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THE REPORT OF A STUDY
OF THE
TUNICA COUNTY SCHOOLS

BY

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FOREWORD

This study of the educational program of Tunica County was undertaken by members of the supervisory staff of the State Department of Education at the request of the school officials of the County. The period of the study covers six months, from June 1 to December 1, 1949. For years the supervisors of the State Department have been making routine visits to Tunica County in their official capacities and, therefore, there was no particular problem centering around the initiation of the study. Since June members of the study group have made periodic visits to Tunica County and numbers of conferences have been held in the State Department of Education for the purpose of developing techniques for the study and an action plan to follow in completing it.

The members of the Study Committee are in complete accord on an educational philosophy centering around an educational program geared to life adjustment. The educational program of a community or county should stem from a philosophy developed within the community and county to meet the needs of their boys and girls, thereby providing an intelligent citizenship for social, economic, and cultural leadership in the community and county. These educational tenets justify the coverage of this study on such phases of human and economic resources of the County as distribution and mobility of the population, occupational status of adults, employment opportunities, sources of income, home ownership and rentals, etc.

An effort has been made to keep this study from becoming too voluminous. It is our thinking, however, that the coverage is adequate to arrive at findings sufficiently sound on which intelligent and safe recommendations can be made.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to:

Miss Florence Nelson, Superintendent of Tunica County Schools
Superintendent J. T. Schultz, Tunica County High School
Miss Alice Everitt, Principal of the Tunica Consolidated School
Superintendent T. E. Leggett, Dubbs Consolidated School
Superintendent H. R. Baldwyn, Dundee Consolidated School
Mr. Jack Barnett, County Agent

and their official staffs for the excellent professional assistance rendered in collecting the data for this study. Contributions were also made by Federal and State agencies. The Committee is also indebted to the individual members of the various boards of trustees in Tunica County for their willingness and desire to provide better educational opportunities for the boys and girls of the County.

It should be recognized by the school officials and citizens of Tunica County that the findings and recommendations of this study are presented for their consideration. The acceptance of any or all of the recommendations in developing a more adequate educational program for the youth is left entirely in the hands of the proper officials.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A meeting of the committee selected from the various boards of trustees, the County School Board, and the heads of the schools of Tunica County to make further investigation as to the advisability of conducting an educational study or survey of the Tunica County schools was held on May 18, 1949. At this meeting a resolution was unanimously adopted requesting the State Department of Education to make a study of the county-wide educational program. The letter of transmittal addressed to State Superintendent J. M. Tubb is exhibited in the Appendix of this study. It is the policy of the State Department to undertake a study of this type only when requested to do so by school officials of the county and/or school districts involved.

The scope of the study covers the organization, educational objectives and outcomes, program of studies, and school plant facilities of the white elementary schools, the white high school, and the Negro schools of the County. The table of contents indicates that no attempt has been made to evaluate in a thorough manner the educational accomplishments of the current instructional program such as is usually found in similar study reports made by professional research personnel.

Although there is separate treatment and recommendations on the Negro school program of the County in this study, there is no attempt made to make a dual treatment of such major factors as economic assets and liabilities, and educational philosophy and outcomes.

The data used in making this study were secured from: (1) visits by members of the supervisory staff of the State Department of Education to the schools of Tunica County; (2) annual school reports made to the State Department of Education; (3) records in the offices of the County Superintendent and local school superintendents; (4) reports from State and Federal agencies, such as the State Board of Health and Office of United States Census; and numerous conferences with school officials. Members of the supervisory staff are familiar with the educational programs being carried on in the schools of Tunica County, and, therefore, experienced no difficulty in orienting themselves for the study.

A shortage of school plant facilities was in part responsible for the initiation of this Study. School plants last for many years. It is highly important that advanced planning be based on local studies of location and need. The type of educational program which can be offered is in large part determined by the kind of facilities which are constructed. It, therefore, behooves those who are charged with the responsibility for providing school plant facilities to see that they are planned functionally and that the plans meet the needs of the educational programs which are to be offered.

II. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE COUNTY

Tunica County, bordering the Mississippi River, is a Delta area of 1418 square miles. Approximately 84% of its population is Negro. The estimated population, based on census figures of July 1, 1949, is 23,823, of which 3,523 are white, and 20,360 are non-white. Census figures of July 1, 1949 show the population of the County to be 22,610, of which 3,265 were white, and 19,345 were non-white. This represents an increase of less than 6% in the population of the County over a nine year period. The non-white population is practically all Negro.

The population, both white and non-white, is fairly well distributed over the entire County with the exception of sparsely populated areas on the east and southeast, and the area on the west between the levee and the river. While the geographic center of the County is perhaps a little south of the town of Tunica the population center is in or near it. The data indicate that the white population is rather stable, while the mobility of the Negro population is about the same as that found in the average Delta county. The following table gives data concerning the Occupational Status of the White Adults in Tunica County.

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Professions	93	56	37
Manager or Proprietor	177	161	16
Agriculture	442	429	13
Homemaking	392		392
Saleswork	131	99	32
Office Work (Secretarial, Bookkeeping, etc.)	96	32	64
Skilled Labor	94	93	1
Domestic Service or Housekeeper	147		147
Unskilled Labor	36	36	
Unemployed or on relief	26	17	9
Miscellaneous	6	6	
Unknown	1	1	
Others	20	7	13

Estimated Number Families - 839

Estimated Number Homeowners - 296

A study of the foregoing table reveals that agriculture is the chief means of livelihood of the citizens of Tunica County. In addition to the 442 engaged in agriculture as a vocation, a major portion of the 177 listed as managers or proprietors, and the 392 listed as homemakers, are engaged directly or indirectly in agriculture. It is noted that out of an estimated number of 839 white families in the County only 296 are home owners. There are a considerable number of large and attractive plantation homes in the County. Most of the other home owners live in houses of frame construction which, generally speaking, may be classed as better than average. Although no data are available on home ownership of non-white families, general information indicates that the majority do not own their homes but make up the greater portion of the tenant farmer class.

