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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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November, 1970

COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL DROPOUT DATA

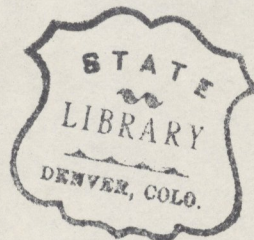
1969 - 70

(Seventh Annual Report)

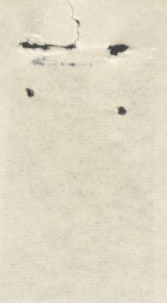
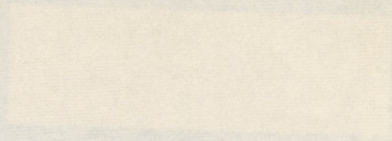
INTRODUCTION:

This report provides comparative dropout rate tables compiled from information submitted on Form CDE 2 by all public schools having students in grades 7-12 in Colorado. The Definitions and Interpretation of Dropout Rate Calculations are included to provide an explanation of the terms and rates reported.

Tables I through IV provide basis for comparing district rates with state, region, and size category data. Table V provides for comparing school rates with comparable grade levels statewide. Tables VI and VII provide longitudinal statewide data for 1963-64 to 1969-70. In Table VIII you will find comparable data for four years in Selected Title I and Non-Title I districts.



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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals,
and other educators
FROM: Harold Hoyt, Consultant
SUBJECT: Good news on dropout rates

DATE: November, 1970

For the first time in the seven years that the statistics on dropouts have been gathered, the annual dropout rate for the state has lowered. The annual rate for the first five years was 4.0%, 1968-69 was 4.1% and the present rate is 3.8%. Contributing to the size of the reduction was an improved method of recording and reporting by the Denver Public Schools. Even without this reporting difference, the rate would have been reduced to 3.9%, however (page 9).

Also on page 9 (Table VII) you will notice a trend that girls are becoming a larger percent of the total number of dropouts.

There is another trend apparent on page 9. It is that students do stay in school longer before dropping out. Each year, except 1968-69, the percent of total years completed as compared with the optimum that could be expected has increased. This is evidence of the increased holding powers at the lower secondary levels.

In looking at the various areas in Table IV, page 7, and comparing these rates with previous reports for the past two years there is indicated a definite increase in dropout rates in the Southern, Western and Colorado River Valley areas.

That there has been an overall reduction statewide certainly gives hope that the efforts of many educators and community leaders are beginning to have some effect.

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DEFINITIONS RELATED TO THE REPORTING OF DROPOUT STATISTICS

1. MEMBERSHIP (M) is defined as the number of pupils belonging to a class or school. A student is counted as a member from the date he presents himself at the school and is placed on the current roll until he permanently leaves the class or school for one of the causes recognized as sufficient by the school system.
2. UNKNOWN (U) is a withdrawal for whom transfer or dropout status is unknown.
 - a. Unless there is evidence to the contrary, any withdrawals from 10-12 for whom no transcript is requested by another school should be considered a dropout.
 - b. Some pupils may withdraw too late in the school year (last month) for the school to receive a request for a transcript. In such cases the school personnel should use their judgment in identifying the pupil as a transfer or a dropout.
3. DROPOUT is a pupil who leaves a school, for any reason except death, before graduation (from grade 12) or completion of a program of studies without transferring to another school.

Some specific interpretations of this definition can serve as guides to consistent use of the definition:

- a. Pupils who do not attend any school after the summer vacation are counted as dropouts from the grade they would have entered had they returned to school.
- b. Pupils who withdraw after completion of Special Education or specialized training programs that culminate in less than twelve years of education are dropouts.
- c. Pupils who are committed to mental or correctional institutions that do not maintain educational programs are dropouts. If the institution does maintain an educational program, the pupil is a transfer.
- d. Pupils who have prolonged absence due to health reasons and who are not on the school's membership list at the end of the school year are dropouts.
- e. Pupils who transfer to educational programs recognized by the local district are not dropouts. This includes pupils who receive home or hospital instruction under the supervision of the school, those who enroll in private or parochial schools, and those who leave school for early admission to college.

- f. Pupils who leave school and enter programs that do not normally lead to a high school diploma are dropouts. This includes pupils who enter private vocational schools or the armed forces.
- g. Pupils who receive any form of certificate (such as an attendance certificate) or other formal recognition at the end of the 12th grade level are not dropouts.
- h. Pupils who are expelled or excluded from school, and who are not included in the school's membership at the end of the school year, are dropouts.

INTERPRETATION OF DROPOUT RATE CALCULATIONS

GRADE HOLDING POWER (H)

The grade holding power is the proportion of pupils held in school at one grade level. It can be used to identify the grade levels of highest and lowest proportion of dropout.

PROJECTED DROPOUT RATE (PD)

The projected dropout rate indicates the cumulative effect of dropout that occurred in one year. It is comparable to the results of longitudinal dropout studies and also comparable to national statistics which indicate the percentage of pupils who drop out. It answers the question, "What proportion of our pupils would be dropouts under the current holding power conditions?"

