

**ESTIMATED NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL
AGE CHILDREN GENERATED BY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF CHATHAM
RIVER ROAD URBAN RENEWAL LLC**

**RIVER ROAD,
BOROUGH OF CHATHAM, NJ**

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PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

259 rental apartments, of which 220 would be market-rate rentals and 39 would be “affordable.”

THE METHOD UTILIZED IN THE ANALYSIS

- Public School Age Children “Multipliers” are derived from the 5-year American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS). The current “Multipliers” use the 2018 ACS data.
- The data are reported at a level of geography called Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) which is a group of census tracts with at least 100,000 people. These records contain detailed responses by households on each person in the household and the housing units in the ASC survey.
- The data provide variables for the time a householder moves into the unit, the year the unit was built, the age of each member of the household, the grade level of students in the household, and other demographic factors used to prepare a variety of demographic multipliers.
- The targeted census tracts include Chatham Borough and Township, and also include data in the surrounding similar tracts in portions of Morris, Union, Essex and Somerset Counties.

FINDINGS

Increase in Chatham Public School Enrollment

The River Road Project can be expected to generate a total of 46 Public School Age Children (PSAC):

- The highest number (29) will attend elementary grades K-5.
- Another 8 PSAC are projected to attend middle grades 6-8.
- The remaining 9 PSAC will attend high school grades 9-12.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

In a report for the School District of the Chathams, Dr. Richard S. Grip provided a detailed demographic analysis of the economic and demographic trends in the Chathams through 2022-23.

This report provides the basis for the enrollment projects in relation to the River Road Project.



Demographic Study
for the
School District of the Chathams

May 2018

Prepared By:
Richard S. Grip, Ed.D.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

- **At the elementary level** containing grades PK-3, enrollment is projected to slowly decline through 2019-20 before stabilizing. In 2022-23, enrollment is projected to be 1,071, which would represent a decline of 96 students from the 2017-18.
- **For grades 4-5 at Lafayette**, enrollment is projected to decline throughout the projection period. Enrollment is projected to be 587 in 2022-23, which would represent a loss of 109 students from the 2017-18.
- **For grades 6-8 at Chatham Middle School**, enrollment is projected to be fairly stable for the first three years of the projection period before declining. Enrollment is projected to be 973 in 2022-23, which would represent a loss of 65 students from the 2017-18.
- **For grades 9-12 at Chatham High School**, enrollment is projected to slowly increase before reversing trend. In 2022-23, enrollment is projected to be 1,316, which would be a gain of 42.5 students from the 2017-18.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CHATHAM
STUDENT CAPACITY
PER DR. GRIP'S 2018 REPORT**

- **At the elementary level**, both Southern Boulevard and Washington Avenue are at or near capacity while Milton Avenue has a surplus of seating. Lafayette currently has 64 unhoused students. By 2022-23:
 - The surplus at Milton Avenue is projected to increase due to declining enrollment;
 - Washington Avenue and Southern Boulevard are projected to be at or near capacity;
 - While Lafayette currently has a shortage of seating, it is projected to have a surplus of seating in 2022-23 due to declining enrollment.
- **At Chatham Middle School**, there are currently 86 unhoused students while Chatham High School has a small surplus of seating. By 2022-23, the number of unhoused students in Chatham Middle School is projected to decline due to declining enrollment.
- **At Chatham High School**, the building is projected to be slightly above capacity due to increasing enrollment at the school.

CONCLUSIONS

- The projected increase in PSAC in all grades (46 students) represents an increase of approximately 1% of the enrollment in the Chatham Public Schools in 2017/2018. While overall enrollment in the system has been trending slightly upward over the past four years, and taking into account Dr. Grip's near-term enrollment forecasts, this small increase in students is not likely to present the district with significant capacity challenges.
- Moreover, 63% of the new students generated by the Project will be K-5 students. The K-5 enrollment trend in Chatham public schools has been flat to declining in the past four years, which indicates the availability of adequate capacity at these grade levels to absorb these new students without undue financial burden.