The following table supplies information secured from the County Agent's office in Tunica County concerning the Economic Status and Sources of Income of both the white and non-white population:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Total number of farm owners: | White | <u>319</u> | Negro | <u>196</u> |
| Total number of tenant farmers: | White | <u>60</u> | Negro | <u>6224</u> |
| Total number of renters: | White | <u>126</u> | Negro | <u>57</u> |
2. Acreage in average size farm or plantation: 575 acres
 3. Major cash crops in order from the highest to the lowest (estimate)
 1. Cotton - \$6,750,000 gross (1949)
 2. Soybeans - \$500,000 gross
 3. Livestock and livestock products - \$450,000 gross
 4. Grains - \$400,000 gross
 4. Major industries:
 - Planters Oil Mill

This information on the economic status and sources of income substantiates the data of the table on page 3 to the effect that the population of Tunica County, white and non-white, depends almost entirely upon agriculture as a means of livelihood.

The following excerpts from the Tunica County Health Department, as released by the State Board of Health in its Biennial Report, July 1, 1947-July 1, 1949, supplies information on the public health program as it relates to children of pre-school and school age.

"No serious outbreak of communicable diseases occurred during the biennium. Diphtheria ranks first among the diseases reported. Meningococcic meningitis was reported also. During the same period one case each of the following was reported: scarlet fever, tuleremia, and undulant fever. No cases of typhoid fever, small pox, malaria, or typhus were reported. Since July 1, 1947, 942 persons completed immunization against typhoid fever, 1035 for diphtheria, 1640 for small pox, 285 against whooping cough, and 58 against measles. Fourteen physical deficiencies in hearing and 70 in vision were corrected."

"Within the past two years increased efforts have been directed toward the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis. A county-wide chest x-ray unit is to make forty stands in population centers of the county. It is anticipated that 6000 additional chest x-rays will be obtained in this survey by the end of the biennium."

"Comments on the school health report were as follows: All children in the grammar schools of each white shcool in the county were given physical examinations by the health officer during the fall of each year. Such examinations were made of 919 children; 36 visits were made by the nurse; during the examinations immunization against diphtheria, typhoid fever, and small pox were given as indicated.

"Periodic inspections have been made of public school toilets. The public water supply has been examined from time to time and has been found free from contamination. There is no Grade A dairy in the County and pasteurized milk is imported from Memphis. A survey of rural colored schools was made. Some progress toward the construction of sanitary privies in these schools where toilet facilities were not up to standard was evident!"

"The establishment of Grade A lunch rooms in all county schools is recommended."

The above excerpts coupled with more recent data show that there is a definitely organized plan for improving the health environment of children of pre-school and school age. The Study Committee noted an interest on the part of white school officials to strengthen good health habits and to provide facilities needed in the physical education program. For the most part, however, the schools located outside of Tunica do not have adequate facilities for leisure time or playground activities. Since the population of the County is so widely scattered it is not considered practical to provide supervised playground activities as is usually done in the larger communities.

It is evident that there is a sufficient number of churches in the County to serve the present population. Religious activities are not conducted on an intensive basis in the churches outside of the town of Tunica. The schools, however, are providing a minimum amount of religious activity in their daily schedules.

111. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

The total assessed valuation of Tunica County is \$7,858,239. There is a four mill county-wide levy for maintenance of the educational program which provided \$31,432.00 for the county schools. In addition, there is a one mill levy ear-marked for school buildings which provides \$7,858.00.

The assessed valuation per white pupil enrolled in Tunica County is \$2,061.00. This compares very favorably with other counties, such as Coahoma, with \$2,342.00; DeSoto, \$1,596.00; Sunflower, \$2,523.00; Humphreys, \$1,146.00; Washington, \$2,292.00; and Yazoo, \$2,046.00.

The four white school districts have maintenance levies as follows:

Dubbs	6 mills	providing	\$ 3,663.00
Dundee	5		5,961.00
Tunica Elementary	4		22,221.00
Tunica County High	5		39,156.00

There is no existing bonded indebtedness on any of the white school buildings in the County, and hence the financial capacity of Tunica County for the construction of new school buildings is adequate to meet any reasonable demand. Under the present State laws, Dubbs may float bonds totalling \$91,584; Dundee, \$178,846; Tunica Consolidated, \$833,296; and Tunica County High, \$23,574. This data lends credence to the statement that Tunica County is financially able to provide excellent school plant facilities and to maintain an adequate educational program to meet the needs of the pupils.

IV. PUPIL POPULATION

The table on the following page is included as a part of this Study of pupil population for the purpose of giving the birth rate statistics over an eight year period for the Nation, State, and Tunica County. This table indicates that the white birth rate for the County has more than doubled over the eight year period, while there has been only a slight increase in the non-white birth rate.

The Mississippi school law provides that the school census be taken every two years. Children from the ages of six to twenty-one are included in this educable list. The following table gives the census of the Tunica County schools for 1943-49.

	1943	1945	1947	1949
Clay Taylor	100	101	97	
Crenshaw Separate	12	19	13	
Dubbs	344	310	312	286
Dundee	219	216	192	192
Tunica Consolidated	383	376	450	573
Total white	1058	1022	1064	1051
Total non-white	7014	7026	6766	6676
Grand total	8072	8048	7830	7727

During the six year period covered by the census, there was a slight decrease in the educable list for the entire County. It has been shown, however, that this decrease was brought about by the loss of enrollment in Dubbs and Dundee. For the same period, the Tunica Elementary School showed an increase of 49%, and the Negro schools showed a decrease of 4%.

BIRTHS - TUNICA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI - 1940-1948

	UNITED STATES			MISSISSIPPI			TUNICA COUNTY		
	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white
1948	3,300,000			65,291	29,666	35,625	726	108	618
1947	3,720,000			66,291	32,423	33,868	698	107	591
1946	3,288,672	2,913,645	375,027	61,430	29,715	31,715	650	107	543
1945	2,735,456	2,395,563	339,893	53,540	23,426	30,114	582	59	523
1944	2,794,800	2,454,700	340,100	56,586	25,647	30,939	644	73	571
1943	2,934,860	2,594,763	340,097	59,408	27,611	31,797	631	61	570
1942	2,808,996	2,486,934	322,062	56,521	25,306	31,215	632	51	581
1941	2,513,427	2,204,903	308,524	54,561	24,167	30,394	600	65	535
1940	2,360,399	2,067,953	292,446	52,526	23,084	29,442	565	46	519

Another picture of the pupil population in the various schools of the County may be secured from the following table which shows the school enrollment and average daily attendance in each of the schools over a four-year period.

Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance

Grade	<u>Tunica County High School</u>							
	E		A		E		A	
	1945--1946		1946-1947		1947-1948		1948-1949	
9	48	37	44	34	35	33	48	37
10	32	29	44	36	29	25	31	24
11	30	24	32	27	27	25	23	20
12	18	15	24	21	26	24	28	25
Total								
9-12	128	105	144	118	117	107	130	106

Dubbs Consolidated School

1	43	32	33	23	41	27	41	27
2	21	13	30	26	26	20	21	16
3	26	20	18	13	32	26	26	22
4	19	15	19	16	17	14	28	20
5	14	9	19	16	22	15	13	9
6	12	10	14	12	16	14	13	10
7	10	9	16	11	10	9	15	13
8	9	6	10	8	11	7	8	6
Total								
1-8	154	114	158	125	175	132	165	123

Dundee Consolidated School

1	16	9	17	12	20	11	15	7
2	16	10	7	6	12	8	13	8
3	6	3	16	8	9	5	13	9
4	17	10	8	5	17	12	10	5
5	12	8	13	9	7	5	13	7
6	9	6	17	11	19	12	14	8
7	13	8	6	3	13	8	9	7
8	6	5	5	4	4	4	6	4
Total								
1-8	95	59	89	58	101	65	93	55

Tunica Consolidated School

1	50	34	38	24	52	38	75	49
2	35	23	40	28	36	29	62	43
3	30	23	33	24	44	32	45	33
4	34	24	27	20	35	28	59	41
5	39	31	30	25	27	19	45	31
6	24	20	36	27	26	22	36	26
7	27	22	25	21	33	30	34	25
8	38	30	28	23	28	23	31	24
Total								
1-8	277	207	257	192	281	221	383	272

A study of the enrollment and average daily attendance tables gives a trend on which predictions may be made concerning the enrollment and average daily attendance in the Tunica County schools for the next six to ten years. These may be summarized as follows:

1. The total enrollment for 1945-46 (including the Tunica County High School) was 654 and for 1948-49, 771. This represents a 15% increase in enrollment. The average daily attendance for the same years was 485 and 556 respectively, or an increase of 13%. These data, when considered with the number of pre-school children who reside in the County, indicate that there is a definite upward trend in enrollment and also in average daily attendance for the County as a whole. It is safe to estimate that there are between 360 and 375 children of pre-school age now residing in Tunica County.

2. The holding power of the Tunica High School over a four year period, when treated separately from the elementary schools of the County, is 50%, or about the State average, which is 49%. This means that about one-half the students who enter the ninth grade stay in school until graduation.

3. The average enrollment for the first grade covering the four year period is 110. Of these who entered the first grade only 44 completed the elementary school and entered the ninth grade, and only 24 of these finished high school. These data seem to indicate that the holding power of the Tunica County schools is not very good.

4. Over the four year period there has not been very much variation in the enrollment or average daily attendance of the Dubbs and Dundee elementary schools. The enrollment, however, in the elementary school at Tunica has increased from 277 during the session of 1945-46 to 383 for the session of 1948-49. This increased enrollment parallels a normal situation which may be expected as

a result of the enormous increase in the birth rate on the national level. If this trend continues, based on the birth rates in 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949, it is very likely that the peak enrollment in this particular elementary school will be reached in 1953 and it may logically be expected that there will be a definite up-swing in the high school enrollment until the anticipated peak in 1960.

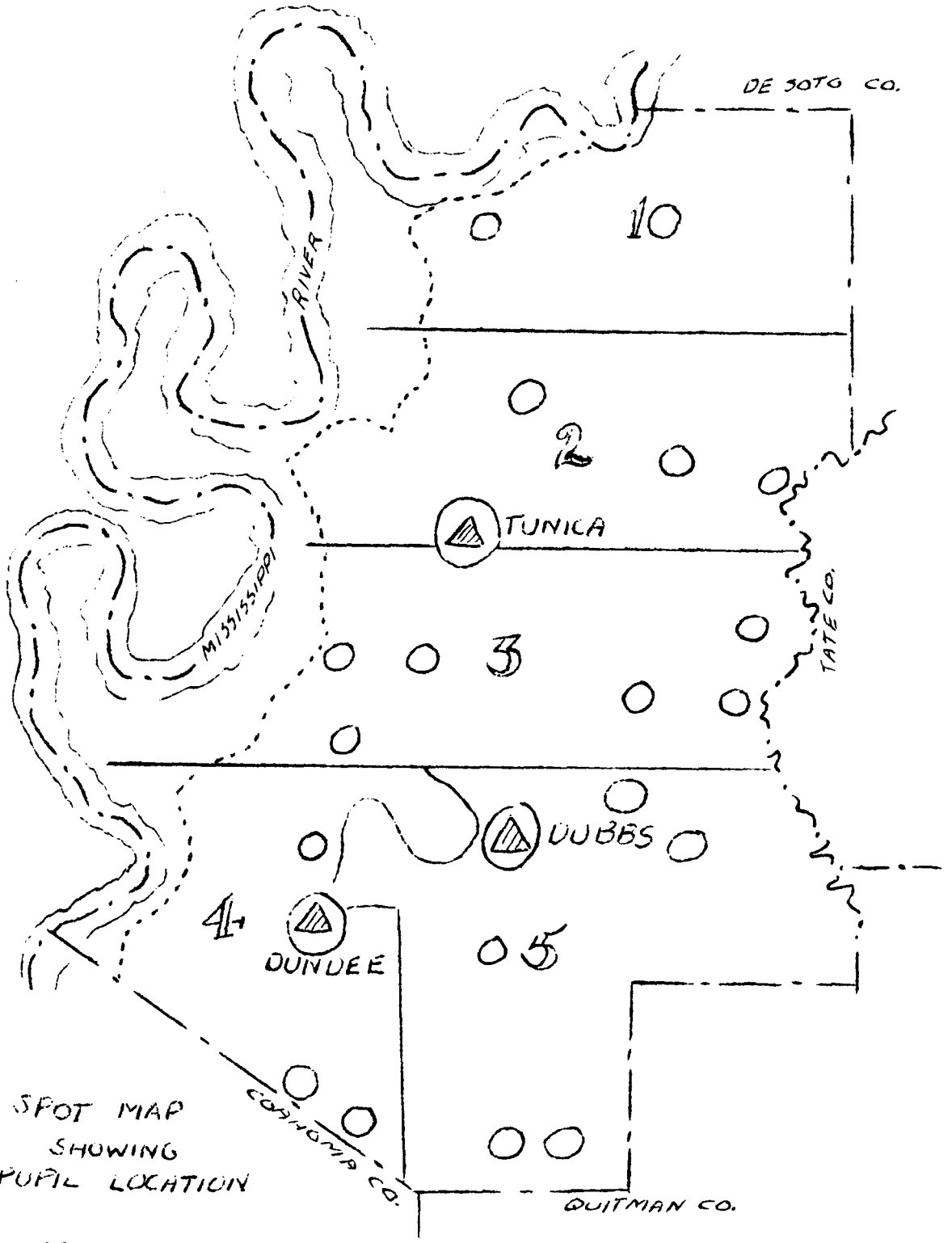
5. There are two factors which may or may not influence substantially the data on holding power noted in the paragraphs above. They are: retardation and transfers from Tunica County schools to other schools of the State and Nation. There is evidence of an unusually large number of pupils who finish the elementary schools in Tunica County and choose to attend high school outside of the State. The grade progress chart for the schools of the County seems to indicate that the retardation is about the average to be found in the State.

