

SECTION 13 EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

EXISTING EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Evansville and Vanderburgh County offer many diverse educational facilities and opportunities to the community and region. Quality college education in Evansville is available at two outstanding universities and a state college. Primary and secondary education is offered through the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, the Catholic Diocese of Evansville and other private schools. Table 13-4 lists the current enrollments of the public, parochial, and private schools in Vanderburgh County. Page 13-7 shows the location of these school facilities.

EVANSVILLE-VANDERBURGH SCHOOL CORPORATION

The Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) fully accredited by the Indiana Department of Education for the school year 2003-2004 operated:

- 20 elementary schools (grades kindergarten through five)
with an enrollment of 10,298;
- 10 middle schools (grades six through eight)
with an enrollment of 5,355;
- 5 high schools (grades nine through twelve)
with an enrollment of 6,689; and
- 4 alternative schools.

Table 13-2 displays the existing and forecasted total school age population by the age groups that most closely correspond to the elementary, middle and high school levels. The Indiana Business Research Center projection shows that the overall school age population is expected to increase moderately through 2025, and that most of this increase (+1260 children) will be in the elementary school age group. This is a result of two positive trends; a continued natural increase due to a strong birth rate and net in-migration in these age groups. Analyzing the forecasts of the school age population is important for planning the total number of classrooms needed and the potential number of students per classroom. Although an overall increase in students is expected, they will not be distributed evenly among school districts. The school aged population in some urban districts could decline, while districts serving the unincorporated County could get a large share of this population growth.

Before the 1990 Census, the Projected Enrollment and Classroom Needs Study indicated a need for an additional EVSC school facility "based on the projected number of new homes in the Highland and Scott school districts". The population increases that occurred between 1990 and 2000 in the northeast portion of the County and the increase in the enrollment at Scott School support that 1989 conclusion. The 2025 population projections for each township indicate the continuation of the trends for growth to the north and northeast portions of the County. A new facility is necessary due to projected growth in the school-aged population as a

whole, especially in the Center and Scott Townships. These projected needs were based on full day kindergarten at all elementary schools.

TABLE 13-2: SCHOOL AGE GROUPS: 2000 CENSUS AND PROJECTIONS

Age Groups
Approximate School Level

	5 – 9 Elementary	10 – 14 Middle	15 – 19 High	Total
2000 Census	11,002	11,315	12,916	35,233
Projected				
2010	11,030	10,006	13,148	34,144
2020	11,929	11,516	13,180	38,289
2025	12,262	11,917	13,254	37,423

Source: Indiana Business Research Center

In the EVSC Capital Projects Fund Plan, two schools were proposed for being added to the system. One school was planned on Petersburg Road next to the McCutchanville Community Park, covering 25 acres. The second proposed school site is located on Covert Avenue, east of Green River Road, covering 28 acres. It has not been decided what level of school each would be until further enrollment analysis has been done.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

The Catholic Diocese of Evansville operates 12 elementary and two secondary schools in Vanderburgh County. All the schools are State-accredited. Total enrollment for Year 2003-2004 was 4,801 students, of which 3,406 were elementary and middle school students (PreK-8) and 1,395 were high school students (9-12).

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The two charter schools: Signature and Joshua Academy are sponsored by the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation's School Board. The Signature School opened in August 2002 as Indiana's first charter high school with four separate programs all designed for high achieving, self-motivated learners. The Signature School's facility is part of the renovated Victory Theater-Sontag Hotel Complex. The school also owns the former Citizens National Bank building nearby, which currently serves as a student commons and will become Signature's Science and Mathematics Center. Joshua Academy was converted into a charter school in August 2004.

HIGHER EDUCATION

There are three institutions of higher education located in Vanderburgh County. They are Ivy Tech State College, the University of Southern Indiana (U.S.I.), and the University of Evansville. Additional educational opportunities are offered by numerous business and trade schools.

Ivy Tech State College

Ivy Tech State College is a two-year state college located at 3501 First Avenue that serves as Southwestern Indiana's Community College. Ivy Tech is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, with many programs accredited by professional associations. Ivy Tech offers both transfer and occupational degree programs in 21 programs of study. Enrollment for the 2003-2004 school year is approximately 4,800 students. In addition to its general education offerings, Ivy Tech offers liberal arts programs through its Community College partnership with Vincennes University. In addition to serving Evansville area residents, Ivy Tech – Southwest provides post-secondary educational opportunities through its Tell City Center and distance education programs. The College's Corporate and Continuing Education Services offers custom business training, continuing education, apprenticeship programs and certificate training and testing.

