



Schools and Colleges of Berks County

K-12 Schools

In his 1889 [*School History of Berks County in Pennsylvania*](#) Morton L. Montgomery wrote about the early history of schools in Berks County:

“The first settlers of the county appreciated the importance of education, and encouraged it as a means of promoting the general welfare. They were not slow in erecting churches wherever they had effected a considerable settlement ; and therein they caused their children to be taught the common branches of knowledge, such as spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic, so as to enable them to conduct their daily affairs with success... In the first settlements, and until the passage of the common-school law of 1834, the education that prevailed throughout the length and breadth of the county was almost entirely in the German language, which was a natural consequence from the great predominance of German settlers over all other nationalities. In Exeter, Maiden-creek, and Robeson townships, the Friends were rather numerous ; they established English schools at an early period, and continued them for many years. The first German settlers brought along their teachers and ministers. These were so recognized before emigration. If there was no minister, the teacher officiated in both capacities. Some teachers even practiced their trades, such as tailoring or shoemaking, whilst teaching.”

System Accepted.—The following table shows when the common-school system was accepted by the districts in the county :

Reading	1834	Centre	1851
Albany	1855	Centreport	1884
Alsace	1849	Colebrookdale	1838
Alsace, Lower	1888	Cumru	1850
Amity	1850	District	1867
Bern	1850	Douglass	1850
Bern, Upper	1851	Earl	1851
Bernville	1851	Exeter	1849
Bethel	1854	Fleetwood	1874
Birdsboro'	1873	Greenwich	1851
Boyertown	1866	Hamburg	1838
Brecknock	1850	Heidelberg	1849
Caernarvon	1834	Heidelberg, Lower	1850

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Heidelberg, North	1850	Pike 1851
Hereford	1845	Richmond 1854
Jefferson	1855	Robeson 1836
Kutztown	1838	Rockland 1850
Lenhartsville	1887	Ruscomb-manor 1837
Longswamp	1851	Spring 1850
Maiden-creek	1849	Tilden 1887
Marion	1839	Topton 1875
Maxatawny	1852	Tulpehocken 1850
Muhlenberg	1851	Tulpehocken, Upper . . 1855
Oley	1850	Union 1836
Ontelaunee	1851	Washington 1850
Penn	1851	Windsor 1850
Perry	1851	Womelsdorf 1836

In 1913 [The Story of Berks County](#) included information on early schools around the county including the various academies such as the Oley Academy.

The website *Berks Nostalgia* has had many articles on schools that no longer exist in Berks County:

[Defunct High Schools – Comprehensive Conclusion](#)

[Amity High School](#)
[Bernville High School](#)
[Bethel High School](#)
[Birdsboro High School](#)
[Caernarvon Township High School](#)
[Central Catholic High School](#)
[Exeter High School](#)
[Holy Name High School](#)
[Old Hamburg High School](#)
[Ontelaunee High School](#)
[Mohnton High School](#)
[Mt. Penn High School](#)
[Muhlenberg Township High School](#)
[Perry Township High School](#)
[Reading Girls High School](#)
[Robesonia High School](#)
[St. Peter's Reading Catholic High School](#)
[Shillington High School](#)
[Sinking Spring High School](#)
[Wernersville High School](#)
[West Reading High School](#)
[Womelsdorf High School](#)
[Wyomissing High School](#)

Colleges & Universities

Berks County now has five colleges and universities:

[Albright College](#) dating back to 1856

[Alvernia University](#) chartered by the state in 1960

[Kutztown University of Pennsylvania](#) since 1866

[The Pennsylvania State University – Berks](#) beginning from the Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and becoming part of PSU in 1958

[Reading Area Community College](#) founded in 1971