The spot map on the following page showing the pupil population of the County is a reproduction of the large and excellent map prepared by the school principals of the County. This map has been placed on file in the office of the County Superintendent of Education for further study in carrying out the recommendations of the Study Committee.

It is interesting to note that the spot map shows pre-school children, elementary school children, and high school children located over the County in clusters. In addition to these pupils located in clusters, there is a small portion of the pupil population widely scattered in other areas of the County.

The spot map shows that there are 77 pre-school children in the town of Tunica, 140 in the Tunica County Elementary School district, making a total of approximately 220 pre-school children now residing in that district. There are about 95 pre-school children in the Dubbs district, and 55 in the Dundee district, making a total of approximately 370 pre-school children in the County.

TUNICA COUNTY WHITE SCHOOLS



SPOT MAP
SHOWING
PUPIL LOCATION

NOTE: CIRCLES SHOW
LOCATION OF PUPIL CLUSTERS.

SCALE: 1/4" = 1 MILE

V. TEACHING STAFF

A. Training

	M.A.	B.A.	3 C	2 C	1 C	High	Total
Dubbs	1	2	1	1			5
Dundee		3				1	4
Tunica High	1	9					10
Tunica Elem.	2	9		1			12
Total	4	23	1	2		1	31

B. Experience

Years	No. of Teachers
1	4
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	0.5
6	
7	1.75
8	1
9	2
10	
11	3.75
12	1
13	
14 and above	14
Total	31.0

C. Tenure

Years	No. of Teachers
1	7.75
2	7
3	1
4	3.75
5	2.5
6	1.0
7	2
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14 and above	6
Total	31.0

D. Salaries

	Elementary	High
Dubbs	\$2000.00	
Dundee	1826.66	
Tunica High		\$2242.58
Tunica Elementary	1979.54	

E. Teacher-Pupil ratio, including vocational and superintendent's time devoted to teaching (Based on ADA taken from six months' report)

	Elementary	High
Dubbs	27.5	
Dundee	14.8	
Tunica High		12.3
Tunica Elementary	23.6	

The foregoing tables on the teaching staff justify the following observations:

1. The training of the Tunica County teachers is substantially above the State average in that 26, or 84% of the 31 teachers hold Bachelor's or Master's degrees. (The average for the State is 61%)

2. There is a wide range in the amount of experience of the teachers of the County. Of the 31, 4 are in their first year, and 14 have had 14 or more years of experience. A group of teachers with a varied amount of experience usually makes up a faculty capable of carrying on an excellent program of instruction.

3. The tenure table indicated clearly that the turn-over of teachers in the County is rather high. Of the 31 teachers, 16 have been in their present positions three years or less.

4. The salary schedule as indicated in the data is about the average for a Delta county. It should be pointed out here that no discrimination in the salaries of high school and elementary teachers should be made if training and experience are comparable.

5. The teacher-pupil ratio including superintendents and principals time devoted to teaching based on average daily attendance is substantially smaller than the State average for the elementary schools. The teacher-pupil ratio in the high school is 12.3. This ratio is extremely low when compared to the average for the State. It should be pointed out, however, that the pupil-teacher ratio in both the high and elementary schools compares very favorably with any county in the Delta area. This may be attributed to the fact that Tunica County is operating a minimum number of white schools, whereas the neighboring counties such as Quitman and Coahoma are operating a substantially larger number of schools.

VI. EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND OUTCOMES

A few of the educational objectives listed by three different schools of the County are as follows:

"The specific objective of our school is to teach our students to become good citizens. Some characteristics that we stress for good citizenship are pride in accomplishment, friendliness, good sportsmanship, respect for authority, respect for the rights of others, and socialibility. We feel that a well rounded education contributes to good citizenship. We try to accomplish these objectives through instruction, proper teacher-pupil relationship, and through student participation in varied activities."

"To provide for the continuous natural growth of every child so that he may be able

1. to work harmoniously
2. to achieve his greatest individual success
3. to develop his personality, and
4. to learn to function as a contributing member of a group engaged in achieving worthwhile purposes."

"The specific objectives of our school are as follows:

1. To teach the child the fundamentals of each grade as a preparation for high school work
2. To teach the need of special relationship with fellow students
3. To teach the child to participate in a sportsmanlike manner in recreational activities
4. To teach the proper relationship between teacher and student
5. To teach the child to have the proper respect for public property
6. To teach the child to respect the wishes and property of fellow students
7. To give the child the best foundation possible to enable him to take his part in the world should he be unable to continue his education beyond the elementary grades."

It is the thinking of the Study Committee that the above listed specific educational objectives are good. There is a doubt in the minds of the Committee, however, that all phases of the total purpose of the school are being sufficiently covered. It is generally accepted by leading educational authorities that the purpose of the school is to promote the growth of the individual for effective personal, social, and economic living as a participating

member of a democratic society. This purpose may be broken down into such acceptable phases as:

Growth in understanding of, and readiness to assume, the rights and duties inherent in membership in a democratic society.