University of Southern Indiana

The University of Southern Indiana was established in 1965 as Indiana State University Evansville. Since that time many changes have occurred including a move to a suburban campus, obtaining independence, a new name, substantial growth in enrollment and the development of many new campus facilities. The USI campus, located between Evansville and Mount Vernon, on State Highway 62, occupies 330 acres donated by Southern Indiana Higher Education, a nonprofit foundation who holds more than 1,000 additional acres for future expansion. The University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by fourteen other accrediting associations. Enrollment in 2003-2004 was 9,899 students from all of Indiana's 92 counties, 36 other states, and 39 nations. Nearly 32 percent of the students were from Vanderburgh County, and 20 percent from adjoining MSA counties. Over 60 academic majors in baccalaureate programs and ten master's degree programs are offered. Approximately 2,900 students live on campus in both apartment type housing and in freshman residence halls. Through its Extended Service's Office, USI also offers a variety of community service and non-credit programs. As a response to its continued enrollment growth, the University continues an active construction program.

The Indiana University School of Medicine-Evansville Center, housed in the USI Health Professions Center, is one of eight regional divisions throughout the state. The center provides classes for first- and second-year medical students.

University of Evansville

The University of Evansville, founded in 1854, is a private university with a relationship with the United Methodist Church. The campus is located on the east side of Evansville on approximately 75 acres. Accreditation is by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and 11 other accrediting associations. Over 75 undergraduate and graduate areas of study are offered. Enrollment in 2003 is approximately 2,400 students representing 45 states and 44 foreign countries. A high percentage of the students (90%) live on or within walking distance of the campus. The University also includes an overseas campus in Harlaxton, England. An extensive continuing education program is available offering opportunities for both individual interests and professional growth.

TABLE 13-4: SCHOOLS SERVING VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Public Schools		Enrollment	
Feeder System	Address	97-98	03-04
1. <u>Bosse High</u>	1300 Washington Ave.	961	875
2. Glenwood Middle	901 Sweetser Ave.	363	275
3. Culver Elem.	1301 Judson Ave.	600	484
4. Lodge Elem.	2000 Lodge Ave.	426	317
5. Washington Middle	1801 Washington Ave.	486	529
6. Dexter Elem.	917 S. Dexter Ave.	377	381
7. Harper Elem.	21 S. Alvord Blvd.	532	429
8. <u>Central High</u>	5400 First Ave.	1,444	1,392
9. Harwood Middle	3013 First Ave.	361	353
10. Cedar Hall Elem.	2100 N. Fulton Ave.	383	385
11. Lincoln Elem.	635 Lincoln Ave.	435	343
12. Thompkins Middle	1300 W. Mill Rd.	686	738
13. Highland Elem.	6701 Darmstadt Rd.	905	833
14. Stringtown Elem.	4720 Stringtown Rd.	591	640
15. <u>Harrison High</u>	211 Fielding Rd.	1,556	1,470
16. McGary Middle	1535 S. Joyce Av.	495	520
17. Caze Elem.	2013 S. Green River Rd.	693	552
18. Fairlawn Elem.	2021 S. Alvord Blvd.	471	553
19. Plaza Park Middle	7301 Outer Lincoln Ave.	669	577
20. Hebron Elem.	4400 Bellemeade Ave.	798	661
21. Stockwell Elem.	2501 N. Stockwell Rd.	429	640
22. <u>North High</u>	2319 Stringtown Rd.	1,361	1,506
23. Evans Middle	837 Tulip Ave.	498	543
24. Delaware Elem.	700 N. Garvin St.	547	411
25. Howard Roosa Elem.	1230 E. Illinois St.	460	396

