

APPENDIX I

EDUCATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The education services of a community are important for several reasons: a good public school system is an economic resource; good schools, from kindergarten through post-secondary, attract good families; and the cost of public education is the single most expensive portion of most municipal budgets. Knowing the educational services—how they have changed, and how they might change (or need to be changed)—is essential for any community-planning process.

This being said, as this Comprehensive Plan is being finalized in late 2008, it is difficult to review the Bath school system and attempt to gain an understanding of its future by looking at its past. The future of administration and governance of education in Bath, as well as in the Bath Region, has recently changed. In the spring of 2007, the Maine State Legislature passed a bill (i.e., LD 910—An Act to Permit Public Schools in the Lower Kennebec River Area to Regionalize to Achieve Efficiency and Improve Quality) that, if adopted by Bath and at least three of the Union 47 towns (i.e., Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath), would create a new regional school system (i.e., RSU 1).

An article written in the *Times Record* at the time the Legislature was debating the bill outlined LD 910 by stating that it would:

- Establish one school board of nine equal members [if all Union 47 and Bath joined RSU 1], with each board member representing 1/9th of the region's population.
- Require each of the nine districts to include parts of at least two different communities comprised of about 20,000 people and 2,500 students.
- Establish one superintendent, one administration, and one school budget.
- Allow every citizen in the region to vote on the budget every year.
- Transfer all educational assets to the region; however, any abandoned schools' ownership would revert to present owners.
- Require the region to assume responsibility for existing debt.
- Expect students to attend schools within the region (students for whom Union 47 currently pays tuition to schools outside the district and Bath and their siblings would have "grandfathered" rights).
- Allow school choice to all schools in the region.

- Establish a "school advisory group" for each school.
- Cut costs, all other things being equal, by approximately \$500,000 the first year with savings expected to grow in subsequent years.
- Require the region to assume responsibility for all existing collective-bargaining agreements.
- Allocate the local share of educational costs to the communities based on a weighted formula, one-third enrollment, one-third appraised property values, and one-third population.

Residents in each of the six municipalities voted in November 2007 on whether their town or city would join RSU 1. All but Georgetown voted to join; therefore, RSU 1 became operational on July 1, 2008.

In January 2008, the following members of the RSU 1 School Board were elected:

- District 1 representing Woolwich and Bath: Charles Durfee of Woolwich
- District 2 representing Bath and West Bath: David Barber of Bath
- District 3 representing Arrowsic, Bath, and Woolwich: Tim Harkins of Arrowsic
- District 4 representing Bath and West Bath: Chet Garrison of West Bath
- District 5 representing Bath and Phippsburg: Julie Rice of Bath
- District 6 representing Bath and Arrowsic: Francie Tolan of Arrowsic
- District 7 representing Phippsburg and Bath: Betsy Varian of Phippsburg

In March 2008, William C. Shuttleworth was chosen as Superintendent of RSU 1. He had been Superintendent of Union 47 and had also served as Superintendent of Bath Schools since Martha Witham resigned in August 2006.

Because it is still early in the consolidation process, we do not yet know specific details of the success, stumbling points, budgets, programs, enrollments, graduation rates, education attainment rates, proposed school closings, and new school needs associated with the RSU 1.

BATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, PRE-RSU 1

This discussion about Bath schools and the Bath School Department is included to provide historical background as RSU 1 begins the task of providing education for the region.

The Bath Board of Education oversaw the Bath School Department until the formation of RSU 1. The Board consisted of eight members elected by the voters and one City Councilor appointed by the Council. Seven of the eight directly elected Board members were elected from wards and one was elected at-large. Two nonvoting high school students were also on the Board, as well as two nonvoting representatives from Union 47 (Arrowsic, Georgetown, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath comprised Union 47).

School Facilities

The following table is an overview of Bath schools.

