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JONES
COUNTY
JOURNAL

AND

LEWISVILLE

SCHOOL

SURVEY

THE REPORT OF A SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF
JONES COUNTY
AND THE
LAUREL AND ELLISVILLE
SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Bureau of Educational Research
School of Education
The University of Mississippi
November, 1956



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**BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

Jones County.....	1
Declaration of Policy by Legislature.....	2
State Finance Commission.....	3
Commission Requirements.....	5
Bureau of Educational Research Selected.....	7
Informing the People.....	9
Basic Assumptions.....	10

CHAPTER II. POPULATION

County, City, and Beats.....	13
Number of Births in Decade.....	17

CHAPTER III. THE SCHOOLS IN JONES COUNTY

White Schools.....	19
Number of Schools.....	19
Number of Pupils.....	19
Teachers.....	24
Busses.....	25
Pupils by Grades.....	25
Negro Schools.....	30
Attendance Centers.....	30
Teachers.....	33
Busses.....	33
Size of Classes.....	33

CHAPTER IV. CURRICULUM, BUILDINGS, CURRENT COSTS

Curriculum.....	37
Elementary Schools.....	38
The White Elementary Schools.....	38
The Negro Elementary Schools.....	40
High Schools.....	42
The White High Schools.....	42
The Negro High Schools.....	55
The School Plant.....	59
The White Schools.....	59
Calhoun.....	59

Glade.....	66
Moselle.....	66
Myrick.....	67
Sandersville.....	67
Shady Grove.....	68
Sharon.....	68
Soso.....	69
Whitfield.....	69
Antioch.....	70
Johnson.....	70
Landrum.....	70
Oak Bowery.....	70
Ovett.....	70
Pendorff.....	70
Pleasant Ridge.....	71
Rainey.....	71
Sand Hill.....	71
Sweetwater.....	71
Union.....	72
Union Line.....	72
Powers.....	72
Jones County Agricultural High School.....	72
Central Elementary School.....	73
Gardiner Elementary School.....	74
Lamar Elementary School.....	74
Prentiss Elementary School.....	74
Stone Deavours Elementary School.....	74
Junior High School.....	75
Homemaking Building.....	75
Wisner Building.....	75
Gardiner Senior High School.....	76
Machineshop.....	77
The Negro Schools.....	77
Benson.....	77
Friendship.....	77
Jones County Training School.....	80
Mt. Olive.....	80
Shady Oak.....	80
Nora Davis Elementary School.....	81
Sandy Gavin Elementary School.....	81
Oak Park High School.....	81
Current Costs.....	82
Present Financial Status.....	82

Operation Costs.....	89
Per Pupil Cost.....	89

CHAPTER V RECOMMENDATIONS AND COSTS

District Reorganization.....	94
Two Districts.....	94
Attendance Centers.....	96
White Schools.....	97
Negro Schools.....	106
Alternate Proposal.....	108
Intermediate Step.....	108
Building Construction.....	110
County.....	111
White Schools.....	111
Negro Schools.....	113
Board of Education Building.....	114
Laurel.....	114
White Schools.....	114
Negro Schools.....	116
Board of Education Building.....	117
Transportation.....	117
Proposed Attendance Centers.....	118
Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County.....	121
White Schools.....	121
Alternate Plan.....	122
Negro Schools.....	123
Summary of Building Cost Estimates.....	125
Laurel Municipal Separate School District.....	126
White Schools.....	126
Negro Schools.....	128
Summary of Building Costs.....	129
Financial Implications.....	130
Minimum Foundation Program.....	130

Cost Above the Minimum Foundation	
Program.....	131
Transportation Costs.....	133
Savings.....	133
Building Costs.....	133
Estimate of Millage for Building	
Costs.....	138
Better Schools for All.....	138

TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
I	Population of Jones County, By City and By Beats, 1930, 1940, 1950	14
II	Number of Live Births in Jones County, By Race, 1945-54	16
III-W	Average Daily Attendance 1948-49--1955-56; Number of Teachers and Busses, 1955-56; By White School Attendance Center, Jones County	20
IV-W	Average Daily Attendance, by White School Attendance Center and By Grade, Jones County, 1955-1956	26
III-N	Average Daily Attendance 1948-1949--1955-1956; Number of Teachers and Busses, 1955-1956; By Negro School Attendance Center, Jones County	32
IV-N	Average Daily Attendance, By Negro School Attendance Center and By Grade, Jones County, 1955-56	35
V-W	Enrollment by Courses Taught in High School, By School, in Jones County, 1953-1954-1955-1956	43
V	Enrollment by Courses Taught in High School, in Laurel and Jones County Agricultural High School, 1953-54 - 1955-56	51
V-N	Enrollment by Courses Taught in High School, by School, in Jones County, 1953-1954--1955-1956	57
VI-W	White School Building Facilities, Jones County, 1955-56	76
VI-N	Negro School Building Facilities, Jones County, 1955-56	78

VII	Assessed Value, Millage, Indebtedness and Funds on Hand, By District, Jones County, 1955-56	83
VIII	Total and Per Pupil Cost of Operating Schools, by Three Major Divisions, By Attendance Center, Jones County, 1955-56	90
IX-W	Estimate of Number of Pupils in Average Daily Attendance in Proposed White School Centers in Jones County	119
IX-N	Estimate of Number of Pupils in Average Daily Attendance in Proposed Negro School Centers in Jones County	120

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Jones County. Jones County is located in the southeast section of Mississippi, being less than one hundred miles from the Gulf of Mexico and less than fifty miles from the State of Alabama. On the east, it is bounded by Wayne County, while on the west is Covington County. Forrest and Perry Counties border on the south, while Smith and Jasper Counties lie on the north boundary. Jones County is nearly a square in shape.

Two rivers have played a large part in the development of Jones County. These rivers, the Tallahoma and the Tallahala, running south from the Jasper County-Jones County boundary, where they are about five miles apart, extend down the center of Jones County in an irregularly-shaped triangle. The rivers join some 15 miles south in about the center of Jones County. Then, the Tallahala River continues almost directly south, dividing south Jones County into nearly equal halves. All of Beat One lies between the

two rivers, and Laurel, which is in Beat One, likewise lies between them. Many state and federal roads go through Jones County. U. S. Highways 11 and 84 intersect at Laurel. Mississippi Highways 15, 20, and 29, as well as many secondary roads, make most of the county readily accessible.

Much of Jones County is devoted to agriculture. However, industrial plants, especially in the City of Laurel, are accounting for a large portion of the wealth and economic condition of the county. Oil wells, especially in the Soso and Sandersville areas, also contribute an important part to the economy of Jones County.

Declaration of Policy by Legislature. The special session of the Mississippi Legislature in 1953 was devoted primarily to rewriting the school laws. As a statement of policy the legislature enacted in House Bill 2, Section 1, the following:

The legislature hereby recognizes that in order to discharge the constitutional mandate, set forth in section 201 of Article 8, that it shall be the duty of

the legislature to establish "a uniform system of free public schools, by taxation or otherwise, for all children between the ages of six and twenty-one years", equality of educational opportunity with respect to instructional personnel, school buildings and facilities, transportation facilities, curriculum and all other school facilities should be provided for all such children; that the burden of providing such equality of educational opportunity can no longer be borne entirely by the local taxing units; and, therefore, that a program of state aid therefor should be instituted. The legislature, therefore, declares and determines that the maintenance of the uniform system of free public schools to insure and provide substantial equality of educational opportunity is the joint responsibility of the State of Mississippi and the local taxing units thereof.¹

State Finance Commission. New state laws require all counties and all separate school districts in Mississippi to have school surveys made in accordance with regulations of the newly created State Educational Finance Commission. Two basic statutes enacted during the Extraordinary Session of the Mississippi Legislature of 1953, at which time the Commission was created, govern many of the functions of this Commission. Section 11 of House Bill 2 states:

Subject to the provisions of any

1. Mississippi Code, 1942, Annotated, Section 6246-01.

applicable statute, the commission shall formulate policies and approve or disapprove plans for the location and construction of all necessary elementary and secondary school buildings. Subject also to any applicable statute, the commission shall have supervision over, and the power to approve, or disapprove, all surveys of educational needs made by any school board or board of education, may assist such boards in making such surveys, and make supplemental surveys of such needs.¹

and Section 3 of House Bill 3 reads:

Each school district reorganized or reconstituted under the provisions of this act shall embrace the educable children of all races living within the district. A satisfactory plan of equalization of facilities between the races shall be submitted and approved as a prerequisite to the reorganization or reconstitution of such district.²

To implement the legal requirements for reorganization or reconstitution of a school district, the State Educational Finance Commission has the authority to make its own declaration of policies governing surveys, insofar as its policies do not conflict with either the constitution or laws.

