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A Study of the Public School System of Monroe County

William Goad
Western Kentucky University

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Goad,
William A.

1953

A STUDY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
OF
MONROE COUNTY

BY

WILLIAM A. GOAD

A THESIS
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

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Last the writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation to his wife, Norna G. Goad, who has been a source of inspiration.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The school system of Monroe County has not evolved as a beautiful butterfly from a cocoon neither has it been fashioned at all times by adept expert hands, but for many years it was more like Topsy of Uncle Tom's Cabin it just "grewed." The life of the county has been both directly and indirectly influenced by geographical location and its geological nature. It lies just north of the Tennessee line. Through the east side of it flows the waters of the Cumberland River and through the south west corner flows the Barren River. By far the lands of Monroe County are poor hilly ridge land not too far distant cousins of their neighboring mountains. In describing land we describe people and in describing people we describe a community, a county, a state, and a nation and we can more readily understand the tangible lives they follow and the complexity of their development.

Monroe County was primarily settled by those of the Anglo-American race and due to its being a poor county, with but few if any accessible highways, it has more or less been isolated and therefore its people reflect a rugged individualism as a throw-back from pioneer days. Schools were first instituted in the county to meet the demands of the three "R's" with rigid discipline enforced.

In 1893 for the first time the Kentucky Legislature passed a law that required the establishment of public schools and the levying of local taxes to support them. Long before that the small one-room schools of Monroe County were struggling to survive, with the citizens of the community carrying the burden.

The first school in Monroe County, Kentucky was established in 1805.

The school was a one-room log building, poorly constructed and sparsely furnished with crude, uncomfortable benches. However, it became the nucleus of the Monroe County School System and too frequently in early days progress in education simply meant multiplying this beginning.

The advancement of education in Monroe County has been slow. This was largely due to the lack of money to support an adequate system, and lack of interest on the part of its residents who could see no need of modern educational facilities. Not until after sixty-seven one-room schools had been built did the people of the county realize that the children could be educated better and more cheaply when brought together in larger groups.

Slowly the schools of Monroe County are being consolidated and the present task is one of improving schools rather than establishing schools.

Purpose of the Study

The leaders of Monroe County believe that the schools exist primarily for these purposes: to provide desirable educational experience for the pupils; that each pupil should have a good foundation and general education; that the curriculum must be constantly adapted to the needs of a continuously changing and constantly improving society; that school funds should be spent where they will do the most good for the greatest number of pupils, and that merging schools as much as possible is necessary to accomplish this.

Although Monroe County has come far in education and has advanced in many respects there still remain fifty-seven one-room schools in the county, three two-room schools and only three consolidated schools. Since there are only two colored schools in the county they are not being considered in this study. An extensive study of the schools of Monroe County has not been attempted before, therefore the different phases of this study are entirely new.

The main consideration of this problem is to study the educational system of the county and to see how it can provide a better educational opportunity for the children who are, or should be enrolled in the elementary or secondary schools within the county.

The specific aims of the study are:

1. To survey the schools in Monroe County—the one-room rural schools, the two-teacher schools and the consolidated schools.
2. To show the percentage of attendance and percentage of failure in different schools and the cost per pupil attending.
3. To show the relation between teachers qualifications and teachers pay.
4. To study the transportation system; figuring the cost per pupil mile.
5. To make general recommendations based on data obtained.

Scope of Study

The scope of this study is limited entirely to the public school system of Monroe County and its effectiveness in educating the children under its jurisdiction. There is no independent school district in Monroe County, therefore, the investigation will cover the entire county system, as a whole, emphasizing the need for consolidation. This study has been made through the cooperation of the entire administrative staff of the school system, bringing together statistics and data which may prove beneficial in overcoming the most glaring defeats.

Source of Data

1. Reports and records in the office of the Monroe County superintendent.
2. Reports of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
3. Educational textbooks.

Method of Treatment

Comparative and statistical treatment of data have been used in this study. The cost of operating the rural elementary schools of the county have been compared with that of the consolidated schools, and the efficiency of the rural elementary schools as compared to the consolidated schools. The cost per pupil transported is also shown. Most of the conclusions and suggestions have been made with the aid of statistics contained herein.

CHAPTER II
HISTORY OF MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County was the sixty-fifth county in order of formation and was formed in 1820 out of parts of Barren and Cumberland Counties and named in honor of James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States. It is situated on the southern border of the state and lies on the headwaters of Big Barren River, while the Cumberland River passes through its south-east corner. It is bounded on the north by Barren and Metcalfe Counties; on the east by Cumberland County; on the south by the Tennessee state line; and on the west by Allen County. Monroe County is one of the few political subdivisions of Kentucky whose entire boundary is described by straight lines. It lies about midway of Kentucky along an east and west measurement and is situated in the south-eastern part of the Pennyroyal district.

With an area of 282,240 acres Monroe County ranks among the larger of the state. A part of the county is level, a part undulating, and a part broken and hilly, but all more or less productive. The principal crops are tobacco, corn, wheat, hay, and oats. Formerly hogs were raised and exported more than any other livestock, but recently since the county has a soil conservationist and a county agent the eroded land is being improved and more cattle are being raised with grazing practiced more extensively. The progress of the county from this standpoint can be pictured by the contrast of these production figures given for years 1870 and 1948. In 1870 the county produced 5,668 cattle, 9,466 hogs, 636 tons of hay, 252,903 bushels of corn, 37,238 bushels of wheat, and 627,385 pounds of tobacco. By 1948 the numbers had increased to 15,000 cattle, 16,700 hogs, 18,060 tons of hay, 100,700 bushels of corn, 54,100 bushels of wheat, and 2,938,000 pounds of

tobacco. The valuation of taxable property in the county in 1870 was \$1,217,073.00 and in 1951 it was \$4,605,908.00.

The county has no railroads, nor immediate prospects of any. The most important mineral resources of the county are petroleum and natural gas. These products are secured in commercial quantities on the waters of the Cumberland River, on Kettle Creek and in the vicinity of lower Meshack Creek. In 1951 oil was discovered in the southeastern part of the county and at the present time several wells are producing a high grade of oil.