**BATH SCHOOLS
2007**

Name	Location	Year Built	Acreage	Grades
Morse High School	826 High Street	1929	4.4	9-12
Bath Middle School	6 Old Brunswick Road	1953; Major Renovation in 2000	41.0	6-8
Fisher-Mitchell School	597 High Street	1960	5.4	3-5
Dike-Newell School	3 Wright Drive	1960	14.8	K-2

Source: City of Bath Assessor's Office, 2007

Before the 2006-2007 school year, both Fisher-Mitchell and Dike-Newell Schools had first through fifth grades and served as neighborhood schools. Kindergarteners attended the Huse School on Andrews Road. In 2006, for educational and budgetary reasons, the School Board closed the Huse School (except for the Office of the Superintendent) and arranged the grades as shown in the table. All facilities are urban schools, within easy walking or bike-ride distance from most urban neighborhoods.

Other facilities in Bath, which are owned and maintained by the City of Bath, have been used heavily by the Bath School Department and undoubtedly will be used heavily by RSU 1. Specifically, these facilities are the various athletic fields, as follows:

- Varnum Field on Denny Road encompasses 7.4 acres used for soccer, baseball, softball, high school physical education, and open space.

- Kimball Field and Hawkes Field on Sheridan Road encompass 7.6 acres with fields for baseball, softball, and soccer; community gardens; and two basketball courts
- Edward J. McMann Outdoor Recreation Area, Congress Avenue, encompasses 40.8 acres, including:
 - o an all-weather 400-meter running track
 - o Legion Field, a multi-use facility
 - o Kelley Field, a multi-use facility
 - o McMann Field, a 3,500-seat stadium and multi-use facility
 - o Tainter Field, a multi-use facility
 - o four tennis courts and a basketball court

At this point in the formation of RSU 1, it is not known whether the school unit will acquire these facilities from the City or sign a lease that covers the maintenance and capital costs currently being borne by the City.

Capital Improvement Needs of Bath Schools

In 2007 the Superintendent of Schools compiled a list of capital needs approximately \$13 million. In the spring of 2007, the City Council agreed to submit a request to voters to bond approximately \$461,000 of these needs. The following table shows the items included in the request.

CAPITAL NEEDS BATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT 2007

Site	Item	Category	Year Proposed	Cost	Recommend for Bond
Morse High School	Roof	Code Required	2006-2007	\$280,749	Yes
Morse High School	Boiler	Bldg. Integrity	2006-2007	\$37,203	Yes
Morse High School	Stairs	Code Required	2006-2007	\$23,289	No ¹
Bath Middle School	Roof	Functional	2006-2007	\$879,545	Yes
Morse High School	HVAC	Energy	2007-2008	\$571,842	Yes
Bath Regional Vocational Center	Flooring, Heat & Plumbing	Bldg. Integrity	2007-2008	\$200,000	Yes
Bath Middle School	Site Development	Functional	2007-2008	\$43,368	Yes
Morse High School	Stage Rigging	Modernization	2008-2009	\$41,740	Yes
Morse High School	Floor	Hazardous Materials	2008-2009	\$152,457	Yes
Morse High School	Windows	Bldg. Integrity	2008-2009	\$479,491	Yes
Morse High School	Fire Alarm	Code Required	2008-2009	\$41,967	Partially ²

Morse High School	Sprinklers	Code Required	2008-2009	\$93,455	Yes
Morse High School	Floor Finishes	Functional	2008-2009	\$51,422	Yes
Morse High School	Carpets	Functional	2008-2009	\$135,000	Partially ²
Bath Middle School	Floor	Hazardous Materials	2008-2009	\$112,379	Yes
Bath Middle School	Pipe Insulation	Hazardous Materials	2008-2009	\$22,584	Yes
Bath Middle School	Plumbing Fixtures	ADA	2008-2009	\$8,899	Yes

¹To be funded by annual budget.