Section 1 of House Bill 3 of the 1953 Extraordinary Session of the Mississippi Legislature abolished

1. Mississippi Code, 1942, Annotated, Section 6246-11.
2. Ibid. Section 6328-03.

all school districts, but it required all districts to present a plan for reconstitution or reorganization by July 1, 1957. The State Educational Finance Commission will not consider a county or separate school district plan for reorganization until a survey has been made by a survey agency approved by the Commission. The Bureau of Educational Research is one such agency approved by the Commission.

Commission Requirements. The State Educational Finance Commission in its "Criteria for School District Reorganization" requires that certain conditions be met in planning for reorganization or reconstitution. Some of the requirements are listed in the following quotations which were taken from the "Criteria for School District Reorganization", published by the Commission under date of October 1, 1954, as amended under effective date of June 20, 1956.

1. "Elementary schools shall be so planned as to have sufficient enrollment to provide a teacher for each grade taught..."

2. "Separate elementary school districts must be consolidated with high school districts."

3. "Inefficiency of operation and inadequate educational opportunities are caused by small enrollments in many of our present high schools. Recent studies show that in high schools with enrollments of from 50-100, the per pupil cost is much greater than in those with enrollment of 200. New high schools should have a minimum potential enrollment of 250 in grades nine through 12..."

4. "Combination schools, grades 1-12, should have at least 12 teachers and 12 grades."

5. "Each school district(administrative unit) shall provide high school facilities for both races, and it shall be provided within the district."

6. "In all cases, the administration of school facilities for both races shall be under the same board of trustees."

7. "Counties operating under the county unit system and municipal separate school districts meet the requirements of this paragraph. Other counties must reorganize into administrative areas large enough to insure a sufficient number of educable children of each race to maintain a high school for each race, provided, however, that in exceptional cases when it is impossible or impracticable to create a district with a sufficient number of educable children of each race within the district, two or more counties or districts may cooperate in providing necessary facilities."

8. "Consideration should also be given to the principle of equalizing taxable wealth in the school districts. An area with a small proportion of the children to educate should not be created in such a way as to possess an undue proportion of the taxable wealth of the county."

9. "School districts should conform as nearly as possible with the natural socio-economic boundaries of a community. County boards of education of adjoining counties should meet together and work out desirable consolidations where overlapping occurs."

10. "When the possible desirability of establishing one or more line school districts shall appear, the Commission may defer action upon any proposed plan of reorganization until the plans of reorganization of all adjoining counties which may be affected are received."

11. "Reorganization of administrative units (consolidation of school districts) is the first step to be taken by county boards of education..."

Bureau of Educational Research Selected. The Jones County Board of Education, the Board of Trustees of the Ellisville Separate School District, and the Board of Trustees of the Laurel Separate School District, selected the Bureau of Educational Research of the University of Mississippi to conduct their school survey. The Mississippi Educational Finance Commission had requested that the same research organization conduct all education surveys necessary within the boundaries of a single county. Agreements were entered into between the boards and the Bureau in which the Bureau agreed to furnish

the information required by the Educational Finance Commission and to make recommendations for school district reorganization and school attendance centers. Members of the Bureau of Educational Research visited every school in Jones County, and each of the schools in the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts. Black and white pictures were made of the inside and outside of each school building in the county. The pictures of the county schools and pictures of the separate school districts schools are filed with the county superintendent and separate school districts superintendents, respectively. Also, 50 copies of this report are filed with the county superintendent, 50 copies with the superintendent of the Laurel Separate School District, and 20 copies with the superintendent of the Ellisville Separate School District. In addition to the black and white pictures, color transparencies were made of all the schools for white children and all the schools for Negroes. These slides show some of the activities in the schools as well as physical facilities. Maps locating the residences of

the transported and non-transported pupils were furnished by the county superintendent and the superintendents of the separate school districts.