Tompkinsville, the county seat, is on Mill Creek nine miles from the Cumberland River. The largest town in the county, it has a population of about 2,000. As Monroe County was named for the then president of the United States, so was its seat named for Daniel D. Tompkins then Vice-president. It was established in 1819. Tompkinsville was chosen by a vote of the people over Pikeville to be the county seat. It was first called Watson's Store. A quarter of a mile west of Tompkinsville the trees have kept, for 175 years, the silent records of the first known visit to what is now Monroe County. There is a stately beech which bears the name of "D. Boone, 1777," and it is an object of curious interest and of frequent visits.¹ Near this spot stands one of the oldest churches in the state, The Old Mulkey Meeting House, erected in 1804. It was made a state park fourteen years ago.

In 1773 Philip Mulkey and a group of Baptist from North and South Carolina settled here. A cabin of rough-hewn logs was erected on a bluff near the present Old Mulkey Meeting House. By 1798 this building had become inadequate for the congregation,

¹ Collins Lewis, History of Kentucky, Vol. II, (Louisville: John P. Morton and Co., 1924.)

so the present structure was erected. This is the oldest log meeting house in Kentucky. Constructed of half-hewn logs and chinked, it has twelve corners. Traditions ascribe the twelve corners as representing the Twelve Apostles, and again as symbolic of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. In all probability the design resulted from necessity. A large structure was imperative, and logs of uniform thickness were not available in sufficient length to enclose the desired space within four corners. When the number of angles was increased, shorter logs of uniform thickness could be used for the side walls and rafters. No provision for heating was made. In cold weather a log fire in the yard served as a warming place. During services the men took turns at keeping the fire burning and guarding against indian attack. The congregation Record Book, which contains the names of the members written with pokeberry ink, has been preserved. Huge oak trees stand in the yard. In the adjoining burial ground is the grave of Hannah Boone, sister of Daniel Boone, as well as the graves of many pioneers, including several Revolutionary Soldiers.²

Early
Prominent Men of Monroe County

Judge Benjamin F. Bedford - was born July 23, 1806 in Monroe County, son of John C. Bedford. His father came from Virginia. He was for thirty years a magistrate and member of the Court of Claims of Monroe County. He was postmaster at Center Point for about four years, and has also been Judge of Monroe County.

²

Writers Program Kentucky: A Guide to the Bluegrass State, (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1939), p. 447.

Francis M. Button - was born February 10, 1845 near Tompkinsville, Kentucky. He was of Scottish descent. He taught school in the county for about five years. After he quit teaching he went into the mercantile business which he continued successfully. He was deputy postmaster for twelve years at Freedom and Flippin.

Squire Samuel S. Crawford - was born July 28, 1848 in the southern part of Monroe County. He was the son of James Crawford Jr., also a native of Monroe County. He is of Irish descent. Squire Crawford was elected magistrate and member of the Court of Claims of Monroe County in 1881 to fill a vacancy, and in 1883 he was re-elected for a full term. He was a blacksmith and had much success in his business in Gamaliel. In 1884 he nailed 3,837 shoes on horses.

Judge James B. Evans - was born in Monroe County, Kentucky, July 1, 1830. He is of Welch descent. In 1860 he was appointed Circuit Court Clerk, and in 1866 was elected to the same office, which he held for one term. In 1882 he was elected to the office of County Judge for Monroe County, which office he resigned in 1884 because of physical disability. For about twenty years Judge Evans held the office of trustee of the Jury Fund and for the same length of time was Deputy Clerk of the county.

Manlius Thompson Flippin, Judge of Monroe County, was born near the forks of Indian Creek, in Monroe County, July 29, 1841. After several years of studying on his own, he taught school for a few years. He also studied law and was admitted to the bar in September, 1865. In 1867 he was elected for a seat in the House of the General Assembly. He was again elected in 1874 and again in 1878. He was an eloquent speaker and had a fine taste and aptness for poetry, and among his most popular pieces are "The Southland," "A Dream," and "Evening Star," Judge Flippin was of English descent.

George A. Hagan - was born March 22, 1849 in Fountain Run, Kentucky, was reared on the farm; received a common English education and at the age of eighteen left home and hired out at \$10.00 per month until he was twenty-three, when he accumulated enough money to enable him to attend school. He attended different academies for six sessions after which he began teaching. He taught during the first five years ten public schools of five months each. He had the reputation of being one of the most popular teachers in the county. He never failed in getting the school he applied for.

B. B. Rodgers - son of Peter G. Rodgers was born September 10, 1859. He received only a common school education until the age of nineteen, when he entered the Keokuk Mercantile College at Keokuk, Iowa, where he studied for two years; then began the study of newspaper work. He and his wife published the first paper of Monroe County. It was called the "Tompkinsville Banner," which was Republican in politics. In November of the same year (1885) Mr. Rodgers began the publication of another paper at the same place, the "Kentucky Farmer," which was the second paper of its kind published in the state.

CHAPTER III
EARLY SCHOOL SYSTEM

In 1805, almost one hundred fifty years ago, the first school house in Monroe County was erected about two miles southwest of Tompkinsville. It was built on a tract of land which was homesteaded by Nathan Breeding. Near the school house stood an old grist mill and near the spot where the first school house stood, stands the Old Mulkey Meeting House, the oldest church in the state.

The superintendent was first called a commissioner. The first commissioner of Monroe County was in 1866. Teachers certificates were issued without an examining board. The commissioner examined the teachers and hired them. They were paid by the citizens of the community. In 1874 the people of Monroe County elected W. S. Maxey as superintendent of schools. A few years later trustees were elected to represent each district. They had power to levy tax for improvement of the schools. The first legal district boundaries were established by W. S. Emmett about 1890. Mr. Emmett was the first superintendent to give the eighth grade examination and Mr. S. B. Ray was the first person to pass one of these examinations in the year of 1888. He later became superintendent of Monroe County.

The children attended school only four or five months out of the year. Later the school term was changed to seven months and in 1944 the school term was changed to eight months and remains that length at the present time for all elementary grades.