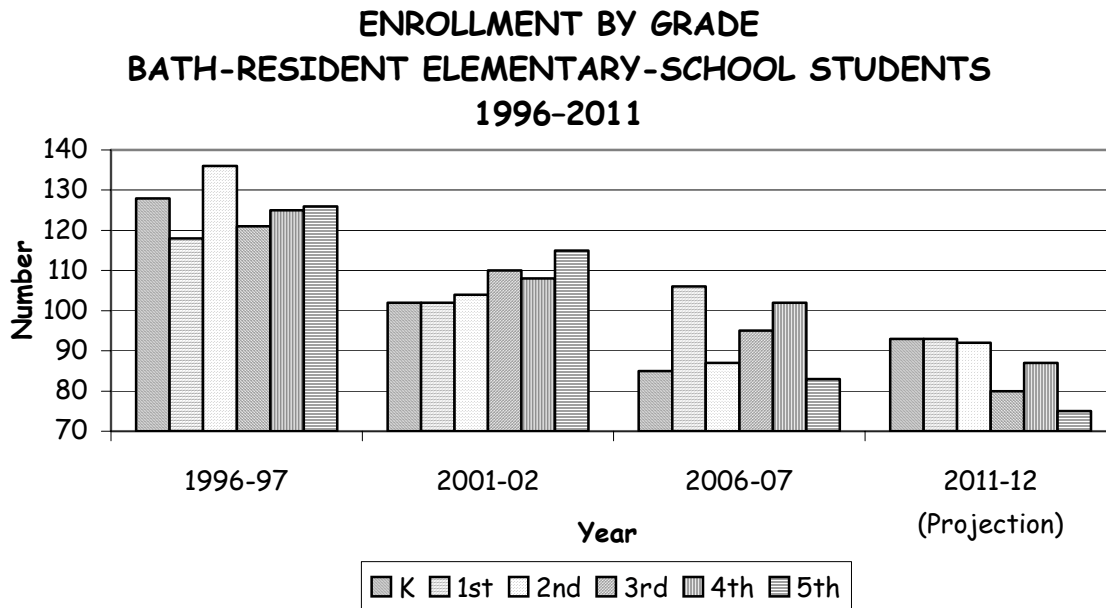
²To be funded partly by annual budget and partly by bond.

Source: Bath School Department, 2008

Enrollment

The Bath-resident student enrollment has been declining for several years. The following tables show the trend since the 1996-1997 school year and a future projection. Future enrollment projections of the non-Bath-resident students have not been determined by the Bath School Department.

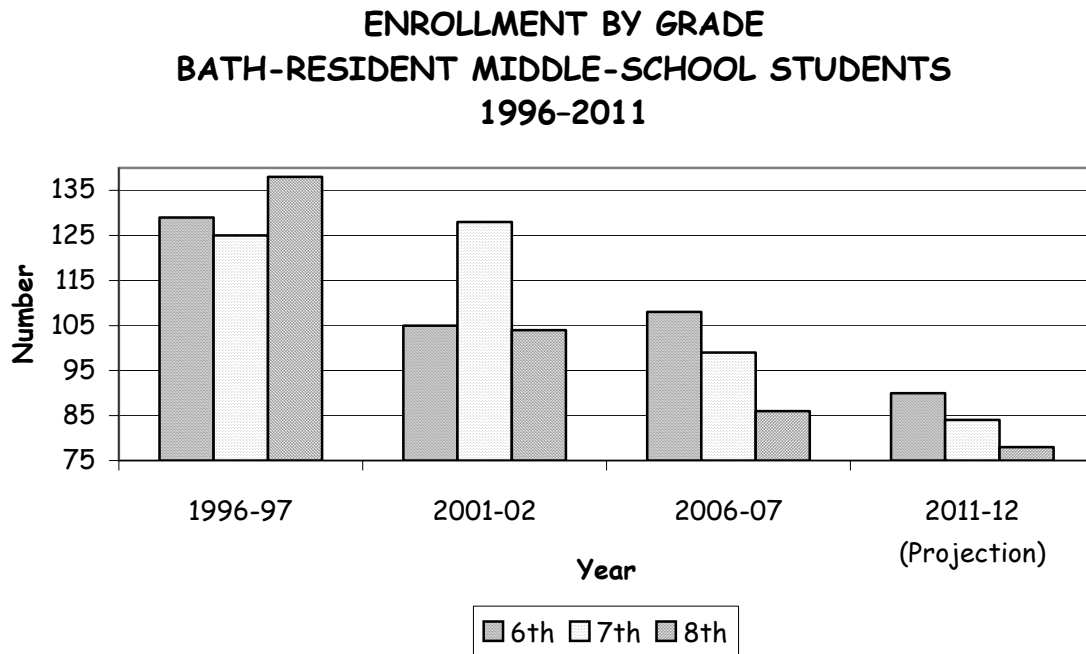
Bath elementary schools serve the City of Bath and a few students from the Town of Arrowsic. The following graph shows only Bath-resident students. As shown, the enrollment has decreased almost steadily in the last ten years and is expected to decrease in the future.



