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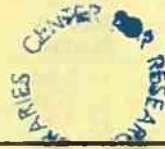
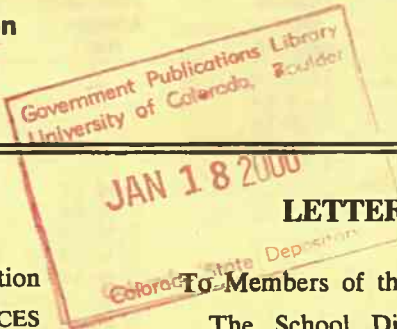
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT — JANUARY 1965

School District Organization

Colorado State Department of Education



Byron W. Hansford, Commissioner
Denver, Colorado 80203



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

March 1965

Colorado State Department of Education
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Elbie L. Gann, Assistant Commissioner

To Members of the Legislature:

Report prepared by
STANLEY A. LEFTWICH
Director, Division of Organization and Management

The School District Organization Act of 1957, Chapter 237, Session Laws, 1957, invests several duties within the office of the State Commissioner of Education. Among these duties, Section 10 (3) specifically enjoins the commissioner and his special assistant "To publish an annual report of progress of organization plans in the several counties on or before January 1, 1958, and each January 1 thereafter."

While the body of this report does not extend beyond January 1, 1965, the impact of changes in Las Animas and Morgan counties since January 1 deserves separate mention here. On February 1, 1965, by operation of law all of the non-operating and elementary school districts and the county high school districts of Las Animas County were dissolved and annexed to Trinidad School District No. 1. This reduced to six the number of districts in Las Animas County and dissolved the last special high school district in the State. On January 26 voters approved a plan for four districts with headquarters in Morgan County, which means that all of the non-operating and elementary districts of that county are now included in school districts having a complete program of education grades one through twelve within their boundaries. We are able to say that the last non-operating school districts in Colorado will disappear on March 30. Further, Colorado will have only two elementary school districts after these changes. One of these districts is Joint School District No. 39 of El Paso and Fremont counties, and this school district is largely involved in the expansion of the Fort Carson military reservation so that some immediate solution should be achieved by the El Paso County School Planning Committee for this district. The other elementary school district is the Egnar school district in San Miguel County which is sending its high school pupils 12 miles to the Dove Creek high school of Dolores County School District Re No. 1. Some encouragement should be given to San Miguel and Dolores counties to resolve this situation.

Following the Las Animas and Morgan County changes there will be 184 school districts in the State.

In fulfillment of this duty as Commissioner of Education, I herewith submit the eighth annual report on progress in school district reorganization as of January 1, 1965.

Respectfully submitted,
Byron W. Hansford
Commissioner of Education.

NUMBER OF COLORADO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

July 1:		January 1:	
1925	2,003	1957	929
1930	2,041	1959	792
1935	2,105	1960	478
1940	2,037	1961	382
1945	1,884	1962	316
1950	1,648	1963	263
1955	1,017	1964	222
		1965	205

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Table I

**Chronological Progress Report For 1964
Changes Through Reorganization, Dissolutions and Annexations
Colorado School Districts**

COUNTY	Number of Dist.	Date of Election	Date of Incorporation	Date of Annexation	Re-organization	Diss. and Annex.	Election Results	
							For	Against
Weld	Re-10	1/ 7/64	3/ 9/64	.....	X	....	103	13
	Re-11	1/ 7/64	3/ 9/64	.....	X	....	148	71
	Re-12	1/ 7/64	3/ 9/64	.....	X	....	77	27
Elbert	Re 400	2/25/64	.....	.....	....	....	114	250
Logan	Re-1	5/25/64	7/27/64	.....	X	....	516	167
	2	.....	.....	7/30/64	....	X	.....	.....
	54	.....	.....	7/30/64	....	X	.....	.....
	60	.....	.....	7/30/64	....	X	.....	.....
	91	.....	.....	7/30/64	....	X	.....	.....
	94	.....	.....	7/30/64	....	X	.....	.....
Logan County High School		.....	.....	7/30/64	....	X	.....	.....

In 1964, the number of school districts in Colorado was reduced by 17 from 222 to 205, a reduction of 7.66 percent. Five reorganization elections were conducted, 3 in Weld County, 1 in Elbert County, and 1 in Logan County. Four out of 5 were successful, the lone loss occurring in Elbert County. In addition, there were 6 dissolutions and annexations, all in Logan County. These rounded out the reorganization plan which was concluded on the basis of four districts for the county.

A chronological summary of these changes is shown in Table I of this report.

The summary below shows the history of reorganization elections conducted since enactment of the School District Organization Act of 1957.