Superintendents:	*1874-1882	W. S. Maxey
	*1882-1886	Dr. J. A. Flippin
	*1886-1894	W. S. Emmett
	*1894-1902	J. C. Carter, Sr.
	*1902-1906	S. B. Ray
	*1906-1910	W. W. Carter
	*1910-1917	J. E. Martin
	1917-1919	S. C. Ray
	1919-1921	Mrs. Ella Braswell
	1921-1930	Miss Ora Taylor
	1930-1939	W. P. Lyons
	1939-1943	Keene Williams
	1943-1952	Zeke Harlin
	1952-	Darrel Carter

* Superintendents elected by the people.

Present School System

The present administration of Monroe County Schools consists of a superintendent, an attendance officer and one full-time supervisor. Monroe County reached its peak in number of schools in 1934. At that time the school system consisted of sixty one-room schools; three two-room schools; and four high schools. In 1935 consolidation began. In that year the rural schools in districts 14, 17, 20 and 28, Cropper, New Rocky Hill, Crowe, and Avondale respectively were consolidated with Gamaliel. In 1950 Brushy Point in district No. 4 was consolidated with Fountain Run. In 1951 New Design in district No. 13 and Pikeville in district No. 6 were also consolidated with Fountain Run. That left a total of fifty-four one-room schools in the county. A few years later when consolidation failed to get underway as satisfactorily as was expected, three more rural schools were built; using the old district numbers, but locating them in a different section of the county.

The four high schools were located at Flippin, Fountain Run, Gamaliel and Tompkinsville. In 1934 Flippin lost its accreditation and ceased to exist as a high school. Only a small rural school remains there. The enrollment began to decrease at Fountain Run in 1945 and in 1950 they lost their high school. At Fountain Run now is a consolidated graded school consisting of three teachers, teaching grades one through eight. The only two remaining high schools in the county are located at Tompkinsville and Gamaliel. Tompkinsville High School operates on the eight-four plan while Gamaliel High School has the six-six plan.

In 1947-48 the county reached its peak in emergency teachers having a total of thirty-two. Since that time conditions have improved and at present there are only twenty emergency teachers or about 18 per cent of the 110 teachers in the entire system.

At present there are twenty-four handicapped children in the county—children who are physically or mentally afflicted to the extent that they cannot be handled satisfactorily in the public schools. Upon an agreement by the teachers of the county these children, not being deprived of an attempted education, are visited by a teacher or teachers at least twice a week in the home. This being done on the teachers time without extra pay.

In the entire county system the high schools are on nine-months term. All elementary grades are on an eight-months basis.

Salary Schedule

The basal salary is \$115.00 per month plus eighty cents per month for each semester hour of undergraduate work up to one hundred and twenty-eight hours, three dollars per month for each year of experience up to five years. At the present time a Masters Degree is not recognized as to increase in pay.

The following statistical tables are presented for the purpose of showing the efficiency of the schools of Monroe County. They are presented under the following headings: School and Attendance; Percentage of Failures; Semester Hours and Experience; Cost of Operation.

TABLE I
ONE-TEACHER SCHOOLS OF MONROE COUNTY AND THE PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE

One-Teacher Schools	Number of District	Census	Enrollment	A.D.A.	Attendance Percentage
Akersville	1	55	40	35	87.77
Old Rocky Hill	2	49	36	23.9	73.7
Howard	3	29	26	20.4	84.11
Old Walnut Grove	5	26	20	14.7	73
Boyd	7	35	32	16.4	65
Mud Slash	8	42	33	26.6	76.88
Free Will	9	29	34	25.9	87
Bethlehem	10	42	30	21.7	78
Mt. Herman	12	50	45	30	84.69
Lyon	14	106	48	32	75.02
McPeak	15	54	34	22	55.73
Alexander	16	25	12	11	93.51
Bowman	17	18	17	16.7	98
Sugar Grove	18	27	18	10	67.83
Ebenezer	19	65	42	32.8	81.75
Cloyd	20	60	48	42.6	87.48
Hickory Grove	21	60	36	28	87.81
Cave Spring	23	49	44	20	81
Mt. Zion	24	60	36	30.4	85.30
Mt. Carmel	25	31	21	14.9	71
Fox Hill	26	27	26	17	67.65
Rocky Point	27	62	38	30.8	81
Cedar Hill	29	22	20	18	91.45
Hackers Branch	30	49	36	25.2	71.54
Sand Lick	31	33	29	23.6	85
White	32	24	14	12.8	94
Mt. Gilead	34	60	43	40.9	88
Merryville	35	46	47	38.7	92.94
Hamilton	36	40	34	21.5	68
Union Hill	37	38	24	15.4	82
Marietta	38	19	28	11.3	67
Ivy Hill	39	49	41	33	89
Rock Bridge	40	38	27	16.9	71.63
Old Mt. Herman	41	33	28	20.5	85.61
Willow Springs	42	46	33	25.8	89.77
Slick Rock	43	44	36	23.8	71
Oak Hill	44	39	21	17.2	81.79
Red Hill	45	57	45	34.7	89.31
Tinsley Hill	46	53	43	33.2	75.77
Chestnut Grove	47	32	26	15.4	59
Bradley	48	78	47	35.3	77.56
Hestand	49	23	18	12.2	72.58
Vernon	50	50	35	22.4	66.83
Kettle Creek	51	28	24	17.3	75

TABLE I (Continued)

One-Teacher Schools	Number of District	Census	Enrollment	A.D.A.	Attendance Percentage
Hills Chapel	52	23	20	12.2	62.02
New Walnut Grove	53	27	23	15	70.8
Beech Grove	54	34	22	16	81
Center Point	55	44	33	24.9	82.89
Antioch	56	40	30	29.9	70.81
Sulphur Ridge	57	34	28	21.5	78
Elbow	58	46	27	18	74.86
Rush Point	59	26	20	17.6	88.67
Liberty	60	50	32	29.5	90
Hickory Ridge	61	28	25	16.2	74
Line	62	8	13	8.9	68
Williams	63	14	13	9.8	89.95
Flippin	64	58	36	25.8	82.85
TOTAL		2,334	1,737	1,283	79.98

TABLE II

TWO-TEACHER SCHOOLS AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS OF MONROE COUNTY AND PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE

Two-Teacher Schools	Number of District	Census	Enrollment	A.D.A.	Attendance Percentage
Mud Lick	11	70	63	53	84.52
Popular Log	22	78	56	47.9	85.32
Bray	33	81	67	52.4	85.91
TOTAL		229	186	153.3	85.25
Consolidated Schools					
Fountain Run Grades 1-8	65	148	95	64.5	81.18
Gamaliel Grades 1-6	66	363	191	166.5	89.3
Gamaliel H.S. Grades 6-12			181	158.8	92.5
Tompkinsville Grades 1-8	67	570	422	240.9	92
Tompkinsville H.S. Grades 8-12			269	235.6	93

Tables I and II show that the one-teacher schools have the lowest percentage of attendance, the percentage being 79.98 per cent; the two-teacher schools 85.25 per cent and the consolidated schools 88.19 per cent.