Projections by Planning Decisions, 2004

Source: Bath School Department

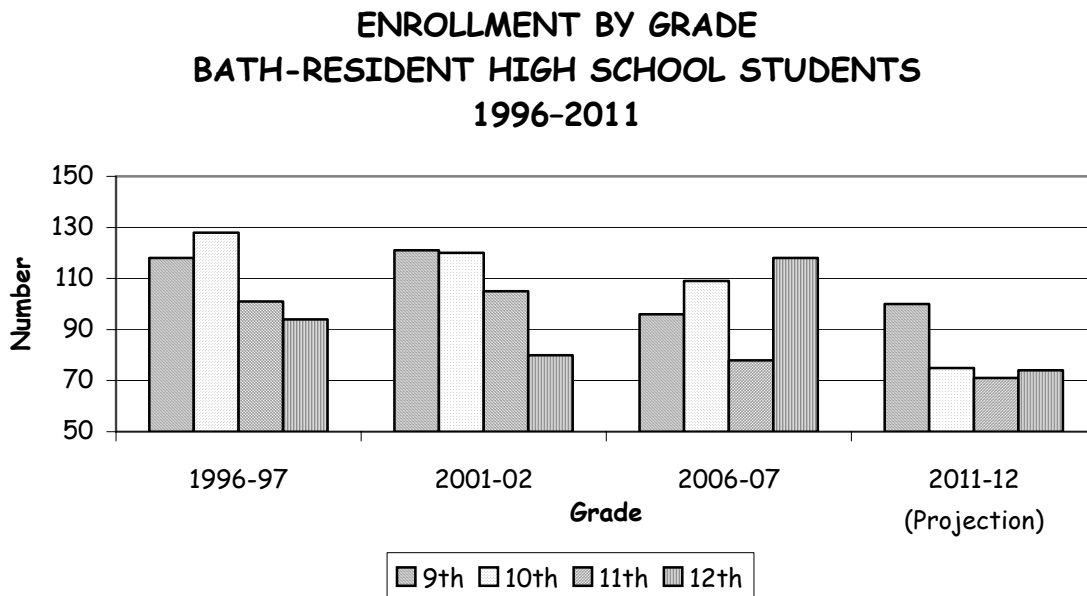
The same decrease in Bath-resident enrollment is occurring in Bath Middle School (see the following graph).



Projections by Planning Decisions, 2004

Source: Bath School Department

The enrollment of Bath-resident students by grade for Morse High School is decreasing, but it is not as dramatic as for middle-school enrollment (see the following graph).



Projections by Planning Decisions, 2004

Source: Bath School Department

In reviewing the combined Bath and non-Bath student enrollment (see the following tables), we see that enrollment is higher for the 2006-2007 school year than shown on the previous graphs.

**ENROLLMENT BY GRADE
BATH RESIDENTS AND TUITION STUDENTS
BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL
2006-2007**

School Year	6th	7th	8th	Total 6th-8th
2006-2007	112	164	140	416

Source: Bath School Department

**ENROLLMENT BY GRADE
BATH RESIDENTS AND TUITION STUDENTS
MORSE HIGH SCHOOL
1996-2011**

School Year	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total 9th-12th
2006-2007	188	206	164	216	774

Source: Bath School Department

School Staffing

The following table shows staffing level in the Office of the Superintendent and at various schools for the 2001 school year and then five years later in 2006. During this period, overall staffing level decreased by about 7 percent and the number of teachers decreased by about 2 percent. For the 2006-2007 school year, the student/teacher ratio was 9 to 1 at Dike-Newell School, 9 to 1 at Fisher-Mitchell School, 10 to 1 at Bath Middle School, and 13 to 1 at Morse High School.