Enrollment				
Feeder System		Address	97-98	03-04
26.	Oak Hill Middle	7700 Oak Hill Rd.	556	689
27.	Scott Elem.	14940 Old State Rd.	749	821
28.	Vogel Elem.	1500 Oak Hill Rd.	622	701
29.	<u>Reitz High</u>	350 Drier Blvd.	1,648	1,446
30.	Helfrich Park Middle	2603 W. Maryland St.	608	626
31.	Cynthia Heights	7225 Big Cynthiana Rd.	616	522
32.	Tekoppel Elem.	111 N. Tekoppel Rd.	487	397
33.	Perry Heights Middle	5800 Hogue Rd.	515	505
34.	Daniel Wertz Elem.	1701 S. Red Bank Rd.	368	287
35.	West Terrace Elem.	8000 W. Terrace Dr.	611	545
<u>Alternative Facilities</u>				
36.	Christa McAuliffe Middle	401 E. Columbia St.	30	26
37.	Henry Reis Alternative Ed.	1900 Stringtown Rd.	77	77
38.	Stanley Hall Enrichment	800 S. Evans Ave.	90	82
39.	Career & Tech. Center	1901 Lynch Rd.	n/a	n/a
<u>Charter Schools</u>				
40.	Signature School	610 Main Street	n/a	239
41.	Joshua Academy (PK-5)	867 E. Walnut St.	n/a	158
<u>Catholic Schools Feeder System</u>				
1.	<u>Mater Dei</u> (9-12)	1300 Harmony Way	613	571
2.	Corpus Christi (KG-8)	5530 Hogue Rd.	177	223
3.	Holy Redeemer (PK-8)	924 W. Mill Rd.	264	334
4.	Resurrection (PK-8)	5301 New Harmony Rd.	321	370
5.	St. Joseph (KG-8)	6130 W. St. Joseph Rd.	160	162
6.	St. Theresa / (Marian Day KG-8)	700 Herndon Dr.	263	216
7.	St. Wendel (KG-8)	4725 St. Wendel-Cynthiana	163	163
8.	Westside Catholic Consolidated (PK-8)		394	349
	Sacred Heart	2735 W. Franklin St.		
	St. Agnes	1620 Glendale Ave.		
	St. Boniface	2031 W. Michigan St.		
9.	<u>Reitz Memorial</u> (9-12)	1500 Lincoln Ave.	850	824
10.	Christ the King (PK-8)	3101 Bayard Park Dr.	307	229
11.	Good Shepherd (KG-8)	2301 N. Stockwell Rd.	318	381
12.	Holy Rosary (PK-8)	1303 S. Green River Rd.	415	438
13.	Holy Spirit (PK-8)	1760 S. Lodge Ave.	200	184
14.	St. Benedict (PK-8)	530 S. Harlan Ave.	294	357

Private Schools

15. Evansville Christian (PK-8)	4400 Lincoln Ave.	437	573
16. Evansville Day School (PK-12)	3400 N. Green River Rd.	336	294
17. Evansville Lutheran (KG-8)	1000 W. Illinois St.	179	123
18. Faith Heritage (PK-12)	1613 Pollack Ave.	140	115
19. Montessori Academy (PK-3)	4611 Adams Ave.	112	153
20. Trinity Lutheran (PK-8)	1403 W. Boonville- New Harmony Rd.	135	104

Higher Education

Ivy Tech State College	3501 First Ave.	4,800+/-
University of Evansville	1800 Lincoln Ave.	3,595
University of Southern Indiana	8600 University Blvd.	10,300

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Arts and Entertainment resources are abundant in the Evansville-Vanderburgh County area. Included in these resources are the following local organizations that help to pursue and advance culture in the community and/or the region.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana serves the communities in Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties through artistic and cultural endeavors. The Council serves as an umbrella organization for over fifty cultural organizations, also serves as a regional representative to the Indiana Arts Commission, and provides a link for our region to the National Endowment for the Arts, which can provide grants and services. The Arts Council strives to increase the awareness and accessibility of the arts through providing arts grants, workshops and seminars, an information and referral service, publications, art exhibits, online information, public programs and events, and an annual awards program. They represent the arts on numerous panels, boards and committees. The Arts Council offers assistance on writing for the media, fund raising, grant writing, and working with volunteers.

THEATER: Evansville Civic Theater, Repertory People of Evansville, Tales and Scales, New Harmony, University of Southern Indiana, University of Evansville, Public High Schools.

DANCE: Evansville Dance Theater, and Children's Center for Dance Education

MUSIC: The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, Evansville Symphonic Band, University of Southern Indiana, and University of Evansville.

PERFORMING ARTS FACILITIES

The Victory Theater, at the corner of Main Street and 6th Street, built in 1922, was completely renovated and restored to active use as a 1,950-seat multipurpose hall whose principal tenant, the Evansville Philharmonic, shares use of the theatre with local ballet and modern dance companies, theatre companies, and touring productions.

The Evansville Auditorium and Convention Centre at the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Locust Street, offers a dynamic 2,500 seat auditorium along with a 38,000 sq. foot exhibition hall; a 14,000 sq. foot ballroom and 12 full-service meeting rooms. Roberts Stadium, at the corner of Lloyd Expressway and Boeke Road, is a 12,500 seat multi-purpose facility that can transform to host family shows, national and regional sporting events and trade show exhibits. This facility also has a meeting room that can accommodate up to 400 people, and available parking for 4,000 cars.

Mesker Amphitheatre, on Mesker Park Drive, accommodates 8,500 patrons in 5,500 reserved seats and 3,000 in grassy areas.

