

Navigating Public Education in Monmouth County

As Shore Insight Group, we understand that finding the perfect home involves considering all aspects of a community, including its public educational opportunities. When assisting you with your home search, please be aware that as real estate professionals, we do not "steer" clients towards or away from particular neighborhoods or school districts. Our role is to provide comprehensive information to empower you to make informed decisions that best suit your family's needs.

Navigating the public school landscape in Monmouth County offers a range of excellent options. Here's advice and resources to help you evaluate school systems and individual schools:

Quick Links to Sections Below:

[Evaluating Public School Systems and Schools in Monmouth County](#)

[Monmouth County Towns *without Their Own High Schools* \(Sending Districts\)](#)

[Monmouth County Vocational School System \(MCVSD\): Specialized Advanced High School Education](#)

[Monmouth County Shared-Share Time Programs \(half-time regular HS & hands on vocational for Grades 9-12\)](#)

[Monmouth County Career Center \(Special Ed Practical Skills Training - Grades 9-12\)](#)

Evaluating Public School Systems and Schools in Monmouth County

General Guidance for Evaluation:

- **District Websites:** Start by visiting the official websites of individual school districts in the towns you are considering. These sites provide valuable information on curriculum, programs, faculty, and school calendars.
- **New Jersey Department of Education School Report Cards:** The NJDOE provides detailed "School Performance Reports" for every public school. These reports offer data on student proficiency in various subjects, graduation rates, student demographics, and staff qualifications, giving you a statistical overview of school performance. See school report cards here <https://rc.doe.state.nj.us/>
- **Community Forums and Parent Reviews:** Online forums, local social media groups, and parent organizations can offer anecdotal insights into school culture and community involvement. While subjective, these can provide a complementary perspective to official data.
- **School Visits:** If possible, consider attending open houses or arranging school visits (where permitted) to get a firsthand feel for the environment and meet staff.
- **Curriculum and Programs:** Look for schools that align with your child's academic needs and interests, whether that involves advanced placement courses, arts programs, athletics, or STEM initiatives.

Monmouth County Towns *without Their Own High Schools* (Sending Districts):

Many towns in Monmouth County operate their own K-8 school districts but do not have a dedicated public high school within their municipal borders. Students from these "sending districts" typically attend a regional high school, which serves several towns. This structure often means students from various communities converge at a larger, well-resourced high school.

Here are some Monmouth County towns and the public high schools their residents typically attend:

- **Atlantic Highlands:** Henry Hudson Regional High School

- **Belmar:** Manasquan High School
- **Colts Neck Township:** Colts Neck High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Deal:** (Sends students to regional high schools, specific high school varies.)
- **Eatontown:** Monmouth Regional High School
- **Englishtown:** Manalapan High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Farmingdale:** Howell High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Freehold Borough:** Freehold High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Freehold Township:** Freehold High School or Freehold Township High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Highlands Borough:** Henry Hudson Regional High School
- **Howell Township:** Colts Neck High School, Freehold Township High School, or Howell High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Little Silver:** Red Bank Regional High School
- **Manalapan Township:** Freehold Township High School or Manalapan High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Marlboro Township:** Colts Neck High School, Freehold Township High School, Manalapan High School, or Marlboro High School (part of Freehold Regional High School District)
- **Red Bank Borough:** Red Bank Regional High School
- **Roosevelt:** (Sends students to regional high schools, specific high school varies.)
- **Shrewsbury Borough:** Red Bank Regional High School
- **Shrewsbury Township:** Monmouth Regional High School
- **Spring Lake:** Manasquan High School
- **Spring Lake Heights:** Manasquan High School
- **Tinton Falls:** Monmouth Regional High School

Any other town in Monmouth County will have its own High School (ie. Wall Township High School, Holmdel High School, etc.)

Monmouth County Vocational School System (MCVSD): Advanced Specialized High School Education

The Monmouth County Vocational School System (MCVSD) offers specialized high school programs designed to provide rigorous academics alongside career-focused technical training. These schools are an excellent option for students seeking an immersive, hands-on learning experience in specific fields.

Full-Time Career Academies: MCVSD operates six highly selective, full-time career academies. These are four-year programs that integrate academic excellence with career and technical education:

- **Academy of Allied Health & Science (AAHS)** (Neptune)
 - Focuses on preparing students for careers in the health sciences.
- **Academy of Law & Public Safety (ALPS)** (Long Branch)
 - Provides training for careers in law, public safety, and criminal justice.
- **Biotechnology High School (BTHS)** (Freehold)
 - An International Baccalaureate World School integrating life sciences into a rigorous curriculum.
- **Communications High School (CHS)** (Wall Township)
 - Focuses on media, journalism, and communication technologies.
- **High Technology High School (HTHS)** (Middletown Township - Lincroft)
 - A pre-engineering career academy emphasizing mathematics, science, and technology.

- **Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)** (Sandy Hook in Middletown Township)
 - Offers a marine science and technology-focused curriculum.

Admission to MCVSD Career Academies:

Admission to these academies is competitive and primarily open to 8th-grade students who are full-time residents of Monmouth County. The process typically involves:

1. **Information Session Attendance:** Applicants and a parent/guardian must attend an information session for the specific school they intend to apply to.
2. **Online Application:** Submit a complete online application by the specified deadline (typically early December for 9th-grade entry).
3. **Supporting Materials:** Provide grade transcripts (7th grade final and 8th grade first quarter) and an application checklist signed by an 8th-grade school official. Documentation of interest in the program (e.g., an essay) is also required.
4. **Admissions Exam:** Take a district admission exam covering mathematics and language arts, aligned with NJ Student Learning Standards. (Note: ALPS may have different requirements).
5. **Scoring:** Applicants are scored based on a combination of their 7th and 8th-grade academic grades (up to 15 points each) and their performance on the admissions exam (up to 35 points for math and 35 points for language arts). A minimum score of 75 out of 100 is typically required to qualify.
6. **Placement Tests:** Upon acceptance, students may be required to take math and/or world language placement tests. Some academies may require proficiency in Algebra I before 9th grade, possibly necessitating a summer course if proficiency is not demonstrated.

Shared-Time Programs: MCVSD also offers shared-time programs for high school juniors and seniors. These programs allow students to spend half their day at an MCVSD campus gaining vocational training in trades like automotive technology, culinary arts, cosmetology, and various other fields, while completing their core academic courses at their home high school. Admission to shared-time programs usually involves an application through the home high school guidance department, considering grades, attendance, and counselor recommendations.

Monmouth County Career Center: The Monmouth County Career Center provides specialized career and technical education programs tailored for special education students in grades 9-12, focusing on developing practical skills. Admission to the Career Center typically requires a prevocational evaluation and an application submitted by the student's home school child study team.

Disclaimer: This information is compiled from publicly available resources and is as comprehensive as possible. School admission criteria, programs, and availability can change. For the most current and specific details, please verify directly with the Monmouth County Vocational School District (<https://www.mcvsd.org/>) or the individual academies. Public school district boundaries and sending/receiving relationships are subject to change; it's always advisable to confirm specific school attendance zones with the relevant district offices.