**STAFFING LEVELS
BATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
2001 AND 2006**

School	Staff	2001	2006
Superintendent's Office		10	10½
	Custodian	½	½
Bath Middle School	Teachers	42	42
	Secretaries	3	2
	Ed Techs	13	8

	Custodians	5	4
	Food Service	4	5
	Computer Technician	0	1
	Administration	2	2
Bath Regional Vocational Center	Teachers	11½	11
	Secretaries	1	1
	Ed Techs	2	1
	Administration	1	1
Dike-Newell School	Teachers	32	30
	Secretaries	2	1
	Ed Techs	13	12
	Custodians	2½	2
	Food Service	3½	2
	Administration	1	1
Fisher-Mitchell School	Teachers	21	28
	Secretaries	1	1
	Ed Techs	10	12
	Custodians	2	2
	Food Service	1	3
	Administration	½	1
Huse School	Teachers	8½	0
	Secretaries	1	0
	Ed Techs	4	0
	Custodians	1	0
	Food Service	1	0
	Administration	½	0
Morse High School	Teachers	61	61
	Secretaries	4	5
	Ed Techs	10	16
	Union 47 Ed Techs	5	0
	Custodians	8	6
	Food Service	9	6
	Administration	3	3
Alternative Ed	Teacher	1	0
	Ed Tech	1	0
District-Wide Staff	ESL Teacher	1	½
	Psychological Examiner	1	2
	Computer Technician		
	Gifted/Talented	1	1
	Coordinator	1	1
Contracted Services	Physical Therapist	1	1
	Occupational Therapist		
		1	1
Totals		308½	287½

Source: Bath School Department, 2007

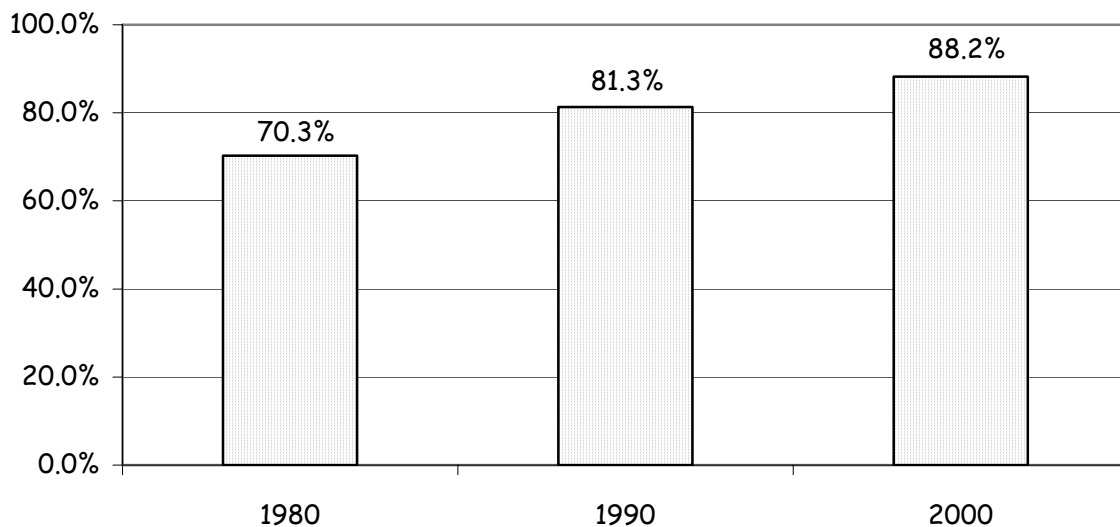
Busing Policy

The Bath Board of Education busing policy, adopted in August 2006, states that it will assume responsibility for transporting resident pupils. The policy encourages students to walk to school but promotes safety as the first consideration regarding which students walk and which students are bused. Students who are bused are all Dike-Newell students, Fisher-Mitchell students who live more than a half-mile from school, and Bath Middle School and Morse High School students who live more than 1 mile from school. In 2007, approximately 450 Bath-resident elementary students were bused daily, as well as approximately 225 Bath-resident middle and high school students.

Graduation Rates

The percentages of students who graduate as well as those who then go to college are important for understanding education in the City of Bath. Educational attainment—that is, the percentages of Bath residents who graduated from high school and who have college degrees—is also important (see Section 4.2 and Appendix B).