Understanding and appreciation of the social heritage and an acceptance of responsibility for evaluating and contributing to it.

Formulation by the individual of moral and ethical values which will serve as guides to conduct in personal, family, and community living.

Acquisition and maintenance of good physical, mental, and emotional health on the part of those the school serves.

Development of an appreciation of aesthetic values.

Development of economic and vocational competency.

Growth in the use of media of communication such as speech, writing, and mathematics.

In the light of the above, the educational leadership, both lay and professional, of Tunica County can well afford to reexamine and reappraise the philosophy and outcomes desired for the educational program of the County. This applies especially to the high school.

There is much to be desired in adequate provision for development of economic and vocational competency and also the strengthening of other phases of the purpose of the schools. With the exception of courses in commerce, there are no course offerings in vocational education as such. This is also true of industrial arts. There is every indication that sufficient courses in the fine arts are not being offered.

The above findings on educational needs do not take into consideration the Negro schools. It is obvious that no provisions have been made for the vocational and industrial needs of the Negro boys and girls, since there is no high school for them in the County.

Educational OutcomesA Study of the High School Graduates for the Period 1940-49

	Elementary Schools			Tunica	Total
	Dubbs	Dundee	Tunica	High	
Number of Graduates	59	63	227		349
				206	206
Attended high school	49	45	213		
Attended college				112	
No college training				94	
Present residence:					
Tunica County	36	28	160	129	353
Elsewhere	23	35	67	84	209
Occupations:					
Farming	7	2	11	20	40
Housewife	16	12	28	48	104
Trades		3	3	2	8
Business	3		6	5	14
Clerk			4	11	15
Secretary	2		6	22	30
Commerce			1	7	8
Teaching	1	1		5	7
Telephone Operator			1	1	2

An analysis of the table reveals the following facts:

1. Of the 349 pupils completing the eighth grade, 307 or 91% entered high school and 206 or 60% graduated from high school.

2. The table indicates that 112 of the 206 high school graduates or 54% attended college. Ninety-four high school graduates did not attend college.

3. Of the 349 pupils who finished elementary schools during this period, 125 or 36% do not now live in Tunica County.

With the exception of those listed above in such occupations as commerce, secretary, and business, there is no offering in the high school program of studies which assists the 94 graduates who did not attend college to attain vocational competency.

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

(From Annual Reports - 1948-1949)

INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS	SCHOOLS			
	Dubbs	Dundee	Tunica Elem.	Tunica High
Organization	1-8	1-8	1-8	9-12
Elementary Offerings	State Course of Study	State Course of Study	State Course of Study	
High School Course of Study				24 units English - 4 Soc. St.- 4 Math - 4 Latin - 2 Science - 4 Music - 1
Provision for Vocational Education				Commerce- 3
Physical Education and Health				$\frac{1}{2}$ unit
Inter-School Athletics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provision for Guidance				Home Room 4-H Club T Club Dramatics Y-Teen Hi-Y School Paper
Provision for Pupil Activities				
Instructional Materials	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Teacher Deficiencise				1 - Gen.Sc.

The above tabulation gives an over-all picture of the instructional program for the three elementary and the high school located in Tunica County. The organizations of grades one through eight for the elementary schools and nine through twelve for the high school are based on enactment of a special law by the State Legislature. It is the thinking of the Study Committee that the elementary offerings found in these schools are enriched to the extent that they are above the average for elementary schools of the State.

With the exception of commercial subjects there are no offerings in vocational education in the high school. There is, however, a well rounded program in academic subjects in a sufficient number of offerings to meet the needs of the high school with an enrollment of 100-150. It appears to the Study Committee that there is a very great need for courses in industrial arts in the schools of Tunica County for the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades.

There is a health and physical education program in the high school. With the amount of equipment and instructional materials available, however, the program could be improved. The Tunica Elementary School with the gymnasium available for activities is providing a better all-round health and physical education program than are the other two elementary schools.

A member of the Study Committee had an opportunity to talk with students in the high school, both formally and informally, and found evidence of activities which signified the existence of a guidance program. The pupil activity program seems to be above the average, and there is reflected an atmosphere of friendliness between teachers and pupils.

All schools of the County could be rated from good to excellent in the amount of instructional materials available. There is evidence of the use of new types of equipment and materials such as audio-visual aids, library materials, magazines, maps, charts, and globes. A substantial amount is being spent annually for library books and equipment.

Not only do these schools have the materials of instruction but they have the teaching personnel. The Tunica Elementary School is doing excellent work in art, music, and physical education, along with language arts, social science, etc. The Dubbs and Dundee schools also have good instructional programs. All elementary schools show evidence that good planning is being done.

VIII. SCHOOL PLANTS

During the study of Tunica County Schools, an examination was made of the school plants at Tunica, Dubbs, and Dundee. A high school and one elementary school are operated at Tunica, one elementary school is operated at Dubbs, ten miles south of Tunica, and one at Dundee, fourteen miles south of Tunica. The town of Tunica is located very near the center of the County.

The Tunica County High School has a good brick building consisting of five classrooms, a library to accommodate fifty students, a commercial department, a science laboratory, an auditorium to accommodate 400 students, toilets, teachers' lounge, and office. There is an excellent activities building which includes a gymnasium, dressing rooms, band room, and a cafeteria with a capacity for 100. There is also a swimming pool operated by the school. The entire plant is modern and appears to be in excellent condition.

The Tunica Elementary School plant consists of an old two-story brick building that is in good condition. There are six classrooms on the first floor, one 21 by 33 feet, and five 21 by 27 feet. The second floor originally consisted of an auditorium and two classrooms but it has been necessary to convert the auditorium into classrooms to relieve the crowded condition of the school. The second floor now has two classrooms 21 by 27 feet and two, 21 by 45 feet. The stage and two dressing rooms have not been changed but one of the dressing rooms is used for a music room and the other for the principal's office. The fifth grade children are being taught in one of the rooms in the high school building because no space is available in the elementary building.