A minimum projected dropout rate is calculated by considering all unknown withdrawals as transfers.

A maximum projected dropout rate is calculated by considering all unknown withdrawals as dropouts.

The true dropout rate is between these minimum and maximum rates.

(When no unknowns are reported for grades 10-12, an actual dropout rate for grades 10-12 can be calculated. If any unknowns are reported for grades 10-12, no actual rate will appear on Colorado Department of Education calculation reports.)

EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL RATE (E)

Educational potential rate is the percentage of total potential years of education that would be accomplished by pupils from the end of one grade level to the end of some subsequent grade level, under the holding power conditions that exist during one school year.

As an example - one hundred pupils entering a three-year school have a potential of 300 pupil-years of education. An educational potential rate of 90 percent indicates that 270 of the 300 pupil-years of education would be accomplished under existing holding power conditions.

This rate has its primary use in the evaluation of experimental programs designed to increase holding power. If pupils are held in school longer before they drop out, the educational potential rate will change even if the dropout rate does not change.

ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE (A)

The annual dropout rate is the percentage of the total membership of a school or school district that dropped out in one year. This rate is a useful research tool, but it is important to note that it does not indicate the cumulative effect of dropout and it is not comparable to national dropout rate figures.

This rate can be figured for special groups of students, such as "ungraded" and Special Education.

A comprehensive explanation of the calculations including formulas and work sheets for making the calculations is available from the Youth-Community Relations Unit in the publication, "Definitions and Calculations for Dropout Studies."

TABLE I

STATE-WIDE DROPOUT RATES - GRADES 7-12
1969-70

	Projected		Educational Potential Rate	Annual Dropout Rate
	Minimum - %	Maximum - %		
Male	23.6	--	90.8	4.2
Female	19.3	--	92.8	3.3
Special Ed.	--	--	--	7.6
TOTAL	21.5	23.0	91.7	3.8

TABLE II

NUMBER OF DROPOUTS BY GRADE AND SEX
1969-70

	7	8	9	10	11	12	Special Ed.	Un- grad- ed	Total
Male	47	108	470	1531	1602	1223	123	3	5104
Female	46	85	286	1084	1305	993	90	1	3889
TOTAL	93	193	756	2615	2907	2216	213	4	8993

Holding Power by Grade

	7	8	9	10	11	12
Male	.998	.995	.977	.927	.916	.928
Female	.998	.996	.986	.946	.928	.938
TOTAL	.998	.995	.981	.936	.922	.933

TABLE III

DROPOUT RATE DATA BY SIZE OF DISTRICT
1969-70

A. Number of Students, Dropouts, and Unknowns

	Size Category	No. of Students End-of-Year Membership	No. of Dropouts	No. of Unknowns
Size 1	1 - 99	2,766	49	1
Size 2	100 - 299	8,425	185	22
Size 3	300 - 999	25,034	927	106
Size 4	1000 - 4999	49,200	1,872	150
Size 5	5000 and over	144,186	5,960	587
STATE TOTAL		229,611	8,993	866

B. Rate Data

	Projected Minimum - %			Annual Dropout Rate - %		
	M	F	I	M	F	I
Size 1	10.5	10.0	10.1	1.8	1.7	1.7
Size 2	11.3	13.9	12.6	1.9	2.4	2.1
Size 3	20.8	19.5	20.3	3.7	3.4	3.6
Size 4	23.2	19.1	21.2	4.0	3.3	3.7
Size 5	25.2	19.9	22.6	4.5	3.4	4.0
STATE TOTAL	23.6	19.3	21.5	4.2	3.3	3.8

TABLE IV

DROPOUT RATE DATA BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA - GRADES 7-12
1969-70

Area (Counties)	No. of Students End-of-Year Membership	No. of Dropouts	No. of Unknowns	Projected Minimum - %			Annual Dropout Rate - %		
				M	F	T	M	F	T
1. NORTHERN (Boulder, Larimer, Weld)	29,653	932	26	19.8	15.1	17.7	3.5	2.6	3.0
2. DENVER METROPOLITAN (Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, Jefferson)	113,451	4,840	590	26.4	20.7	23.7	4.7	3.5	4.1
3. COLORADO SPRINGS - PUEBLO METROPOLITAN (El Paso, Pueblo, Teller)	36,984	1,502	32	23.4	20.2	22.0	4.2	3.5	3.9
4. ARKANSAS VALLEY (Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Prowers)	6,577	245	42	20.9	18.8	20.1	3.9	3.3	3.6
5. SOUTHERN (Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas)	4,480	195	11	24.3	22.1	23.3	4.4	3.9	4.2
6. SAN LUIS VALLEY (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache)	4,125	171	24	21.5	21.4	21.4	4.0	4.0	4.0
7. NORTHEASTERN (Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma)	7,664	161	23	12.4	11.7	12.1	2.1	2.0	2.1
8. EASTERN (Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln)	2,250	24	0	5.1	7.7	6.3	.8	1.3	1.1
9. SAN JUAN BASIN (Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma)	4,687	152	35	18.1	18.1	18.1	3.1	3.2	3.1
10. WESTERN (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, San Miguel)	11,496	458	49	23.0	20.1	21.5	4.2	3.5	3.8
11. COLORADO RIVER VALLEY (Chaffee, Eagle, Garfield, Lake, Park, Pitkin, Summit)	5,352	241	30	26.4	21.5	23.9	4.8	3.8	4.3
12. NORTHWESTERN (Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt)	2,892	72	4	11.5	17.0	14.3	1.9	3.0	2.4
TOTALS	229,611	8,993	866	23.6	19.3	21.5	4.2	3.3	3.8