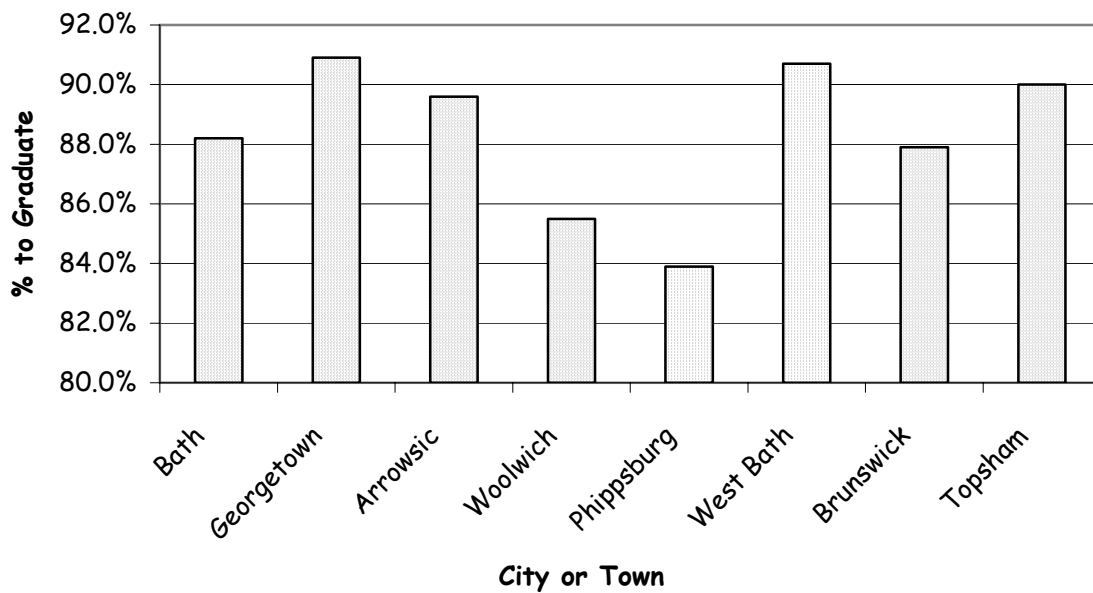
**PERCENTAGE OF BATH-RESIDENT STUDENTS
WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL
1980, 1990, 2000**



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

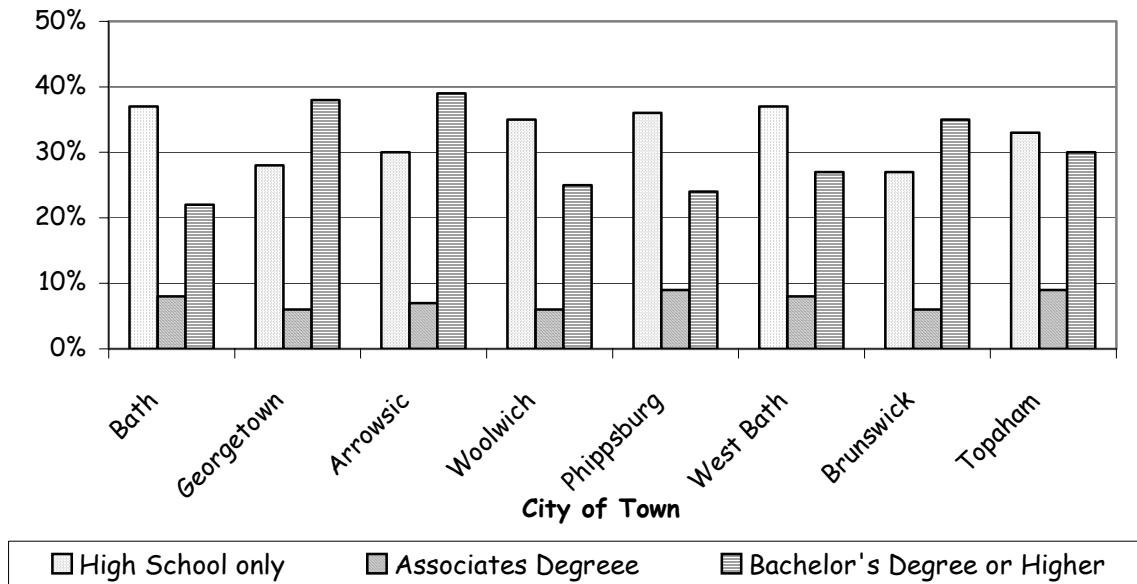
The high rates of high school graduation but low rates of college education attainment may be a carried-over family tradition from when graduation from high school meant an almost certain apprenticeship at BIW. This is not the case today with employment opportunities at BIW shrinking and the need for more than a high school education in many shipbuilding trades.