The bureau staff placed map tacks on the spots representing the domiciles of the children, as had been indicated by the superintendents.

Photographs of these maps were made, and they also were filed with the superintendents.

Informing the People. While the survey was in its initial stage, the staff met with the school personnel at a joint meeting held on the campus of the Jones County Junior College. A similar meeting was held in Laurel for the Laurel teachers and interested persons. Prior to the drawing of conclusions or the forming of recommendations, the survey staff spoke at six public meetings called for the purpose of explaining the reasons and background for the survey, showing the findings of the survey staff, and requesting expressions by the citizens. At each of the six meetings the people were showed on a screen the color pictures of the many schools in the county. Thus, the people were able to sit

in an auditorium chair and visit most of the schools in Jones County - - the Negro schools as well as the white schools. These six meetings were held at schools of Laurel, Calhoun, Glade, Sandersville, and at the courthouses in Ellisville and Laurel. Negroes, as well as whites, attended the meetings held at the courthouses. Most of the meetings were well attended.

At these meetings the survey staff showed color slides and black and white photographs of the schools and secured from the people their opinions about the schools. Explanation as to what was required by the Educational Finance Commission, statements about some of the things that were being done, and analyses of some of the tentative solutions to the problems were made. The survey staff welcomed any school board or any group of people to discuss the problem with the survey staff.

Basic Assumptions. In developing a plan for schools in Jones County, certain basic assumptions were made by the survey staff. It was assumed:

1. That the requirements of the new laws and the requirements of the Mississippi Educational Finance Commission would be carried out.
2. That Jones County and the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts plan to maintain a segregated school system and that they plan to do so by legal means.
3. That if each race is voluntarily to choose its place of attendance according to color, facilities and educational opportunities for one race must be as attractive as they are for the other race.
4. That the people of Jones County are willing to provide equally desirable educational opportunities for each race, even though this means a rather large expenditure of money.
5. That it is the obligatory duty of the survey staff to recommend the best possible education program for the children of Jones County that may be

secured within the framework of the
Mississippi Constitution, the Mississippi
Laws, and the requirements of the
Mississippi Educational Finance Commission.

CHAPTER II

POPULATION

County, City, and Beats. In 1955 Jones County had 62,200 inhabitants, according to population estimates listed in a Mississippi State College publication, Mississippi's Counties. This represents an increase of nearly 5,000 over the U. S. Census count in 1950, which was 57,235 inhabitants. Moreover, the increase was about 13,000 above the 1940 census figures and about 21,000 above the 1930 census figures. These data, as well as the population figures for Jones County by cities, communities, and beats, for the years 1930, 1940, and 1950, as published by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, may be found in Table I, which follows. In both 1955 and 1950 people in Jones County were divided about evenly between those who lived in the country and those who lived in the cities.

Jones County is one of the few counties that is increasing in total population. The rise in the white population accounts for most of the increase. Between 1930 and 1940 the number of white people

TABLE I
 POPULATION OF JONES COUNTY,
 BY CITY AND BY BEATS

1930, 1940, 1950

Beat Number	1950	1940	1930
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total for County	57,235	49,227	41,492
(White)	42,207	35,061	30,298
(Non-White)	15,028	14,166	11,194
One Laurel	29,622 (25,038)	23,991 (20,598)	-- 18,017
Two Soso	7,661 (171)	7,197 (235)	-- 214
Three Sandersville	7,276 (681)	5,907 (562)	-- 565
Four Ellisville Ovett	8,194 (3,579) (357)	7,213 (2,607) (467)	-- 2,127 376
Five	4,482	4,919	--
Per Cent Change 1950 from 1930		All 37 White 39 Non-white 34	
1950 from 1940		All 16 White 20 Non-white 6	

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950.

rose from 30,298 to 35,061 - - nearly a 5,000 increase. Furthermore, between 1940 and 1950 there was an additional increase of more than 7,000. Thus, the 20-year period had a 39 per cent increase in white population.

The Negro population increased, but to a lesser extent during the 20-year period. For the first decade listed, the increase was nearly 3,000, but in the second decade, ending in 1950, the increase was less than 1,000.

