

EDUCATION

This section examines educational services available throughout the city and county. This includes primary and secondary educational services, community colleges and trade schools, and colleges and universities.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

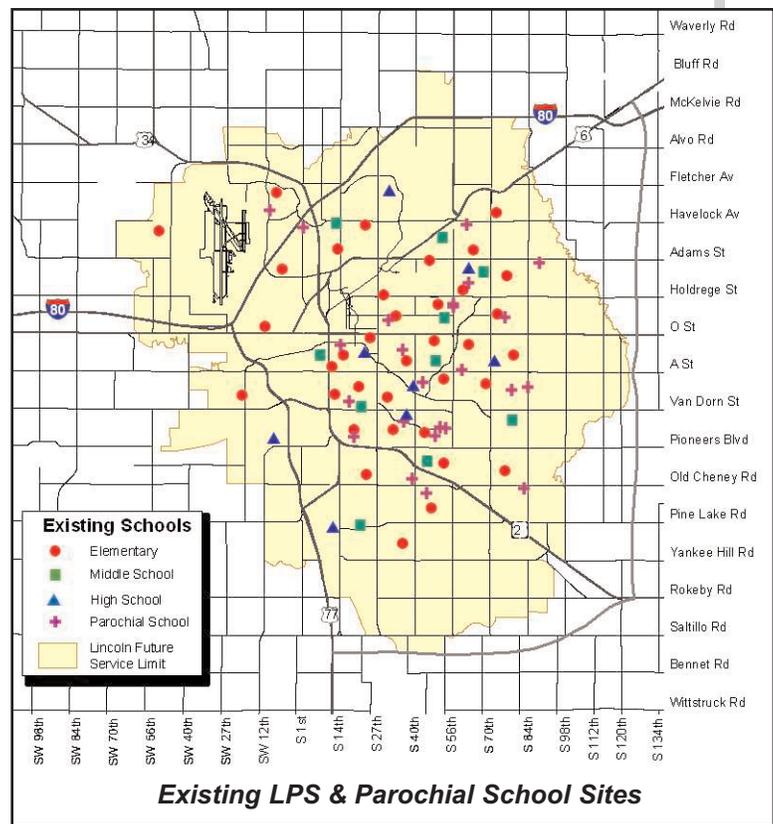
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) provides kindergarten through 12th grade education to over 31,000 students within the City of Lincoln and surrounding area. The district operates 36 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 4 high schools (with 2 additional high schools under construction and opening in 2002 and 2003), an alternative education center for high school students, a center for students with behavioral disabilities, a center for expelled students, a Science Focus Program at Folsom Children’s Zoo, an Arts and Humanities Focus Program at the Bottlers Building, and a Technology Focus Program at the Federal Trust Building.

Thirty-six (36) foreign languages are spoken in the LPS System. In response to this increased lingual diversity, LPS offers programs to students whose first language is other than English. These programs are offered at 15 teaching Centers located in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Lincoln.

Lincoln Public Schools’ English Language Learners (ELL) program teaches English through academic course work such as social studies and science. The ELL program supports students by providing initial instruction in social and academic English, as well as orienting them to school and community culture. Between 1992 and 2001, the number of students participating in ELL instructional programs increased from 368 to 1,452.

The district operates facilities throughout the entire community, distributing educational facilities to all neighborhoods. About half of the Lincoln Public Schools’ budget comes from local property taxes, with the rest coming from state and federal aid and funds from several other local sources.