These tables also show that Monroe County is made up of sixty rural elementary schools (fifty-seven one-teacher schools and three two-teacher schools), and three consolidated schools. For the year 1951-52 according to the census there were 2,563 children in the rural elementary schools in the county, with an enrollment of 1,923 and an average daily attendance of 1,436. There were sixty-three teachers, teaching these children.

Based on the census there would be 40.7 pupils per teacher. Based on enrollment there would be 30.5 pupils per teacher. There were 1,436 children in average daily attendance or twenty-two children per teacher. Most authorities agree that the most accurate basis for calculating teacher-need is average daily attendance. Using the average daily attendance as a method for finding the teacher-need each teacher has an average of twenty-two pupils. In all this means that many of the teachers had less than twenty-two pupils to teach during the day. Many educators think that classes should contain from thirty to thirty-five pupils.

Using thirty-five as the most efficient number of pupils per teacher, it may be seen that instead of Monroe County needing sixty-three rural school teachers in 1951-52, it needed only forty-one based on average daily attendance. On this basis they could have saved twenty-two teachers. Since there are only twenty emergency teachers in the county the schools would all have been filled by qualified teachers.

In Table I and II, according to the 1952 census there were 3,654 children in Monroe County, 3,081 enrolled in school and only 2,404 in average daily attendance. According to these figures there are 573 children in the county who are not enrolled in any school.

TABLE III
 PERCENTAGE OF FAILURE IN THE ONE-TEACHER SCHOOLS OF MONROE COUNTY

One-Teacher Schools	Enrollment	Number Promoted	Number Failed	Percentage of Failures
Akersville	40	34	6	15
Old Rocky Hill	36	22	6	16.6
Howard	26	23	1	3.9
Old Walnut Grove	20	15	5	25
Boyd	32	12	9	28
Mud Slash	33	30	9	27
Free Will	34	19	4	11.7
Bethlehem	30	18	5	16.6
Mt. Herman	45	20	0	0
Lyon	48	40	1	2
McPeak	34	17	9	26.4
Alexander	12	10	2	16.6
Bowman	17	14	3	17.6
Sugar Grove	18	7	6	33
Ebenezer	42	31	8	19
Cloyd	48	43	10	20.8
Hickory Grove	36	24	8	22
Cave Springs	44	24	20	45
Mt. Zion	36	35	4	11
Mt. Carmel	21	16	5	23.8
Fox Hill	26	18	7	26.9
Rocky Point	38	33	5	13
Cedar Hill	20	19	1	5
Hackers Branch	36	23	11	30.5
Sand Lick	29	25	7	24
White	14	12	1	7
Mt. Gilead	43	32	16	37
Merryville	47	30	3	6.4
Hamilton	34	20	9	26.4
Union Hill	24	19	1	4
Marietta	28	11	3	14.3
Ivy Hill	41	26	6	14.6
Rock Bridge	27	20	6	22.2
Old Mt. Herman	28	23	5	17.9
Willow Springs	33	25	3	9
Slick Rock	36	15	3	8.3
Oak Hill	21	17	4	19
Red Hill	45	30	5	11
Tinsley Hill	43	23	22	51
Chestnut Grove	26	11	15	42
Bradley Springs	47	29	17	36
Hestant	18	8	8	44
Vernon	35	21	12	34
Kettle Creek	24	18	5	20
Hills Chapel	20	9	7	35
New Walnut Grove	23	14	4	17.3
Beech Grove	22	14	5	22.7

TABLE III (Continued)

One-Teacher Schools	Enrollment	Number Promoted	Number Failed	Percentage of Failures
Center Point	33	20	5	15
Antioch	30	26	3	10
Sulphur Ridge	28	19	7	25
Elbow	27	13	9	33
Rush Point	20	17	3	15
Liberty	32	19	12	37.5
Hickory Ridge	25	10	9	36
Line	13	9	4	30.7
Williams	13	7	0	0
Flippin	36	28	6	-16.6
TOTAL	1,737	1,176	370	20.30

TABLE IV

PERCENTAGE OF FAILURES IN THE TWO-TEACHER SCHOOLS AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS OF MONROE COUNTY

Two-Teacher Schools	Enrollment	Number Promoted	Number Failed	Percentage of Failures
Mud Lick	63	46	18	28.5
Popular Log	56	42	16	28.5
Bray	67	40	15	22.3
TOTAL	186	128	49	26.34
Consolidated Schools				
Fountain Run Grades 1-8	95	64	21	22.10
Garaliel H. S. Grades 1-6	181	165	1	.5
Tompkinsville H.S. Grades 1-8	191	165	28	14.65
	269	232	11	4
	422	329	39	9.24

Tables III and IV show that the highest number of failures were in the rural elementary schools, 23.82 per cent; Fountain Run consolidated grade school, 22.10 per cent; Gamaliel grades, 14.65; Tompkinsville grades, 9.24 per cent. The answer to this may be found in the interpretation of Tables I and II. Low percentage of attendance is a contributing factor to failure. Probably one factor in high percentage of failures is due to the amount of recitation time in the rural schools, where grades one through eight are taught. In all eight grades the teacher would have approximately thirty classes per day. Considering six hours of 360 minutes as a regular school day, there would be twelve minutes allotted to each class. Anderson and Simpson have this to say about daily recitations in rural schools:

One of the great advantages of consolidated schools is the length of recitation time. In elementary schools, no less than in high schools, it takes time to conduct a thought-provoking discussion and bring together all that should go into the lesson or to secure the amount of practice that is needed in subjects requiring extended drill. This is particularly true of the higher elementary-school grades, which need twenty or thirty minutes for each recitation. In the one-teacher rural school, lessons cannot be of satisfactory length if there are more than twenty or twenty-two recitations per day.¹

¹
C. J. Anderson and I. Jewel Simpson, The Supervision of Rural Schools, (D. Appleton and Co., 1932).