REORGANIZATION ELECTION SUMMARY

May 1, 1957 to December 31, 1964

Elections held	151	
Elections voted favorably	115	76.15%
Elections failed	36	23.85%
Reduction in number of school districts	724	77.93%

Table II

Colorado Counties

**Ranked by Number of School Districts
(December 31, 1964)**

COUNTY	No. Dists. 12/31/64	No. Dists. 5/1/57
PR Las Animas	18	46
PR El Paso	17	22
Morgan	13	14
PR Weld	12	78
PR Adams	7	19
PR Arapahoe	7	16
R Kit Carson	6	15
PR Otero	6	15
R Baca	5	27
PR Elbert	5	8
PR Lincoln	5	20
PR Washington	5	29
PR Conejos	4	17
R Logan	4	25
R Prowers	4	35
R Cheyenne	3	7
PR Fremont	3	22
PR Garfield	3	25
R La Plata	3	15
R Larimer	3	31
PR Mesa	3	3
R Montezuma	3	15
R Rio Grande	3	3
R Routt	3	29
R Saguache	3	5
PR San Miguel	3	7
R Alamosa	2	12
R Bent	2	17
R Boulder	2	29
R Chaffee	2	14

COUNTY	No. Dists. 12/31/64	No. Dists. 5/1/57
R Costilla	2	12
R Grand	2	12
R Huerfano	2	26
R Kiowa	2	10
R Montrose	2	20
R Ouray	2	2
R Park	2	14
R Phillips	2	13
PR Pueblo	2	2
R Rio Blanco	2	8
R Sedgwick	2	13
R Teller	2	8
R Yuma	2	27
R Archuleta	1	1
R Clear Creek	1	7
R Crowley	1	9
R Custer	1	2
R Delta	1	1
R Denver	1	1
R Dolores	1	9
R Douglas	1	17
R Eagle	1	15
R Gilpin	1	7
R Gunnison	1	22
R Hinsdale	1	2
R Jackson	1	7
R Jefferson	1	1
R Lake	1	6
R Mineral	1	1
R Moffat	1	23
R Pitkin	1	2
R San Juan	1	1
R Summit	1	8
TOTALS	205	929

R—Reorganized (47)

PR—Partially Reorganized (15)

Needing reorganization but no successful election under 123-25 (1).

As previously reported in the discussions of Las Animas and Morgan County plans, 9 of the remaining 11 elementary districts are involved in processes which will leave El Paso and San Miguel counties with the two remaining elementary districts of the State.

The remaining El Paso County elementary district is Lytle, No. 39, Joint with Fremont County. It is in the area being considered for purchase in the expansion of Ft. Carson.

The State Department of Education recommends that county school planning committees be required to dissolve any school district which has not operated a twelve-grade educational program within its own boundaries during the preceding twelve-month period and annex the district to the adjacent school district having the high school nearest to the elementary school of the district being annexed. In practical application, this would mean the annexation of the Egnar School District No. 18, of San Miguel County, to the Dove Creek High School which is located in Dolores County School District Re No. 1. Egnar is 12 miles from Dove Creek. It would also mean the annexation of the Lytle School District to Fountain School District No. 8 of El Paso County. The Lytle elementary school house is approximately 10 miles from the nearest elementary school and approximately 17 miles by all-weather road from the nearest high school of the Fountain School District.

Districts With Small High Schools

The development of school district reorganization in Colorado to its point of achievement at this date has served to focus attention on the small district maintaining a small high school. Many strong districts in Colorado maintain several high schools, some of which are small and necessary because of travel problems, climate, and geography. Also, several small school districts maintain small high schools which are equally necessary, but whose resources are more limited because the district finances, enrollments, teaching staff, and equipment are limited.

On the other hand, a few small school districts in Colorado maintain small high schools within easy transportation distance from other high schools.

This is not meant to be critical of the *necessary small high school*. However, the wisdom of a small school district maintaining a small high school in isolation from broader financial and educational resources is questioned.

Table IV on the next page shows the high school districts of the State which have fewer than 50 pupils enrolled in grades 9 through 12. The distance of the high school operated by the district from the nearest neighboring high school is also shown as well as the kind of road available to the neighboring high school. The table also shows the cost per pupil for all 12 grades of the school district. It is common knowledge that the cost per pupil in high school is much higher than that in grade school, so that using the cost per pupil for all twelve grades in the table gives a more favorable picture than if it were possible to separate high school costs. The districts are arranged in rank order of per pupil costs.

It will be noted that every one of these districts is above the State average in cost per pupil. It will also be noted, even though these districts are paying high costs, 16 (or one-half of them) are not able to meet accreditation standards. They represent 16 of the 19 non-accredited school districts of the State. Further, 24, or three-fourths of them, are fewer than 20 miles from the nearest neighboring high school. The problem seems to be prevalent in relatively few counties, El Paso furnishing 7, Elbert 4, and Kit Carson 3, while Lincoln and Weld have two each. No other county has more than one such district.

