue houses one ambulance. Ambulance service is dispatched from either location by the police departments.

The rescue squad facilities and equipment are adequate to meet emergency response demands. As in most communities, however, there is a continuing need for volunteer members.

Library

The Library of the Chathams, located on Main Street in Chatham Borough, is operated jointly by the Township and the Borough. Using a joint facility enables the two communities to offer a more complete and wider range of library services that, independently, neither would be able to provide at the same cost

Department of Recreation

A nine member Recreation Advisory Committee advises the Recreation Department on the recreational opportunities for all Township residents. The Committee, which reports to the Township Committee, works closely with the Chatham Borough Board of Recreation and meetings are held with Borough members. Many of the youth programs are offered jointly by the Township and the Borough Recreation Departments.

The major recreation areas operated by the Department include Shunpike, Nash and Esternay Fields. The Department of Recreation is staffed in the Township by a full-time, salaried recreation director whose responsibilities include developing and coordinating recreation programs and overseeing the maintenance and development of the various recreation areas (in conjunction with Public Works Department).

The Recreation Department operates a comprehensive, year-round program. Fall activities include soccer, football and flag football. Winter programs include adult and school-age basketball leagues, women's volleyball, boys' wrestling and skiing. Lacrosse, baseball, softball and t-ball are offered in the spring. During the summer there is a playground program at Colony Pool, a music instruction program at Lafayette School and sports clinics.

Long term growth in the Township can be expected to flow from turnover by aging residents of existing housing to in-migrating younger families with school age children. As such, current recreational facilities that are already overburdened will not meet the recreational needs in the ensuing years.

The Recreation Advisory Committee, along with other community groups, is actively engaged in maintaining an extensive recreation program. This process also involves the development of long-range planning objectives and formulation of recommendations for assuring adequate future recreational facilities. Proposals include the following:

1. Development of the upper level of Esternay Field for use as a soccer and/or football field. Under current usage, the playing fields at both Nash and Shunpike Fields are in constant use with no opportunity for the regrowth and recovery of the grass and playing surfaces.
2. Public use of the Colony tennis courts
3. Upgrading of the playground and playing field(s) at the Municipal Complex.
4. Use of Fairmount Park as a hiking trail or par course.

Colony Pool

The Colony Recreation Center facility is open to Chatham Township residents on a fee basis from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Swimming and tennis are offered in the summer season while paddle tennis facilities are available year-round. The facility is used by the Recreation Department for some of its summer programs. Scouts and other community organizations utilize the clubhouse building for meetings during the school year.

A five member Colony Recreation Center Advisory Board reports to the Township Committee and makes recommendations on policies, procedures, rules and regulations for the operation and management of the Colony Pool. The Board oversees summer hiring, including the tennis manager and pool manager.

SCHOOLS

The School District of the Chathams was formally established on July 1, 1988, when the two districts of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township merged. The school system consists of Chatham High School, Chatham Middle School, Lafayette School and three elementary schools, Washington and Milton Avenues in the Borough and Southern Boulevard in the Township.

School district enrollment by grades are shown on Table 19. It is apparent by the enrollment data that the overall Township enrollment has increased almost 24 percent since 1988 and 41 percent since the last Master Plan in 1978. Enrollments by school and grade between 1990 and 1998/99 are indicated on Table 20. As shown, student enrollment has increased every year, except in 1992. The average annual increase in student enrollment was approximately 3 percent since 1990.

The school budget for the 1998-99 year totaled \$28,438,490. In 1999, the total Township tax levy for school purposes was \$15,214,697 which was approximately 69 percent of the total property tax requirement of the school district. The Township tax rate to support the school system is \$1.22 per \$100 of assessed value. The school component of the municipal tax rate is approximately 62 percent of the Township total.

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE
Township of Chatham

Table 19

Grade	1977/78*	1988/89	1998/99	Change, 1988-1998	
				Number	%
K	95	162	224	62	38.3
1	101	163	257	94	57.7
2	135	170	243	73	42.9
3	119	158	256	98	62.0
4	128	168	235	67	39.9
Subtotal:	578	821	1215	394	48.0
5	129	162	226	64	39.5
6	141	161	213	52	32.3
7	177	158	211	53	33.5
8	158	157	187	30	19.1
Subtotal:	605	638	837	199	31.2
9	180	162	175	13	8.0
10	200	183	171	-12	-6.6
11	198	198	163	-35	-17.7
12	177	209	171	-38	-18.2
Subtotal:	755	752	680	-72	-9.6
TOTAL:	1938	2211	2732	521	23.6

* Chatham Township Only (Pre District Consolidation)

Source: School District of the Chathams

ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL & GRADE, 1990 - 1998
Township of Chatham

Table 20

Year	School						Total
	Milton (K-3)	Southern (K-3)	Washington (K-3)	Lafayette (4 & 5)	Middle School (6-8)	High School (9-12)	
1990	218	403	236	0	642	657	2156
1991	221	447	261	0	638	629	2196
Change, 1990-91	3	44	25	0	-4	-28	40
Change (%)	1.38	10.92	10.59	0.00	-0.62	-4.26	1.86
1992	220	441	259	0	647	615	2182
Change, 1991-92	-1	-6	-2	0	9	-14	-14
Change (%)	-0.45	-1.34	-0.77	0.00	1.41	-2.23	-0.64
1993	206	458	289	0	649	619	2221
Change, 1992-93	-14	17	30	0	2	4	39
Change (%)	-6.36	3.85	11.58	0.00	0.31	0.65	1.79
1994	206	377	241	172	653	617	2266
Change, 1993-94	0	-81	-48	172	4	-2	45
Change (%)	0.00	-17.69	-16.61	0.00	0.62	-0.32	2.03
1995	197	414	254	216	694	637	2412
Change, 1994-95	-9	37	13	44	41	20	146
Change (%)	-4.37	9.81	5.39	25.58	6.28	3.24	6.44
1996	188	414	282	423	534	643	2484
Change, 1995-96	-9	0	28	207	-160	6	72
Change (%)	-4.57	0.00	11.02	95.83	-23.05	0.94	2.99
1997	191	472	330	419	583	673	2668
Change, 1996-97	3	58	48	-4	49	30	184
Change (%)	1.60	14.01	17.02	-0.95	9.18	4.67	7.41
1998	197	485	298	461	611	680	2732
Change, 1997-98	6	13	-32	42	28	7	64
Change (%)	3.14	2.75	-9.70	10.02	4.80	1.04	2.40

NOTES:

Milton, Southern & Washington Schools were grades K-4 prior to 1994.
 Middle School was grades 5 - 8 prior to 1995.

Source: School District of the Chathams