TABLE V
SEMESTER HOURS TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF TEACHERS IN THE ONE-TEACHER SCHOOLS
OF MONROE COUNTY

One-Teacher Schools	Semester Hours Training 1951-52	Experience	Monthly Salary
Akersville	75	26	\$190.00
Old Rocky Hill	82	16	195.60
Howard	83	18	196.40
Old Walnut Grove	128	7	229.20
Boyd	64	2	169.00
Mad Slash	128	14	232.40
Free Will	72	17	187.60
Bethlehem	72	12	187.60
Mt. Herman	65	30	182.00
Lyon	128	8	232.40
McPeak	36	7	158.80
Alexander	110	16	218.00
Bowman	0	43	130.00
Sugar Grove	98	11	208.40
Ebenezer	101	11	210.80
Cloyd	128	24	232.40
Hickory Grove	49	27	169.20
Cave Springs	85	4	192.00
Mt. Zion	84	8	197.20
Mt. Carmel	64	1	166.20
Fox Hill	64	10	181.20
Rocky Point	112	17	219.60
Cedar Hill	84	22	168.60
Hackers Branch	80	17	194.00
Sand Lick	128	15	232.40
White	65	14	182.00
Mt. Gilead	67	26	183.60
Merryville	80	17	182.80
Hamilton	50	3	161.00
Union Hill	66	16	182.80
Marietta	67	2	168.60
Ivy Hill	110	21	218.00
Rock Bridge	83	9	196.40
Old Mt. Herman	77	9	192.40
Willow Springs	88	18	200.40
Slick Rock	5	18	159.40
Oak Hill	40	14	162.00
Red Hill	17	15	143.60
Tinsley Hill	40	1	147.00
Chestnut Grove	68	1	169.40
Bradley Springs	65	7	182.00
Hestand	64	7	181.80
Vernon	77	2	179.60
Kettle Creek	33	9	156.40
Hills Chapel	46	20	166.80

TABLE V (Continued)

One-Teacher Schools	Semester Hours Training 1951-52	Experience	Monthly Salary
New Walnut Grove	20	3	\$137.00
Beech Grove	113	2	208.40
Center Point	82	11	195.60
Antioch	82	25	195.60
Sulphur Ridge	78	24	192.40
Elbow	75	20	190.00
Rush Point	128	9	232.40
Liberty	43	10	164.40
Hickory Ridge	71	22	186.80
Line	41	1	147.80
Williams	42	7	163.60
Flippin	68	14	184.40

TABLE VI

SEMESTER HOURS TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF TEACHERS IN THE TWO-TEACHER SCHOOLS AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS OF MONROE COUNTY

Two-Teacher Schools	Semester Hours Training 1951-52	Experience	Monthly Salary
Mud Lick	74	3	\$180.20
	75	15	190.00
Popular Log	64	25	181.20
	43	6	164.40
Bray	73	17	188.40
	64	13	181.20
Consolidated Schools			
Fountain Run	70	12	186.00
Grades 1-8	128	17	237.40
	128	11	232.40
Gamaliel	70	16	186.00
Grades 1-6	82	12	195.60
	74	18	189.20
	116	30	222.80
	88	17	200.40
Gamaliel H.S.	158	10	300.00
Grades 6-12	128	15	310.00
	128	3	223.40
	128	0	217.40

TABLE VI (Continued)

Consolidated Schools	Semester Hours Training 1951-52	Experience	Monthly Salary
Gamaliel H.S. Grades 6-12	128	18	\$232.40
	128	0	217.40
	128	11	232.40
	128	3	280.00
	119	18	225.20
Tompkinsville Grades 1-8	118	18	224.40
	90	3	193.00
	64	19	181.20
	70	21	186.00
	78	6	192.40
	117	7	223.60
	128	41	232.40
	90	20	202.00
	128	22	232.40
64	21	191.20	
Tompkinsville H.S. Grades 8-12	128	12	310.00
	128	11	300.00
	128	6	310.00
	128	13	232.40
	128	4	226.40
	128	7	232.40
	128	0	217.40
	128	20	232.40
	128	21	252.40
	128	25	232.40
	128	12	232.40
	128	1	250.00
	128	1	250.00
	118	1	212.40
128	1	220.40	

In Tables V and VI the writer finds that the teacher in the rural elementary schools have a high average in years of teaching experience. Forty-four and four-tenths per cent or nearly one-half of the rural teachers have fifteen or more years teaching experience. They are high in experience, but low in college training. Only 9.5 per cent have 128 semester hours, 33.3 per cent have less than sixty-five hours training. The grade teachers in the three or more teacher units have an average of seventeen years teaching experience; 66.6 per cent have fifteen years or more experience; 22 per cent of the teachers have 128 semester hours or more training. Only 11.2 per cent of these teachers have less than sixty-five semester hours training. Ninety-five and eight-tenths per cent of the high school teachers have 128 hours training with an average of nine years teaching experience. More qualified teachers are found in the consolidated units than in the rural elementary schools.

In 1951-52 a teacher in Monroe County with thirty-two semester hours training and five years experience received a yearly salary of \$1,251.20. A teacher with 128 semester hours and five years experience received a yearly salary of \$1,859.20. There is a difference of \$608.00 in salary. The incentive should be great enough that all the teachers in the county would try to further their education.