The Dubbs Elementary School has a frame building, constructed in 1926, which is in fair condition. The building contains four classrooms and an auditorium. Five teachers are employed and it is necessary for one grade to be

taught in the auditorium. Shrubbery around the building is very tall and cuts out the light in most of the classrooms. There are only two light fixtures in each room, which does not provide adequate lighting on dark days.

The Dundee Elementary School has a good brick building consisting of five classrooms, an auditorium, and toilets. The building was constructed in 1925 and can be put in excellent condition with some minor repairs and redecorating.

IX. SCHOOL SERVICES

Libraries

Usable library books reported for the session of 1949-50 to the Mississippi Accrediting Commission include 577 volumes at Dubbs, 410 volumes at Dundee, 1543 at the Tunica Elementary School, and 1915 at the Tunica High School. It is apparent that all schools are appropriating annually from seventy five cents to four dollars per pupil to be used in the purchase of new library books. All books are neatly shelved and placed in the various classrooms in the elementary schools. The high school library is well appointed, excellently equipped, and rates above the average for the schools of the State.

Cafeterias

Tunica is the only county in the State which does not participate in the National School Lunch Program. The State of Mississippi received Federal funds to the amount of \$1,825,188.57, and donated foods valued at \$2,181,477.00 during the school session of 1948-49. It is the thinking of the Study Committee that the boys and girls of Tunica County, especially the Negroes, would benefit physically and mentally by participating in this nation-wide program, which is becoming more and more a definite part of our total educational program.

Transportation

Six buses are used in transporting children to Tunica Elementary and High Schools as follows:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Webb	23	34
Kittle	25	55
Haley	25	33
Shepherd	12	14
Herron	23	40
Sharp	34	36

Three buses transport children to Dundee Consolidated School. One of these buses transports the high school children from Dundee to Tunica High School.

These routes are as follows:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Scaife	16	16
Frank	28	18
Lee	50	14 elem. 14 high

Four buses transport children to Dubbs Consolidated School. One of these buses transports the high school children from Dubbs to Tunica High School.

The routes are as follows:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Watson	15	33
Thornton	12	23
Pegram	19	58
Edwards	28	16 high 42 elem.

Approximately 36 children living in the southern part of Tunica County are transported to the Lula-Rich School in Coahoma County. Fifteen children are transported to Sledge School in Quitman County and a small number to Crenshaw in Panola County and Arkabutla in Tate County.

A further study of transportation in Tunica County for the session of 1948-49 reveals the following facts:

1. Fifteen all-steel buses were used in transporting a total of 451 children.
2. All transportation equipment is privately owned.
3. The cost per child for the session of 1948-49 was \$73.98. (The average for the State is \$26.13; average for counties with a density of one child transported per square mile is \$52.24.)
4. Tunica County transported an average of one child per square mile. (Average for State is 3.6.)
5. Average number served per bus - 30. (Average for State is 40)
6. Average length of route is 34 miles. (Average for the State is 15.)

Fourteen high school children are now being transported from Dundee to Tunica High School, and 16 high school children from Dubbs to Tunica High School.

From the above information it is evident that the present transportation facilities would be adequate to care for any reasonable expansion of the school program.

Health

Every boy and girl of a community is entitled to health and emotional security. Thanks to efforts of teachers and health officials, rapid progress in providing health security has been made in Tunica County in recent years. It is our thinking, however, that there is much to be done by the schools in fulfilling this responsibility. Every school should be provided with a health clinic, including all essential first aid materials, and medicines. Physical examinations and psychiatric services for the emotionally sick should be provided by the schools periodically.

X. NEGRO SCHOOLS

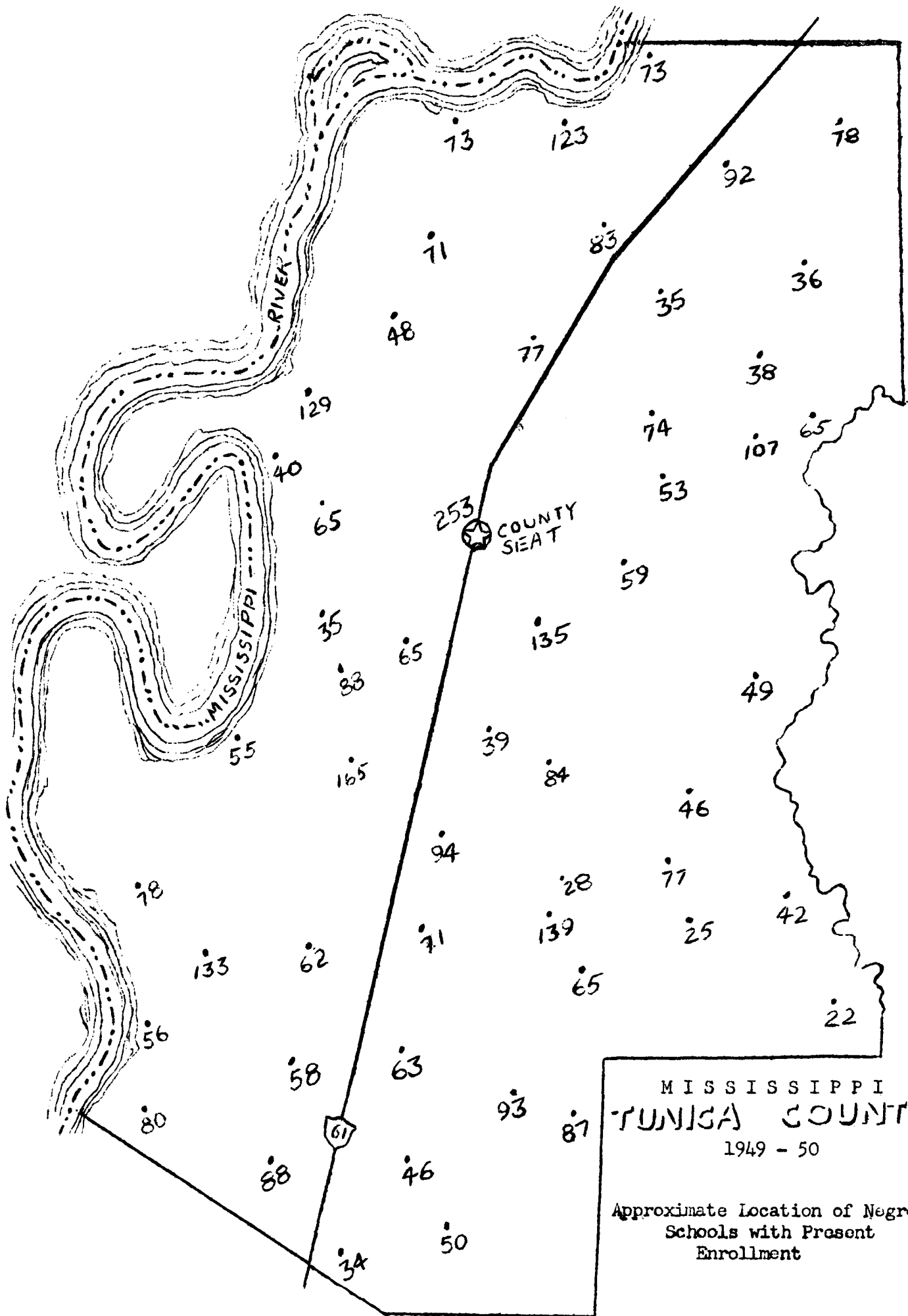
In addition to information concerning the education of Negroes found in other sections of this report, the following data are submitted for consideration. It is believed that the information in this section will be of help in the development of the total educational program for Tunica County.