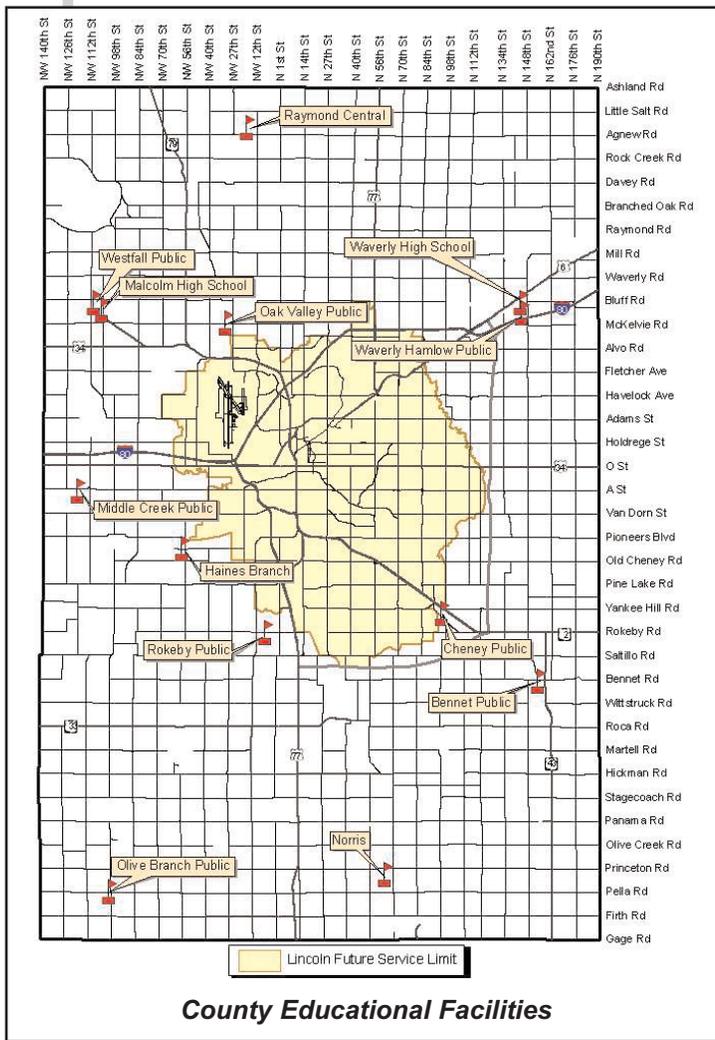


In addition to its educational facilities, the Lincoln Public Schools District Office in east Lincoln houses central administration, itinerant teachers, special education, and the training center. LPS also operates a custodial, maintenance and facility (CMF) building, transportation center, a supply distribution center (DC), a food storage and distribution center, 3 athletic facilities (Seacrest Field/Den Hartog Complex, Beechner Stadium and Stuart Stadium), and a number of smaller storage facilities.

Although the Lincoln Public Schools District includes property outside the City limits, when the City annexes land not within the district, the District's boundaries are extended to incorporate these properties. When this occurs, property owners no longer pay the general levy of the school district they were in, but rather begin paying the LPS general levy. According to state statute, however, any property that was in a school district at the time of a bond election must continue to pay on that district's bond until it is retired, even after property transfers to another district. All property annexed into Lincoln will be subject to any future bonded indebtedness of LPS that is approved after the date of annexation.

Lincoln / Lancaster County School Enrollment Fall 2001	
Lincoln Public Schools	31,581
Lincoln Private & Parochial	6,792
Rural Public School Districts	4,599
Total County Enrollment	42,972