TABLE VII
 COST OF FUEL AND MAINTENANCE AND TEACHERS SALARIES OF THE ONE-TEACHER SCHOOLS
 OF MONROE COUNTY

One-Room Schools	Enrollment	Salary	Fuel and Maintenance	Total	Cost Per Pupil
Akersville	40	\$1520.00	\$65.00	\$1585.00	\$39.63
Old Rocky Hill	36	1564.80	65.00	1629.90	45.25
Howard	26	1571.20	65.00	1636.20	62.93
Old Walnut Grove	20	1833.60	65.00	1898.60	94.93
Boyd	32	1353.60	65.00	1418.60	44.33
Mud Slash	33	1859.20	65.00	1924.20	58.31
Free Will	34	1500.80	65.00	1565.80	46.05
Bethlehem	30	1500.80	65.00	1645.00	54.83
Mt. Herman	45	1456.00	65.00	1521.00	33.80
Lyon	48	1859.20	65.00	1924.20	40.09
McPeak	34	1270.40	65.00	1335.40	39.28
Alexander	12	1744.00	65.00	1809.00	150.75
Bowman	17	1040.00	65.00	1105.00	65.00
Sugar Grove	18	1667.20	65.00	1732.20	96.23
Ebenezer	42	1686.40	65.00	1751.40	41.70
Cloyd	48	1859.20	65.00	1924.20	40.09
Hickory Grove	36	1353.60	65.00	1418.60	39.41
Cave Springs	44	1536.00	65.00	1601.00	36.39
Mt. Zion	36	1577.60	65.00	1642.60	45.63
Mt. Carmel	21	1329.60	65.00	1394.60	66.41
Fox Hill	26	1449.60	65.00	1514.60	58.56
Rocky Point	38	1756.80	65.00	1821.80	47.94
Cedar Hill	20	1348.80	65.00	1413.80	70.69
Hackers Branch	36	1552.00	65.00	1617.00	44.92
Sand Lick	29	1859.20	65.00	1924.20	66.35
White	14	1456.00	65.00	1521.00	108.64
Mt. Gilead	43	1468.80	65.00	1533.80	35.67
Merryville	47	1462.40	65.00	1527.40	32.50
Hamilton	34	1288.00	65.00	1353.00	39.79
Union Hill	24	1462.40	65.00	1527.40	63.64
Marietta	28	1348.80	65.00	1413.80	50.49
Ivy Hill	41	1744.00	65.00	1809.00	44.12
Rock Bridge	27	1571.20	65.00	1636.20	60.60
Old Mt. Herman	28	1539.20	65.00	1604.20	57.29
Willow Springs	33	1603.20	65.00	1668.20	50.55
Slick Rock	36	1275.20	65.00	1340.20	37.23
Oak Hill	21	1296.00	65.00	1361.00	64.81
Red Hill	45	1148.80	65.00	1213.80	26.97
Tinsley Hill	43	1176.00	65.00	1241.00	28.86
Chestnut Grove	26	1355.20	65.00	1420.20	54.62
Bradley Springs	47	1456.00	65.00	1521.00	32.36
Hestand	18	1449.60	65.00	1514.60	84.14
Vernon	35	1436.80	65.00	1501.80	42.91
Kettle Creek	24	1251.20	65.00	1316.20	54.84
Hills Chapel	20	1334.40	65.00	1399.40	69.97

TABLE VII (Continued)

One-Teacher Schools	Enrollment	Salary	Fuel and Maintenance	Total	Cost Per Pupil
New Walnut Grove	23	\$1096.00	\$65.00	\$1161.00	\$50.48
Beech Grove	22	1667.20	65.00	1732.20	78.74
Center Point	33	1564.80	65.00	1629.80	49.39
Antioch	30	1564.80	65.00	1629.80	54.33
Sulphur Ridge	28	1539.20	65.00	1604.20	57.29
Elbow	27	1520.00	65.00	1585.00	58.70
Rush Point	20	1859.20	65.00	1924.20	96.21
Liberty	32	1315.20	65.00	1380.20	43.13
Hickory Ridge	25	1494.40	65.00	1559.40	62.38
Line	13	1182.40	65.00	1247.40	95.95
Williams	13	1308.80	65.00	1373.80	105.68
Flippin	36	1475.20	65.00	1540.20	42.78
Total Cost				\$219,797.61	
Average Per Child					\$57.27

TABLE VIII
 COST OF FUEL AND MAINTENANCE AND TEACHERS SALARIES OF THE TWO-TEACHER SCHOOLS
 AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS OF MONROE COUNTY

Two-Teacher Schools	Enrollment	Salary	Fuel and Maintenance	Total	Cost Per Pupil
Mud Lick	63	\$1147.60 1520.00	\$75.00	\$3036.60	\$48.20
Poplar Log	56	1149.60 1315.20	75.00	2839.80	50.71
Bray	67	1507.20 1118.80	75.00	2731.00	40.76
Total Cost				\$8607.20	
Average Per Child					\$46.56
Consolidated Schools					
Fountain Run Grades 1-8	95	1188.00 1899.20 1859.20	120.00	5366.40	56.49
Camaliel Grades 1-6	191	1188.00 1564.80 1513.60 1782.40 1603.20	500.00	8452.00	44.25
Tompkinsville Grades 1-8	422	1795.20 1544.00 1149.60 1188.00 1539.20 1788.80 1859.20 1859.20 1616.00 1529.60	1,000.00	17,468.80	41.40
Total Cost				\$31,287.20	
Average Per Child					\$47.57

Tables VII and VIII show that the average cost per child is highest in the one-teacher school. The one-teacher schools \$57.27; the two-teacher schools \$46.56 and the consolidated grade units \$47.57. Note the cost of high school students is not included in this table. These tables were prepared to show the cost of the one-teacher schools as compared with three or more teacher units. Since the average per child in the rural elementary schools was \$57.27 that means that approximately 50 per cent were higher than \$57.27. In one of the rural schools the cost per child was \$150.75, as compared to a low of \$26.97 per child in another school. This means that it costs almost five and one-half times as much to teach a child in one rural school as it does in another.

CHAPTER IV
TRANSPORTATION

Serving the schools of the county are fourteen buses, traveling approximately 765 miles daily. These buses travel 675 miles with pupils and only 90 miles empty. The buses carry 259 elementary children and 299 high school students, a total of 558 pupils transported. These 558 pupils make up 18.66 per cent of the entire enrollment of the consolidated schools. These buses carry an average of 39.8 pupils per bus. All of these buses are privately owned and the drivers are paid by the county.

The total cost of operating these buses for the school year of 1951-52 was \$30,663.77. The total current expenses was \$262,534.38, therefore the cost of transportation was 11.67 per cent of total current expenses. Since 558 pupils were transported at a cost of \$30,663.77 the cost per pupil is \$54.95. Monroe County ranks among the ten highest counties per-pupil transported. These buses travel approximately 122,400 miles yearly at a cost of approximately .25 per bus mile.