The 1945 census shows 426 white farmers, as compared with 4181 Negro farmers. There were 148 white farm owners; 225 Negro farm owners; 65,562 acres owned by white farmers; 17,587 acres owned by Negro farmers; \$5,560,549 valuation of property owned by white farmers; \$1,263,125 valuation of property owned by Negro farmers. While these figures differ slightly from those taken from the County Agent's office for 1949, shown elsewhere in this Study, it is concluded that Tunica County's Negro population is fairly stable, or average for a Delta county.

The Study Committee is in agreement that the part of this Study dealing with the educational philosophy and objectives is applicable also to the Negro schools. Reference is made to the second paragraph of the Foreword and the Educational Philosophy and Objectives on pages ii and 15.

The map on the following page shows the approximate location and number of pupils enrolled in the 54 Negro schools of the County. The following table shows the types of schools, enrollment, and grade organizations.

Type of School	Enrollment	ADA	Grades	No. of Teachers
One-Teacher - 20	863	634	1-8	20
Two-Teacher - 29	2300	1845	1-8	58
Three-Teacher - 4	568	498	1-8	12
Four Teacher - 1	259	189	1-8	1
Total	54	3990		93



MISSISSIPPI
TUNICA COUNTY
 1949 - 50
 Approximate Location of Negro
 Schools with Present
 Enrollment

The Study Committee found these 54 schools poorly housed. Thirty-two are common frame type schools; 19 are in churches; three are in farm houses. Only three out of the 54 can be considered as comfortable and adequate school plants.

The following table is a record of the Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance over a four-year period.

Grade	E A		E A		E A		E A	
	1945-1946		1946-1947		1947-1948		1948-1949	
1	1364	973	1459	1081	1751	1312	1625	1495
2	533	414	451	350	524	445	549	943
3	563	439	451	371	531	430	513	475
4	450	313	358	274	418	353	478	379
5	322	226	285	223	296	248	356	345
6	194	133	203	162	191	156	237	218
7	112	86	104	85	164	142	146	139
8	57	40	50	39	80	51	128	85
Total								
1-8	3596	2624	3361	2585	3955	3137	4432	4079

The above table shows the average daily attendance by grades for the past four years to be extremely low. Another significant fact in this table is the extremely low holding power of the schools. Attention is called to the fact that in 1945-46 the enrollment of the fifth grade was 322, while three years later the enrollment in the eighth grade was only 128. Approximately 60% of the pupils dropped out or were retained in lower grades. The 1949 census on educables in Tunica County shows a total of 7,759, of which 6,676 were Negroes. The figures in the tables above reveal that only a little more than half of the Negro educables were enrolled in school, with still less in average daily attendance. Decided improvement, however, is noted.

The low enrollment and average daily attendance is the result of the type of school available to the Negro - uncomfortable school buildings with little or no equipment, an inadequate course of study, and poorly trained teachers.

Tunica County is the only county in the State which does not provide a high school for its Negro population. As a result, many Negroes are leaving the County in order to secure a high school and college education.

Training of Teachers

2 yrs. col.	1 yr. col.	4 yrs. h.s.	Less than 4 yrs. h.s.	Total
2	11	25	53	91

The above table on the training of teachers in the County shows that 53 out of the 91 teachers employed do not have a high school education. Only 13 have any college training at all.

While 62 of these teachers attended summer school during 1949 and many others have attended summer school since 1941, they are, as a whole, still very poorly trained. Some of them are teaching on emergency certificates. The present County Superintendent has been assisting these teachers to attend summer school. The salaries of the teachers range from \$50 to \$115 per month. The length of the school term for Negroes in the County is six months.

XI. SUMMARY

1. Practically all citizens, both white and non-white, are engaged directly or indirectly in agriculture as the chief means of livelihood. The annual income from agriculture is more than \$8,000,000.

2. The assessed valuation and the annual income, when considered with the fact that there is no bonded indebtedness for school purposes, lends credence to the statement that the County is financially able to provide school plant facilities and to maintain an educational program on a very high level.

3. The data (birth rate, number of pre-school children, enrollment, and school census) reveals no evidence to show that there is critical need for plant expansion to take care of pupils in the Dundee and Dubbs elementary schools.

The data, when considered over a period of a few years, does show, however, that present overcrowded conditions in the Tunica Elementary School will become more acute until the peak is reached sometime between 1952 and 1955.

4. There is a trend in enrollment in the elementary grades which definitely points to a gradual increase in the enrollment in the high school until 1956-59, which will perhaps be the peak years.

5. The holding power of the schools in the County may be rated from average to poor.

6. The greatest loss through dropouts in the present organization seems to occur in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades and in the transfer from the elementary schools to the high school. The Study shows that the principal reasons for the dropouts at this point are: (1) the transfers to the high schools outside the County, and (2) the substantial number of pupils who complete their formal education at or before the eighth grade level.

