

# **FEASIBILITY STUDY STATEMENT**

**Delsea Regional High School Board of Education**

**Elk Township Board of Education**

**Elk Township Municipality**

**Township of Franklin Board of Education**

**Township of Franklin Municipality**

On April 9, 2004, a Feasibility Study for the school districts of Elk Township, Township of Franklin, and Delsea Regional High School was presented by Statistical Forecasting, LLC. The feasibility study was conducted to determine the implications, advantages and disadvantages of various school district configurations.

The following scenarios were studied:

1. Expanding Delsea Regional School District from a “limited purpose” (grades 7-12) regional concept to an “all purpose” (grades PK-12) regional alignment, thus, resulting in the dissolution of the Franklin and Elk School Districts and their respective Boards of Education,
2. Establishing independent PK-12 school districts, one in Franklin Township and one in Elk Township, thus, resulting in the dissolution of the Delsea Regional School District and its Board of Education,
3. Maintaining the status quo with all three districts continuing to operate.

While an extensive amount of demographic information was provided, it was clear that many questions could not be answered. Although predictions could be made, continued growth in the three districts remained an unknown factor. It was important and correct to conduct the study, and many excellent ideas emerged; yet, uncertainty continues to exist.

Areas which will require further analysis include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Recent changes to the Master Plans in both Franklin and Elk Townships since the feasibility study was completed,
2. A “real number” study to determine the actual impact that new housing has had on the school districts to more accurately project the impact of future housing development,
3. Expansion to full day kindergarten in Franklin Township and its financial impact,
4. Reduction of state and federal aid,
5. Distribution of assets and liabilities,
6. Assumption of existing debt,
7. Analysis of negotiated agreements for teachers and supportive staff.

Obviously, a compelling need to continue gathering information exists, and monitoring growth must be an ongoing process, not a stand-alone event. The Presidents of the three Boards of Education, in concert with the three school district Superintendents, will continue to work along with municipal officials from both townships to assess demographic and other growth information into the future. Much of this work can be conducted at no further cost to the district taxpayers. Furthermore, each Board of Education and Municipality, along with their administrative teams, will continue to work together and stimulate dialogue among district stakeholders to contain rising costs through joint purchasing, shared programs and services.