**PERCENTAGE OF BATH-REGION-RESIDENT STUDENTS
WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL
2000**



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT FOR CITY OF BATH AND BATH REGION 2000



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

BATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL CENTER

Bath Regional Vocational Center is located on High Street and is attached to Morse High School. The Center serves the vocational needs of students from Boothbay Region High School, Lincoln Academy, Morse High School, and Wiscasset High School. The Center is funded through the school portion of the City of Bath budget. It does not receive tuition or any funding from other towns but does receive funding from the state, which was approximately 70 percent of total costs in 2006.

Programs are offered in automotive technology, building construction, business education, culinary arts, pre-engineering design, early-childhood occupations, computer technology, and health sciences, many of which lead directly to apprenticeship programs.

In the 2006-2007 school year, 216 "true" vocational students (i.e., those with two or more vocational school periods per day) attended the Bath Regional Vocational Center.

BAILEY EVENING SCHOOL

According to its web site, "Bailey Evening School is the continuing education program for adult learners in the greater Bath area since 1913." It is a non-profit entity that receives state and municipal funding but no funds through the education budget; however, the Supervisor of the part-time director is the Bath School Superintendent. The Bailey Evening School offers free courses for students who want to earn their high school diploma, get their GED, or improve their basic reading, writing, and math skills. The School also offers improvement and vocational courses in computer skills, languages, crafts and hobbies, exercise and health, finance, personal enrichment, and Certified Nurses Aid training. Bailey Evening School is accredited by Morse High School and offers the following courses:

Basic Computer Literacy	Personal Finance & Wealth-Building
Computer Applications	Health Care, Nutrition, & Fitness
Graphic Design	Personal Enrichment
The Internet	Child Care & Parenting
Web Page Design	Art, History, Psychology, & Literature
Web Graphics & Multimedia	Math, Philosophy, & Science
Web & Computer Programming	Accounting
Database Management & Programming	Grant Writing & Non-profit Management
PC Troubleshooting, Networking, &	Start Your Own Business
Security	Personal Development
Certification Preparation	Business Administration
Digital Photography & Digital Video	Sales & Marketing
Languages	Law & Legal Careers
Writing & Publishing	Health Care Continuing Education
Entertainment Industry	Courses for Teaching Professionals
Test Preparation	

MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE

In March 2000, Midcoast Senior College was organized and began offering courses for people fifty-five and older. Midcoast Senior College is a lifelong-learning program with courses offered at University College, which is located at the MCHE.

Currently, Midcoast Senior College offers thirteen eight-week courses during the spring and autumn semesters. Enrollment is approximately 200, with volunteer faculty teaching courses in subjects such as Russian and

American studies, fiction and poetry, architecture, painting and drawing, computer skills, and music. There are no exams, no grades, and no credit hours given.

THE HYDE SCHOOL

The Hyde School is located on High Street on about 145 acres and has a campus with sixteen main buildings. Founded in Bath in 1966, The Hyde School provides secondary-school education to approximately 200 students. The school prides itself on its student/teacher ratio of 6 to 1 and the fact that since 2001, more than 98 percent of its graduates have enrolled in a four-year college.

MIDCOAST CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MCHE, housed at what was Bath Memorial Hospital and, more recently, the Bath campus of Mid Coast Hospital, comprises two branches of the University of Maine System.

The Bath campus of SMCC began offering courses in 2003; in the spring 2008 semester, enrollment was 325, up from 300 in the spring 2007 semester. In Bath, SMCC offers associates degrees in Liberal Studies. Students can earn half of their degree in other programs—Early Childhood Education, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Paramedicine, and Pharmacy Technician—in Bath. In 2008, SMCC had 2.5 employees in Bath.