Source: Nebraska Dept. of Education preschool through 12th grade



RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

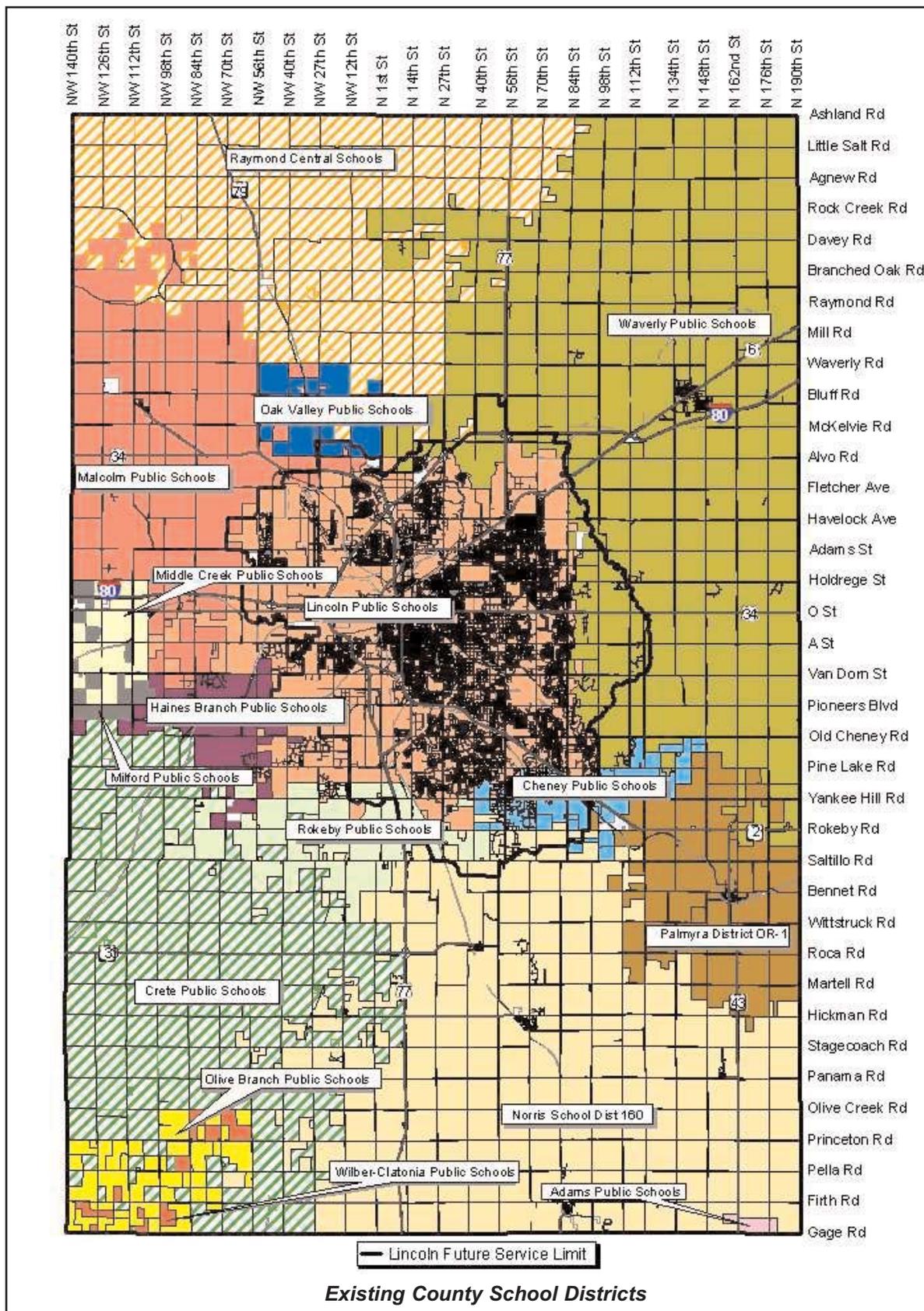
There are 12 public school districts serving residents of Lancaster County. Several school facilities are located outside of Lancaster County. All of the remaining public school facilities are located within incorporated and unincorporated communities, except for the Norris Public School, Raymond Central Public School (Junior and Senior High), Middle Creek Public School, Haines Branch Public School, Rokeby Public School, Olive Branch Public School and Cheney Public School.

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

There are currently 18 private and parochial elementary schools in Lincoln. In addition, there are four private and parochial high schools: Lincoln Christian, Lincoln Lutheran, Parkview Christian, and Pius X.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND TRADE SCHOOLS

Lincoln is home to a community college and several technical and trade schools providing a comprehensive array of higher education and vocational opportunities. These facilities are dispersed throughout the community. Major institutions include Southeast Community College (Campuses: Downtown Lincoln campus at 12th and O Street; main campus near 84th and O Street) and Lincoln School of Commerce (near 18th and K Streets).



COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Lincoln has four institutions of higher learning, with five campuses located throughout the city. These include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Campuses: Downtown and East), Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College, and the College of Saint Mary.

There are a number of satellite campuses of surrounding colleges and universities located in Lincoln. These campuses provide a range of academic programs from Doane College (Crete) and Bellevue University (Bellevue).