Five of these buses have a seating capacity of 5 to 36 passengers and 8 have a seating capacity of 37 to 48 passengers. Only one has a seating capacity of 49 to 60 passengers.

TABLE IX
TEN HIGHEST COUNTIES PER PUPIL TRANSPORTED *

County	Cost	Public	Partly Public	Private	Daily Miles Per Empty Bus
Greemp	\$65.31	10		11	1.6
Rockcastle	59.86	5	6		19.3
Casey	55.72	7		6	0
Monroe	54.95			14	6.4
Adair	46.36	9			11.9
LaRue	45.27			18	20.9
Clay	44.31	7		6	8.3
Spencer	42.78	10		6	6.7
Bell	42.42	1	2	18	3.7
Taylor	40.42	4		1	.6
Percentage		53 37.59	8 5.6	80 56.74	

TEN LOWEST COUNTIES PER PUPIL TRANSPORTED					
County	Cost	Public	Partly Public	Private	Daily Miles Per Empty Bus
Harlan	\$ 9.68	32			16.8
Pike	12.41	40		9	11.1
Knox	12.42	17		4	6.5
Laurel	13.11	23			2.9
Jackson	13.42	13			9.8
Estill	13.51	5			19.2
Hardin	13.76	27		14	2.4
Menifee	13.79	7		1	3.3
McCracken	14.79	20	2	2	16.5
Leslie	15.07	5			5.4
Percentage		189 85.52	2 .90	30 13.57	

*Department of Education, Frankfort, Kentucky

Transportation has always been one of the costliest items in the school system of every county. Table IX shows that in cost per pupil transported, Monroe County ranks fourth from the top with a cost of \$54.95 per pupil. That is almost six times that of the lowest county. Note that all the buses of Monroe County are privately owned. Table IX also shows that each bus travels an average of 6.4 miles per day empty.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

In this study the writer has attempted to picture the educational system of Monroe County. This study has been made with the cooperation of the administrative staff of the schools in the county, using statistics and data obtained from the records for the school year 1951-52. The rural elementary schools have been compared in certain respects with the central or consolidated schools. Using the preceding tables, one may readily see that the rural elementary schools have the lowest percentage of attendance. This could be due to many things in rural communities. It seems that the rural school no longer holds the interest of the child. The trend is definitely away from the one-teacher school. Monroe County is far from the head of the list in school advancement. There are still sixty rural schools in the county. According to the 1951-52 census there were 2,563 children in the rural districts with an enrollment of 1,923 and an average daily attendance of 1,436. Sixty-three teachers were employed in the year 1951-52 to teach these children. Based on average daily attendance each teacher would have twenty-two pupils or about one-half as many pupils as the teachers in the central or consolidated schools. If Monroe County based her teacher-need on attendance of the consolidated schools, there would be a saving of approximately twenty-two teachers or a saving of about \$33,000.00. The cost of transportation has not been included in these figures, but there is definite proof that the advantages of consolidated schools far outweighs the cost of transportation.

In Monroe County in 1951-52 there were approximately 573 children not enrolled in school anywhere and almost 500 pupils enrolled and not in

regular attendance. The educational standards of the county would be raised greatly if these non-enrolled and non-attending pupils could be brought into the school.

In the matter of teachers training the range is very wide between the qualifications of the teachers in the rural elementary schools and the teachers in the central or consolidated schools. Approximately 22 per cent of the teachers in the consolidated grades have 128 semester hours training while only 9.5 per cent have the equal in training in the rural elementary schools. The teachers in the central schools have an average of four years or more teaching experience. A teacher with 128 semester hours training received over \$600.00 more per year in 1952 than a teacher with only thirty-two semester hours. Figuring the cost of attending college at \$500.00 per year, in three and one-half years the teachers would have paid for his education and would be better prepared.

The cost of operating the one-room school is much higher than that of the central units or two-teacher school. Based on enrollment the average cost per child in the one-room school was \$57.27. In the central or consolidated school \$47.57 was the average cost. In the two-teacher school the average cost was \$46.56. According to these figures the cost is about \$10.00 more per child in the one-room school than in the central schools. In one one-room school the cost per child was \$150.00 as compared to \$26.97 in another school.

The transportation system in Monroe County is near the top of the list in cost. In 1951-52, \$30,663.77 was spent for transportation. Fourteen buses serve the three central schools of the county. The cost rises when ninety miles of the routes are traveled with the buses empty. Each bus retraces its route approximately six miles a day.

In 1951-52 the tax rate in Monroe County was \$1.50 per hundred of assessed evaluation. Total assessed evaluation was \$4,191,095.00. According to state figures this is only 22 per cent of actual cash value of personal and real estate property.

Aside from the financial side of the study there are many things to consider about the rural school as to how it fits our present day needs. The rural schools possess inadequate buildings and equipment. The average rural school house in Monroe County consists of only one room and is thirty-five years old. This being constructed without reference to architectural effect, resembling an average barn. The interior of most of the buildings is barren. The walls are made of lumber painted some dull color. The windows are small, allowing only a small amount of light to enter. Just in recent years have shades been added. There is very little ventilation, the windows are frequently nailed shut. The floors of the buildings are seldom washed. The heating system is very irregular, only one stove to heat the entire room. None of these schools have adequate library facilities. Only a few dilapidated text books are found lying around.

The play grounds are not well kept, they are usually covered with weeds, rubbish, and piles of ashes. Playground equipment is a scarce item. Drinking water is taken from a well or spring several feet from the school house. The children have to bring their lunches or go home at the noon period. Hot lunches are not provided in rural schools.