Also at MCHC is the University of Maine's University College Bath-Brunswick Center. Formerly on Bath Road in Brunswick, the Bath-Brunswick Center opened in Bath in 2003. University College is part of the University of Maine System, not specifically affiliated with any one campus. It offers distance education courses from all seven of University of Maine System campuses. In Bath, on-site courses are offered from USM, University of Maine at Augusta (UMA), and University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). In a typical spring or autumn semester, more than 300 courses are offered. In the spring 2008 semester, student enrollment was 867, up 3.6 percent from the spring 2007 semester.

The University College Bath-Brunswick Center employs five full-time staff

locally (i.e., two professional and three clerical positions), and ten to twelve part-time, work-study students, who are funded through a federal work-study grant. The estimated forty on-site courses available each autumn and spring are taught by a combination of regional adjunct faculty and a small number of full-time UMA, USM, and UMF faculty who are teaching a portion of their full-time course load in Bath.

Degrees that can be completed in Bath include the following:

Associates

Business Administration
Financial Services
Liberal Arts/Liberal
Studies
Library & Information
Services
Medical Laboratory
Technology
Nursing
Social Services

Bachelors

Bachelors of Applied
Science
Business Administration
Dental Hygiene
Liberal Studies
Library & Information
Services

Mental Health and Human
Services
RN Completion
Social Science
University Studies

Masters

Adult Education
Computer Engineering
Educational Literacy
Electrical Engineering
Rehabilitation Counseling

Undergraduate

Certificates

Child and Youth Care
Practitioner
Classical Studies
Environmental Safety and

Health
Human Services
Library and Information
Services
Maine Studies
Mental Health &
Rehabilitation
Technician/Community
Substance Rehabilitation

Graduate Certificates

Child and Family
Information Systems
Health Policy & Management
Mental Health &
Rehabilitation
Technician/Community
Non-profit Management

HEAD START

Midcoast Community Action (formerly Coastal Economic Development, Inc.) operates the Head Start program in the Bath Region. Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families. As of the spring of 2008, the program had fifty-four children from ages three to five years in the program. The geographic area served by the Midcoast Community Action Head Start program includes Arrowsic, Woolwich, Bath, Phippsburg, and West Bath. The income-eligibility criterion of families is 130 percent of the federal poverty level. Financial support is

provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the State of Maine, and the local United Way.

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS OF THE EDUCATION INVENTORY

1. With the recent formation of RSU 1, it is too early to inventory past trends to provide an idea of the future.
2. Bath school facilities are showing their age, with a long list of needed and expensive capital improvements. These needs could translate into major costs for RSU 1 in the future.
3. The enrollment of Bath-resident students has declined and is likely to continue declining. Enrollment, including former Union 47 students, will likely stay level in the future. Predicted enrollments for RSU 1 will be critical information for the Regional School Board as it considers future needs.
4. In the past five years, the percentage decrease of Bath School Department staff as a whole was greater than the percentage decrease of teachers. This indicates an emphasis by the Bath Board of Education to retain teachers while cutting nonteacher personnel. It is too early to determine if this same approach will be taken by the RSU 1 School Board.
5. The Bath Board Education busing policy shows concern for student safety, as it should. Savings could be made in transportation costs, however, if attention were given to mitigating or eliminating the safety problems when students walk farther to school. Also, walking could improve students' health. It is not known if the RSU1 School Board will have the same policy.
6. The percentage of Bath students who graduate from high school is quite high, and the rate is increasing. However, the rate of Bath residents with college degrees is low compared to the Bath Region. What may be a family tradition of placing high value on high school

graduation as an entrance to BIW is positive; however, what may be a tradition of placing a low value on a college education is negative.

7. The City of Bath and the Bath Region have abundant educational resources other than those offered by RSU 1. These resources include everything from Head Start to Senior College, as well as the Bath Regional Vocational Center, the Bailey Evening School, The Hyde School, a campus of SMCC, and the University of Maine's University College.
8. As discussed in Appendix B, the report titled "Measures of Growth 2007," written for the Maine Economic Growth Council, reminds us that "in order for societies to thrive, they must focus investment in their people [this means education] as well as in cutting-edge technology."