Although Jones County as a whole increased in population between 1940 and 1950, the increase was not evenly distributed. In fact, Beat Five and the Towns of Soso and Ovettt lost in population. Beat One gained 5,631 people, of which 4,440 resided in the City of Laurel. Beat Two gained 464, and Beat Three gained 1,369, of which 119 were in the City of Sandersville. Beat Four gained 981, and all but nine were in the City of Ellisville.

However, the U. S. Census of 1950 but not of 1940 counted college students at the place where they were living when counted. This would account for

TABLE II
 NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS IN JONES COUNTY,
 BY RACE, 1945-1954

YEAR (1)	TOTAL (2)	BIRTHS	
		WHITE (3)	NON-WHITE (4)
1945	1192 (495)*	835 (325)	357 (170)
1946**	1595 (678)	1144 (453)	451 (225)
1947	1734 (801)	1266 (524)	468 (277)
1948	1701 (804)	1163 (477)	538 (327)
1949	1669 (778)	1136 (452)	533 (326)
1950	1599 (766)	1024 (400)	575 (366)
1951	1592 (759)	1026 (418)	566 (341)
1952	1521 (753)	985 (415)	536 (338)
1953	1410 (703)	922 (393)	488 (310)
1954	1486 (748)	954 (423)	532 (325)
Decade Average Number	1549 (729)	1046 (428)	503 (301)
Per Cent	100 (100)	68 (59)	32 (41)

* Figures for city of Laurel are in parentheses.

** Laurel City limits extended in 1946.

Source: Mississippi State Board of Health.
 Annual bulletins of vital statistics.

the large increase at Ellisville, due to the students at the Jones County Junior College. Seemingly, the trend in population in Jones County is away from the rural areas and toward living in or near the City of Laurel. In 1950, Beat One, in which Laurel is located, contained 52 per cent of the population of Jones County. It is to be expected that the trend from the county to the industrial City of Laurel will continue.

Number of Births in Decade. Between the years 1945 and 1954, inclusive, the total number of babies born in Jones County ranged from 1,192 in 1945, to 1,734 in 1947. In Laurel there were 495 births in 1945 and 804 in 1948. This information as well as other data concerning the number of births in Jones County may be found in Table II, which follows.

The number of white babies born in Jones County ranged from 335 in 1945 to 1,266 in 1947, while the number of Negro babies ranged from 357 in 1945 to 575 in 1950. Births in Laurel followed a similar pattern. The average number of white babies born yearly during this decade was 1,046

in Jones County (of which 428 were in Laurel) compared with 503 Negro babies of which 301 were born in Laurel. Of the babies born in Jones County from 1945 through 1954, two of every three or 68 per cent were white. Of the total population of Jones County in 1950, 74 per cent were white.

CHAPTER III

THE SCHOOLS IN JONES COUNTY

White Schools

Number of Schools. At the beginning of this survey Jones County had 22 schools for white children. However, two of them, Union Line and Landrum, were discontinued after the 1955-56 school term. In addition, there were schools in the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts and a high school at Ellisville, operated by the Jones County Agricultural High School and Junior College. Ten of the 25 schools enrolled pupils in grades one through 12. These schools were located at Laurel, Calhoun, Glade, Moselle, Myrick, Sandersville, Shady Grove, Sharon, Soso, and Whitfield. The Jones County Agricultural High School enrolled pupils in grades nine through 12. Each of the other 13 white schools in Jones County and also the Ellisville school enrolled pupils in grades one through eight.

Number of Pupils. Table III-W, which follows, indicates the number of white pupils in average daily attendance, as reported by the schools

TABLE III-W

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1948-49--1955-56; NUMBER OF TEACHERS
AND BUSES 1955-56; BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER, JONES COUNTY

Attendance Center	Grades Taught 1955-56	Number 1955-56		School Year							
		Teachers	Busses	1948 1949	1949 1950	1950 1951	1951 1952	1952 1953	1953 1954	1954 1955	1955 1956
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Ellisville S.D.	1-8	21	5	378	756	727	739	752	547	573	578
Laurel S.D.	1-12	125		2609	2702	2750	2659	2709	2911	3006	3051
Antioch	1-8	3	1	74	82	84	84	85	91	93	77
Calhoun	1-12	17½	7	451	469	475	496	485	470	503	510
Glade	1-12	17½	5	447	484	495	495	492	486	494	513
Johnson	1-8	3	3	132	137	114	108	108	103	100	95
Landrum	1-8	1	1	44	45	41	45	46	49	42	38
Moselle	1-12	10	5	312	377	365	269	241	239	276	267
Myrick	1-12	14	7	317	385	392	422	396	393	452	419
Oak Bowery	1-8	2	1	47	51	59	71	66	60	48	50
Ovett	1-8	5	2	156	143	145	145	121	152	152	148

TABLE III-W (CONT'D.)

