

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT – EDUCATION**

Community Profiles

The Indian River School District is located in Jefferson County, which is situated in the northern part of the Central Region of New York State. The county and school district both receive much higher than average revenues from federal and state aid, a sign of economic distress. However, unlike many schools in Northern New York, Indian River School District’s population is growing rapidly.

2005	Jefferson County	NYS County Average¹	Indian River School District	NYS School District Average¹
Population	111,738	192,434	3,426	2,545
Revenue from State and Federal Aid	32.4%	26.1%	93.7%	39.8%

1. Excludes New York City

Background

After receiving a \$16,000 grant from the NYS Education Department to conduct a feasibility study of shared services options, Indian River School District built a new transportation center complete with fuel depot in 1999. This facility is shared by the school district and the town of Philadelphia who in turn shares its part with other entities such as local fire and rescue units, Department of Transportation, and NY State Troopers. The school provides a state of the art maintenance facility and fuel depot and the town provides in-kind services to the school district.

Outcome

Local officials consider this cooperative effort to be an overwhelming success. No formal written agreements for the transportation facility existed until the building had gone through all phases of design and construction. Although both the school district and town had input into the design and construction, there was no legal relationship created until the town became a tenant. Clearly in this case the relationship between the town government and the school district and their belief that projects like this are “just common sense,” are a much stronger force than legal contracts. This is an example of a shared service project in operation since 1999 which has exceeded the expectations of all parties.