An attempt to improve the rural school of Monroe County as now organized would be futile. Raising the pay of the teachers or by remodeling the school house would not touch the roots of the problem. There are so many of these rural schools that it will never be possible to pay adequate salaries to these teachers nor will any ambitious and well-prepared teacher be willing

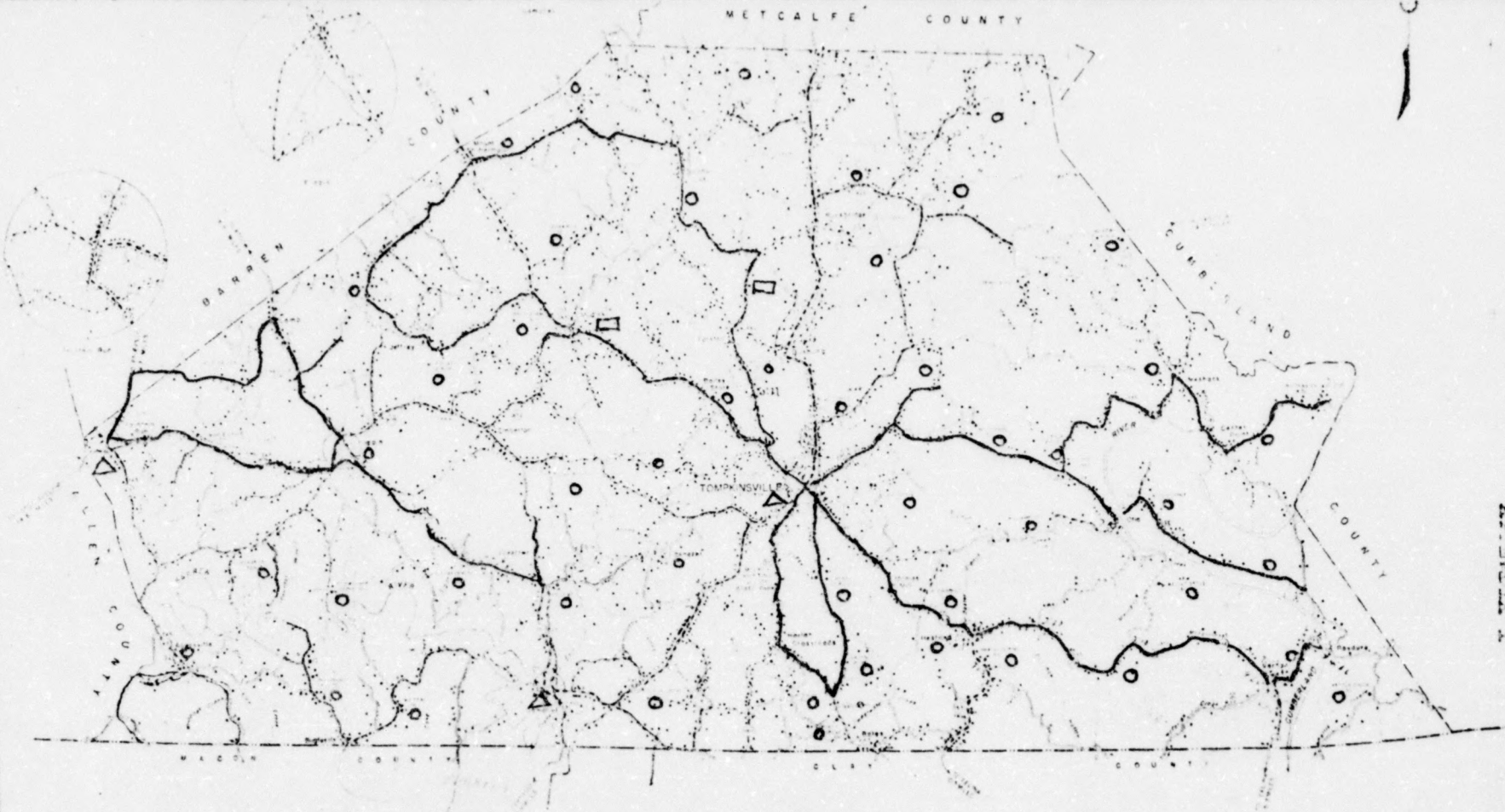
to remain in such a position where he is compelled to invest his time and influence with so few pupils and where all conditions are so adverse.

Recommendations

1. Complete consolidation of the rural schools in Monroe County is not possible due to inadequate buildings and unimproved roads. The policy of consolidating them whenever conditions will permit should be continued.
2. Careful consideration and a study of the assessment and equalization of property should be made.
3. A lunch-room program should be started at Fountain Run.
4. Manual training should be added to the curriculum in both of the high schools.
5. A summer recreation program should be offered.
6. A thorough analysis of the transportation system should be made.
7. Should have better enforcement of attendance laws.
8. Should eliminate all emergency teachers.
9. Should encourage all teachers to increase their training to at least sixty-four semester hours of college work.
10. Better libraries should be had, at least in the consolidated schools, and these should be managed by trained librarians.
11. Competent men should be selected for board of education. Men who are trained along educational and administrative lines so that they may have a basis of estimating whether the schools are measuring up to the reasonable demands of modern education.
12. A school set up for the handicapped children of the county.
13. A guidance program should set up in both the high schools.

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○ = ONE TEACHER SCHOOLS
 □ = TWO TEACHER SCHOOLS
 △ = CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
 - - - BUS ROUTES

LEGEND

<p> 1. 1/2" Scale 2. 1/4" Scale 3. 1/8" Scale 4. 1/16" Scale 5. 1/32" Scale 6. 1/64" Scale 7. 1/128" Scale 8. 1/256" Scale 9. 1/512" Scale 10. 1/1024" Scale 11. 1/2048" Scale 12. 1/4096" Scale 13. 1/8192" Scale 14. 1/16384" Scale 15. 1/32768" Scale 16. 1/65536" Scale 17. 1/131072" Scale 18. 1/262144" Scale 19. 1/524288" Scale 20. 1/1048576" Scale 21. 1/2097152" Scale 22. 1/4194304" Scale 23. 1/8388608" Scale 24. 1/16777216" Scale 25. 1/33554432" Scale 26. 1/67108864" Scale 27. 1/134217728" Scale 28. 1/268435456" Scale 29. 1/536870912" Scale 30. 1/1073741824" Scale 31. 1/2147483648" Scale 32. 1/4294967296" Scale 33. 1/8589934592" Scale 34. 1/17179869184" Scale 35. 1/34359738368" Scale 36. 1/68719476736" Scale 37. 1/137438953472" Scale 38. 1/274877906944" Scale 39. 1/549755813888" Scale 40. 1/1099511627776" Scale 41. 1/2199023255552" Scale 42. 1/4398046511104" Scale 43. 1/8796093022208" Scale 44. 1/17592186044416" Scale 45. 1/35184372088832" Scale 46. 1/70368744177664" Scale 47. 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