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1948-49--1955-56; NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND BUSES 1955-56; BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER, JONES COUNTY

Attendance Center	Grades Taught 1955-56	Number 1955-56		School Year							
		Teachers	Busses	1948 1949	1949 1950	1950 1951	1951 1952	1952 1953	1953 1954	1954 1955	1955 1956
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Pendorff	1-8	7	1	138	143	145	170	182	181	200	199
Pleasant Ridge	1-8	7	7	187	200	199	173	170	163	229	218
Powers	1-8	8	4	241	247	246	253	250	239	228	232
Rainey	1-8	3	3	210	203	207	197	180	173	95	99
Sandersville	1-12	18	8	374	363	382	364	366	375	478	515
Sand Hill	1-8	2	2	80	78	74	71	74	77	77	73
Shady Grove	1-12	15	7	446	444	460	437	449	434	447	454
Sharon	1-12	10	5	338	330	328	305	343	303	304	296
Soso	1-12	12	5	294	267	275	292	285	323	341	353
Sweetwater	1-8	3	3	150	149	126	112	102	100	96	95

TABLE III-W (CONT'D.)

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1948-49--1955-56; NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND BUSES 1955-56; BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER, JONES COUNTY

Attendance Center	Grades Taught 1955-56	Number 1955-56		School Year							
		Teachers	Busses	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Union	1-8	2	3	75	76	77	79	78	71	67	72
Union Line	1-8	2	2	85	85	82	96	96	80	80	70
Whitfield	1-12	6	3	179	260	257	223	238	201	182	179
A. H. S.	9-12										612**
*Other Schools				556	522	529	494	462	292		
Jones County		168	85	5333	5540	5557	5401	5315	5055	4984	5584
Totals		314	90	8320	8998	9034	8789	8776	8513	8563	9213

*Consolidated prior to 1955-56.

**Not administered by county.

Source: Superintendents annual reports.

Note: Busses are listed for each school at which they discharge pupils.

ADA is rounded to the nearest whole number.

from 1948-49 to 195⁵/~~4~~-5⁶/~~5~~, inclusive. The totals for each year are not strictly comparable, since the Jones County Agricultural High School is listed by itself for only the 1955-56 school year. Enrollment in previous years was omitted but during some of the years covered, at least part of the students in the Jones County Agricultural High School were included in the Ellisville school district's figures. In any case, it is surprising to note that the total number of pupils in average daily attendance for 1955-56, including the Jones County Agricultural High School specifically, was only 9,213 when there were 9,034 pupils reported as early as 1950-51. Moreover, the population and birth figures presented in Chapter II indicate an increasing white population since 1930.

The only school to grow continuously and sizeably during the eight-year period covered in Table III-W was the Laurel school. The gain here was 442 - - an average gain of about 55 children per year. However, some of this gain was due to the extension of the city limits to include some pupils formerly counted in the county schools. Of the schools

that during the last several years showed general increases in the number of pupils in average daily attendance are: Ellisville, Calhoun, Glade, Myrick(although a decrease of 33 pupils occurred the last year), Pendorff, Pleasant Ridge(although a decrease of 11 pupils occurred the last year), Powers(remained rather constant), Sandersville, Shady Grove(remained rather constant), and Soso. Decreasing in school population are: Antioch, Johnson, Landrum, Moselle, Oak Bowery, Rainey, Sand Hill, Sharon, Sweetwater, Union Line, and Whitfield. Ovet had a drop from 156 pupils in 1948-49 to 121 pupils in 1952-53. In the next two years, however, 152 pupils were enrolled each year.