7. The faculties of the white schools of the County are above the average in training.

8. The annual turn-over in teaching personnel is rather high.

9. The teacher-pupil ratio is rather low in all schools except in the Tunica Elementary School.

10. The educational philosophy and outcomes of all the schools are in need or reexamination and reappraisal.

11. The over-all picture shows evidence that a good instructional program is being maintained in all the schools of the County within the framework of the present curricula or program of studies.

12. Forty-six percent of the high school graduates do not attend college. Sufficient occupational or vocational courses are not offered to meet the needs of this group.

13. The school plants at Dubbs and the Tunica Elementary School are inadequate to house the present enrollments.

14. The existing various school services are adequate. The transportation facilities are not overtaxed and are sufficient to care for additional services.

15. There are a total of 54 Negro schools in the County, including 20 one-teacher schools, 29 two-teacher schools, 4 three-teacher schools, and one four-teacher school. There are no high schools in the County for Negroes.

16. Only four out of the 54 Negro school plants in the County are considered comfortable and adequate.

17. Only a little more than one-half of the 6,676 Negro educables listed in the County are enrolled in school.

18. Fifty-three or 58% of the 91 Negro teachers employed have less than a high school education.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings of this Study enumerated in the Summary, the following recommendations are submitted to the appropriate school officials of Tunica County for their consideration in strengthening the educational programs for the white and Negro boys and girls of the County.

Elementary Schools

1. That the elementary schools at Dubbs, Dundee, and Tunica be reorganized to include grades one through six only. This reorganization will relieve in part the crowded condition now existing in the Tunica Elementary School. More important, this type of organization will provide an enlarged program of studies for the seventh and eighth grades, (see High School recommendations) thereby increasing the holding power of the schools.
2. That the seventh and eighth grades at the Dubbs, Dundee, and Tunica elementary schools be made a part of the Tunica County High School organization.
3. That pupils in the lower end of the County now attending other schools be assigned to the Dundee Elementary School so that the enrollment will be increased sufficiently to maintain the present size faculty.
4. That the pupils in the southeastern part of the County now attending other schools be encouraged to enroll at Dubbs, if practical.
5. That the necessary remodeling and redecorating be done in the Dubbs and Dundee schools to put these plants in first class condition, and that additional rooms be provided for cafeterias and other services for which space is not now available. At least

one additional classroom is needed in the Dubbs School so that it will not be necessary to use the auditorium for classroom purposes. It is suggested, therefore, that an annex be added to this school to house the cafeteria and provide the additional classroom space needed.

6. That at least four additional one-story classrooms be constructed on the campus of the Tunica Elementary School to house the first and second grades. This annex should be connected with the present building by an enclosed walk-way. The plan of this unit should be designed to provide office and clinic space, also toilet facilities adjoining each classroom.
7. That steps be taken by the school officials of the Tunica Elementary School to add additional ground to the present campus to provide building space for the new unit.
8. That the second floor of the present Tunica Elementary building be reconditioned and redecorated for use as an auditorium

High School

1. That the necessary legal steps be taken to provide a six-year high school program in the Tunica County High School instead of the present four-year organization.
2. That the present course of study be expanded to include
 - a. vocational subjects such as agriculture and/or shop
 - b. homemaking
 - c. industrial arts for junior high school boys and girls

3. That a vocational building and at least four additional classrooms be constructed to take care of the seventh and eighth grade pupils transferred from the three elementary schools and the expansion of the program of studies.

Negro Schools

1. That special attention be given to a long-range building program to provide adequate school houses in the County for the elementary grades. These units should house not less than three teachers and not more than six.
2. That a centrally located high school be constructed to meet the present need, with long range planning to care for future needs. This could well include two additional high schools to be located in the northern and southern sections of the County.
3. That space be provided in all buildings constructed in the future for such important school services as the school lunch program, health clinics, and toilet facilities.
4. That a competent Jeanes teacher be employed to assist the County Superintendent in improving the instructional program for the Negro schools.
5. That the schools be organized on the 6-6 plan.
6. That the program of studies be enriched to include vocational subjects and industrial arts.
7. That continuous emphasis be placed on in-service teacher training in order to build up a well trained group of teachers as rapidly as possible.

No attempt has been made by the Study Committee to make the Summary and recommendations of this report technical or exacting. The local school officials, with the aid of architects and the School Building Division of the State Department of Education, should assume the responsibility for spelling out in detail the additions that should be made to the school plant facilities. As pointed out in the Introduction of this Study, it is the duty of those charged with the responsibility of providing school plant facilities to see that they are planned functionally and that these plans meet the needs of the educational programs which are to be offered.

XIII. APPENDIX

Letter of Transmittal

May
26
1949

Mr. J. M. Tubb
State Superintendent of Education
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Tubb:

We, the undersigned who represent all of the white schools in Tunica County, would like to have an Educational Study made of the school system (white and Negro) of Tunica County by members of the State Department of Education.

We wish to assure you that the members making the above study will have the cooperation of all school authorities, classroom teachers, and members of the School Boards of Tunica County.

If it meets with your approval to make the study, we would like to have it completed not later than November 15, 1949.

We thank you and the other members of the State Department of Education for your interest in the school problems of Tunica County.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Florence A. Nelson

Florence A. Nelson
Superintendent of Education

/s/ H. R. Watson

/s/ H. B. Cargile

/s/ O. R. Leatherman

/s/ S. T. Wilson

/s/ R. L. Leake

Tunica County School Board

/s/ Robert A. Harris

/s/ Mrs. B. F. Harbert

/s/ Wesley R. Bailey

/s/ J. H. Hamilton

/s/ B. M. Martin

Tunica County High School Board

/s/ J. T. Shultz, Superintendent

Tunica County High School

/s/ B. R. Smith

/s/ W. C. Broglin

/s/ R. F. Edwards

Dubbs Consolidated School Board

/s/ W. R. Leggett, Principal

Dubbs Consolidated School

/s/ M. P. Myers

/s/ J. M. Boyd

/s/ Mrs. J. B. Arnold

Dundee Consolidated School Board

/s/ H. R. Baldwin, Principal

Dundee Consolidated School

/s/ C. P. Owen

/s/ Mrs. S. W. Owen

/s/ Clyde J. Perry

/s/ William A. Leatherman

/s/ John H. Fritchard

Tunica Consolidated School Board

/s/ Alice Everitt, Principal

Tunica Consolidated School