TABLE V

COLORADO DROPOUT RATES BY SELECTED GRADE LEVEL COMBINATIONS
1969-70

Grade Combinations	Enrollment	No. of Dropouts	Minimum Projected Dropout Rate - %	Annual Dropout Rate - %
Grades 7-8	(M) 42,270	155	0.7	0.4
	(F) 41,154	131	0.6	0.3
	(T) 83,424	286	0.7	0.3
Grades 7-9	(M) 62,580	625	3.0	1.0
	(F) 60,940	417	2.0	0.7
	(T) 123,520	1,042	2.6	0.8
Grades 9-12	(M) 72,897	4,826	23.0	6.4
	(F) 70,695	3,668	18.8	5.1
	(T) 143,592	8,494	21.1	5.8
Grades 10-12	(M) 52,587	4,356	21.2	8.0
	(F) 50,909	3,382	17.6	6.5
	(T) 103,496	7,738	19.5	7.3
Grades 7-12	*(M) 116,708	5,104	23.6	4.2
	*(F) 112,903	3,889	19.3	3.3
	*(T) 229,611	8,993	21.5	3.8

* Includes Secondary Level Special Education Students
and Ungraded Secondary Level Students

TABLE VI

COLORADO DROPOUT RATES
1963-64 - 1969-70

Year							*Projected	Educational	Annual
	7	8	9	10	11	12	Dropout Rate-%	Potential Rate-%	Dropout Rate-%
1963-64	.995	.990	.970	.934	.927	.931	23.0	90.4	4.0
1964-65	.995	.990	.974	.934	.923	.935	22.7	90.6	4.0
1965-66	.997	.992	.978	.932	.922	.929	22.8	90.9	4.0
1966-67	.997	.993	.980	.936	.918	.928	22.6	91.2	4.0
1967-68	.997	.995	.983	.935	.917	.924	22.8	91.4	4.0
1968-69	.998	.995	.983	.935	.912	.922	23.2	91.4	4.1
1969-70	.998	.995	.981	.936	.922	.933	21.5	91.7	3.8

* All figures in this table are minimum (unknowns are not included).

TABLE VII

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DROPOUTS BY SEX
1963-64 - 1969-70

Year	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1963-64	4,574	59.2	3,149	40.8	7,723	100.0
1964-65	4,778	59.3	3,275	40.7	8,053	100.0
1965-66	4,879	59.5	3,324	40.5	8,203	100.0
1966-67	5,005	59.7	3,385	40.3	8,390	100.0
1967-68	5,099	57.7	3,741	42.3	8,840	100.0
1968-69	5,386	57.5	3,980	42.5	9,366	100.0
1969-70	5,104	56.8	3,889	43.2	8,993	100.0

TABLE VIII

A COMPARISON OF DROPOUT RATES OF TITLE I AND NON-TITLE I HIGH
SCHOOLS (10-12) IN SELECTED DISTRICTS AND STATE RATES (10-12)
1965-66 - 1969-70

PROJECTED DROPOUT RATE (Percent)		Title I (selected)	Non-Title I (selected)	State
(M)	1965-66	36.4	21.1	22.9
	1966-67	35.6	21.7	23.1
	1967-68	35.0	22.1	24.0
	1968-69	38.4	26.4	23.7
	1969-70	33.4	22.3	21.2
(F)	1965-66	27.3	13.1	17.3
	1966-67	26.6	12.9	17.2
	1967-68	26.7	16.5	18.3
	1968-69	30.8	15.5	18.8
	1969-70	25.5	14.3	17.6
(T)	1965-66	32.0	17.3	20.2
	1966-67	31.3	17.6	20.3
	1967-68	31.0	19.5	20.8
	1968-69	34.7	21.2	21.4
	1969-70	29.6	18.4	19.5
ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE (Percent)				
(M)	1965-66	14.1	7.5	8.3
	1966-67	13.7	7.8	8.4
	1967-68	12.6	6.9	9.0
	1968-69	12.7	7.9	9.4
	1969-70	11.1	6.2	8.0
(F)	1965-66	10.0	4.6	6.1
	1966-67	9.8	4.5	6.0
	1967-68	9.5	4.9	6.9
	1968-69	10.5	4.9	7.1
	1969-70	8.8	4.5	6.5
(T)	1965-66	12.1	6.1	7.3
	1966-67	11.8	6.2	7.3
	1967-68	11.1	6.0	8.0
	1968-69	11.6	6.4	8.3
	1969-70	10.0	5.3	7.3

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