Non-Operating School Districts

The Weld and Logan County reorganizations dissolved five non-operating districts. Of the remaining nine non-operating districts, four are in Las Animas County and five are in Morgan County. The Morgan County School Planning Committee plans an election late in January on a four-district organization which, if approved by the voters, will take care of that county's non-operating districts.

County High School District

The last County High School District is in Las Animas County. House Bill No. 1009 (Ch. 71, S.L. '64) provides for the dissolution and annexation of this type of district and its component elementary districts as of February 1, 1965. The Las Animas County School Planning Committee has prepared the Statement of Considerations and has held hearings as required under the act, so that the way is paved, not only for the dissolution of the last remaining non-operating districts in Las Animas County, but also for the dissolution of the last special high school district in Colorado. The ultimate effect of H. B. 1009 in Las Animas County will be the annexation of the county high school territory to the Trinidad school district.

Elementary School Districts

As of the date of this report, four counties maintain a total of 11 districts which operate only the first eight grades of education within their own boundaries. These districts are listed in Table III.

**Table III
Number of Elementary Districts by County
December 31, 1964**

County	Number of Elementary Districts
El Paso	1
Las Animas	7
Morgan	2
San Miguel	1
Total	11

Denver Metropolitan Area Annexations

Detachments and annexations in the Denver metropolitan area continue to be a critical problem, especially those where an area is a part of the Denver County of Denver. In previous

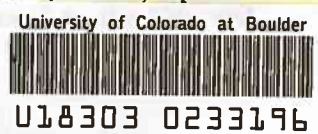


Table IV

Colorado School Districts Enrolling 50 or Fewer Students in Grades 9-12

School	County Dist. No.	State Accredited	Grades 9-12 Enrollment	Miles from Nearest Neighboring District High School	Kind of Road	District Cost per Pupil All Grades
Hanover	El Paso 28	No	20	16	Gravel	\$1,230.67
Agate	Elbert 300	No	25	13	Paved	1,137.37
Moffat	Saguache 2	No	20	19	Paved	1,067.62
Lone Star	Washington 101	Yes	27	25	Paved	1,044.92
Briggsdale	Weld Re-10	Yes	30	23	Paved	1,035.03
Arapahoe	Cheyenne R-3	Yes	35	9	Paved	1,018.12
Branson	Las Animas 82	Yes	25	50	Gravel-Paved	991.66
Alta Vista	El Paso 45	No	18	15	Gravel	904.55
Kiowa	Elbert C-2	Yes	42	8	Paved	873.49
Egnar	San Miguel 18	No	....	12	Paved	872.08
Lake City	Hinsdale Re-1	No	7	57	Paved	871.68
De Beque	Mesa 49 Jt	Yes	38	15	Paved	849.06
Vilas	Baca RE-5	No	40	12	Paved	838.28
Bethune	Kit Carson R-5	No	32	8	Paved	775.16
Grand Valley	Garfield 16	Yes	42	16	Paved	772.54
Seibert	Kit Carson R-2	No	42	7	Paved	765.47
Stoneham-New Raymer	Weld Re-11	Yes	38	23	Paved	761.77
Cotopaxi	Fremont Re-3	Yes	39	23	Paved	759.10
Edison	El Paso 54 Jt	No	40	17	Gravel	699.68
Elbert	Elbert 200	Yes	34	10	Gravel	668.41
Arriba	Lincoln Re-31	Yes	46	11	Paved	668.40
Ridgway	Ouray 2	Yes	36	12	Paved	668.22
Creede	Mineral 1	Yes	46	38	Paved	645.94
Padroni	Logan Re-1	Yes	41	12	Paved	627.32
Elizabeth	Elbert C-1	Yes	42	7	Paved	620.77
Miami	El Paso 60 Jt	No	45	18	Paved	612.45
Genoa	Lincoln Re-13	Yes	44	11	Paved	612.03
Vona	Kit Carson R-3	No	41	8	Paved	602.47
Ellicott	El Paso 22	No	35	17	Gravel	592.59
Bailey	Park 1	No	50	23	Paved	578.67
Peyton	El Paso 23 Jt	No	22	10	Paved	577.84
Lytle	El Paso 39 Jt	No	....	17	Gravel-Paved	546.30
STATE AVERAGE						\$455.32

two major deficiencies in detachments and annexations governed by Article XX of the Colorado Constitution include: (1) the lack of overall planning on the basis of educational problems because of the fact that these detachments and annexations are considered on the basis of municipal services rather than educational services; and (2) lack of establishment of an effective

date for these annexations which means lack of attention to the convenience and welfare of children. These annexations, occurring as many of them do during school terms, have been upsetting in the school arrangements for the children and financial considerations of the school districts.