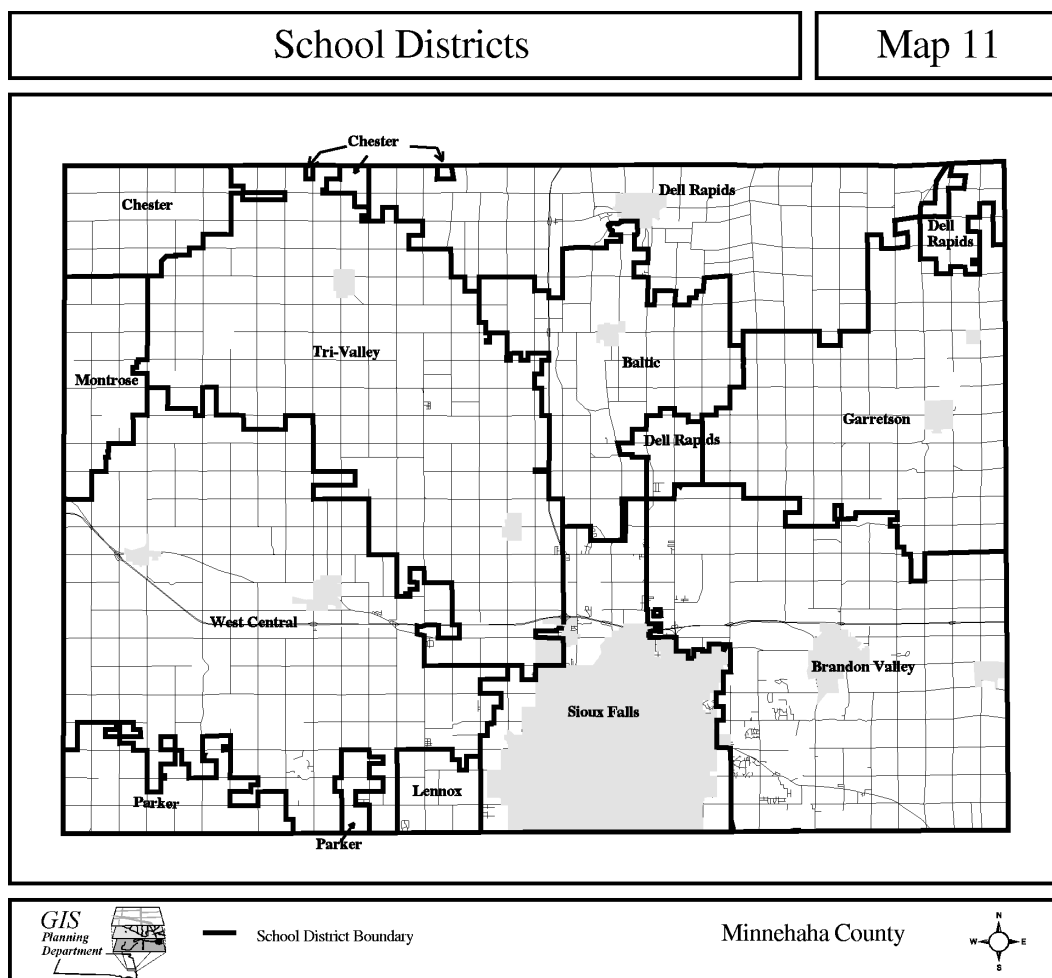


Schools

Educational facilities provide a significant contribution to the overall quality of life and economic vitality of the county. Schools serve as focal points that foster the feeling of “community” within a broader geographic area. School locations have an influence on both traffic and land use patterns.

Seven school districts are headquartered in the county while four other districts are based in adjacent counties but extend into Minnehaha County-- Parker in Turner County, Lennox in Lincoln County, Montrose in McCook County and Chester in Lake County. School district boundaries are shown on Map 11. While most school facilities are located in a municipal setting, two schools currently occupy sites in the rural area. Tri-Valley School District facilities are located three miles south of Colton and Renberg Elementary serves the extreme northern portion of the Sioux Falls School District.



School enrollments for those districts based in the county have increased or remained steady since 1988. Table 12 shows student enrollment by district for the last 10 years.

The projected growth of Sioux Falls presents a significant challenge to several adjoining school districts. As noted in the city's 2015 Comprehensive Plan, anticipated growth will push the city limits beyond Sioux Falls School District boundaries, creating the need for five new elementary schools sites in the Brandon Valley, Tri-Valley and Lennox districts.

Future elementary school sites within the projected Sioux Falls growth area are based on a 1 ½ mile service area. It is expected that no additional school sites will be needed in the rural area. Future expansion is more likely to occur within the municipalities. If future school facilities are needed in the rural portion of the county, the site evaluation process should include a study of future transportation needs to meet anticipated traffic demands.

It is important to recognize that the policies identified in the Development Plan will assist school districts by directing growth toward the cities. The alternative of allowing a proliferation of houses into the rural area will increase bussing requirements and create additional demands for improvement of township roads.

TABLE 12
School Enrollment

School District	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Baltic	351	352	361	385	385	371	339	340	337	346
Brandon Valley	1,961	2,057	2,098	2,190	2,180	2,216	2,235	2,265	2,293	2,337
Dell Rapids	654	643	647	660	680	683	699	740	781	767
Garretson	427	416	419	439	448	471	477	472	492	504
Sioux Falls	15,145	15,422	16,092	16,417	17,077	17,786	18,065	18,303	18,045	18,257
Tri-Valley	735	739	795	834	830	815	810	826	822	814
West Central	912	900	963	994	969	1,022	1,065	1,108	1,145	1,165