The USI Theatre at 3001 Igleheart Avenue is the main stage for theatre productions; other productions are held in the Mallette Studio Theatre in the Liberal Arts Center. USI also produces two professional summer theatres, the Lincoln Amphitheatre, a 1,500-seat facility, located in Lincoln State Park; and the New Harmony Theatre in the Thralls Opera House.

University of Evansville has the Shanklin Theatre and May Studio.

Evansville Civic Theater, located on the corner of Fulton Avenue and Columbia Street since 1974, has 222 seats.

Henderson Fine Arts Center, is located at the Henderson Community College, a part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The facility has a 981-seat performance hall, state-of-the-art meeting space, and two art galleries.

The New Harmony Theatre offers professional summer theater in Murphy Auditorium, a 350-seat facility renovated to be accessible for the disabled.

MUSEUMS

Evansville Museum of Arts and Science, founded in 1906, is located downtown on the banks of the Ohio River. This museum has a comprehensive collection of art, history, anthropology, and science. Works from the 16th century to present are prominent features of the permanent and changing exhibits. The museum also houses the Koch Planetarium.

Reitz Home Museum, built in 1871, features Victorian period furnishings and is operated by the non-profit Reitz Home Preservation Society. In 1972, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1974, the home was donated to the Society by the Catholic

Diocese of Evansville as a memorial to the first bishop of the Diocese and the Reitz family.

Angel Mounds State Historic Site, on the County's east side, is one of the best preserved prehistoric Indian settlements in the United States. The Middle Mississippian Indians built a fortified village at this site along the Ohio River around 1250 A.D.

Audubon State Park, located across the Ohio River in Henderson, Kentucky on U.S. Highway 41, features the John J. Audubon Museum and Nature Center. The museum interprets Audubon's life through his original works and personal memorabilia.

Historic New Harmony, located in Posey County along the Wabash River, was the site of two utopian community efforts dating from the early 1800's. Tours of historic properties are offered through a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Division of State Museums and Historic Sites. The Athenaeum Visitor Center and Museum offers information about the town's history and was designed by architect Richard Meier.

Libraries

EVANSVILLE-VANDERBURGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Founded in 1911, this system is composed of a central library and seven branches, as shown in Table 13-9. The total collection of 770,998 items includes: books, magazines, sound recordings, video recordings, and other items. The collection includes a document depository for: U.S. Federal Government Publications (selected), Indiana State Government (selected), and Foundation Center. However, the 53.9 percent of total County residents currently registered with the system constitute only a part of the population the library actually serves. The library, a Major Urban Resource Library, receives nominal federal funds and is obligated to provide limited service to the approximately 279,000 people living in the metropolitan area.

TABLE 13-9: LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Branch Name	Address
Central	200 S.E. Martin Luther King
East	840 E. Chandler Avenue
McCollough	5115 Washington Avenue
North Park	960 Koehler Drive
Oaklyn	3001 Oaklyn Drive
Stringtown	2100 Stringtown Road
West	2000 W. Franklin Street
Red Bank Road	120 S. Red Bank Road

WILLARD LIBRARY

Willard Library opened in 1885 in what is now the oldest public library building in Indiana. The Library is on the National Register of Historic Places. The total collection of 136,546 items includes: books, magazines, audio, video, and electronic materials. The Library's major holdings include the Thrall Art Book Collection (art literature), Genealogy, local government archives and special collections of regional history.

Other libraries open to the public are at the University of Southern Indiana, Ivy Tech State College, and University of Evansville.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTION PLAN

GOAL

Foster an educational system that provides all citizens opportunities for quality, life-long learning as a means of preparing to build a marketable workforce with adaptable skills.

OBJECTIVE

Increase enrollment from residents of the both the County and the region in area colleges, continuing education and workforce development programs.

POLICIES

Support existing programs that prepare high school students for college and improve job skills of college graduates.

Expand the development of partnerships that stress to elementary school students the importance of education for both personal development and as a necessity for entry into the workforce.

GOAL

Foster a healthy environment in which the cultural arts are supported by the community and enhance the quality of life.

OBJECTIVE

To increase the awareness and accessibility of the arts through arts grants, workshops and seminars, information and referral service, publications, art exhibits, online information, public programs and events, and annual awards program.

POLICIES

Business, educational institutions, government and non-profit organizations should work cooperatively in supporting the cultural arts including facilities, training, etc.

Evansville should be a regional showcase for artistic talent and cultural events.

Encourage the public/private partnership and community commitment to initiate the downtown Arts District.

Establish a center specifically for the arts in the downtown that would be the focal point of the Arts District.

Research funding sources and establish criteria for the placement of art in public places in cooperation with the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana.