

Education



School-based education in Shibetsu began with Shibetsu Primary School (the predecessor to the present-day Shibetsu Elementary School) which opened in 1899. The school was opened for the purpose of educating the children of *tondenhei* settlers and its schoolhouse was constructed by the Army Ministry. In 1902, Nakashibetsu Elementary School opened after being constructed with funds raised by local residents. Later, as the number of children grew along with the increase in settlers to the area, new elementary schools began to open all across Shibetsu. However, the city's population would peak at 41,218 in 1961 followed by a steep decline in the number of children due to depopulation, decreasing birthrates, and an aging population. Consolidation of the city's various small schools continued and today only six elementary schools, four junior high schools, and two high schools remain within its borders.