Teachers. In 1955-56 there were 168 teachers instructing the white boys and girls in the Jones County schools, 125 in the Laurel Separate School District, and 21 in the Ellisville Separate School District, a total of 314 teachers. In addition, the 612 pupils in the Jones County Agricultural High School were instructed by the Jones County Agricultural High School-Junior

College faculty, and on a state allotment basis they would use some 21 teachers.

Busses. Table III-W shows that busses discharge pupils at school 90 times, 85 times in the county and five times at Ellisville. This does not mean there were 90 busses, since one bus may discharge some pupils at an elementary school and others at a high school. A map showing the various bus routes has been filed with the county superintendent and the superintendents of the separate school districts, together with a map showing the bus routes recommended if plans for reorganization of attendance centers are followed.

Pupils by Grades. The number of pupils in average daily attendance, by grades, for the school year 1955-56 may be seen in Table IV-W, which follows. Class size in the two separate school districts schools was large enough so that more than one teacher was required for each grade in each school attendance center. Educationally, it is good to have more than one teacher per grade at each attendance center.

TABLE IV-W

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, JONES COUNTY,
1955-56

Attendance Center	Grade														
	Elementary							Jr.-Sr. High School							
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total 1-6	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total 7-12	Total 1-12
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
LAUREL: S. D.															
Senior High										217	175	149		541	541
Junior High								255	260	212				727	727
Central Elem.					96	126	222								222
Gardiner Elem.	41	44	60	55	23		223								223
Lamar Elem.	107	110	139	116			472								472
Prentiss Elem.	92	69	90	88	53	*64	456								456
Stone Deav. El.	78	66	90	58	66	52	410								410
Total Laurel	318	289	379	317	238	242	1783	255	260	212	217	175	149	1268	3051
Ellisville S. D.	67	86	71	64	78	77	443	70	65					135	578

*Includes 14 pupils in one special education class.

TABLE IV-W (CONT'D.)

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, JONES COUNTY,
1955-56

Attendance Center	Grade															
	Elementary							Jr.-Sr. High School							Total	Total
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total 1-6	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total 7-12		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
JONES COUNTY:																
A.H.S.									211	160	137	104		612	612	
Antioch	12	10	12	10	10	12	66	6	5					11	77	
Calhoun	47	48	27	39	30	47	238	48	49	51	57	35	32	272	510	
Glade	55	54	49	59	35	52	304	58	37	39	35	19	21	209	513	
Johnson	11	16	20	11	10	8	76	7	12					19	95	
Landrum	5	6	4	5	4	7	31	3	4					7	38	
Moselle	23	24	27	20	23	27	144	27	23	23	23	17	10	123	267	
Myrick	53	36	32	34	35	30	220	46	38	34	25	38	18	199	419	
Cak Bowery	7	2	6	7	6	8	36	9	5					14	50	
Cvette	23	17	25	15	15	19	114	16	18					34	148	
Pendorff	31	38	30	23	20	17	159	24	16					40	199	
Pleasant Ridge	23	27	33	34	19	25	161	29	28					57	218	

TABLE IV-W (CONT'D.)

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, JONES COUNTY,
1955-56

Attendance Center	Grade														Total 7-12	Total 1-12
	Elementary							Jr.-Sr. High School								
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total 1-6	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
Powers	36	34	32	35	24	20	181	26	25					51	232	
Rainey	11	13	18	12	11	10	75	14	10					24	99	
Sandersville	72	45	57	43	46	46	309	38	41	34	31	40	22	206	515	
Sand Hill	9	6	8	3	12	13	51	15	7					22	73	
Shady Grove	63	38	38	44	47	29	259	44	36	33	30	20	32	195	454	
Sharon	31	26	31	27	20	20	155	21	30	31	14	28	17	141	296	
Soso	36	17	32	28	29	25	167	29	27	48	32	20	30	186	353	
Sweetwater	13	15	18	11	8	7	72	14	9					23	95	
Union	11	10	8	6	12	8	55	8	9					17	72	
Union Line	18	10	5	2	11	4	50	10	10					20	70	
Whitfield	15	18	19	19	16	19	106	19	12	15	7	11	9	73	179	
Jones County	605	510	531	487	443	453	3029	511	451	519	414	365	295	2555	5584	
Totals	990	885	981	868	759	772	5255	836	776	731	631	540	444	3958	9213	

Source: Offices of the Superintendents.

In the county schools that enrolled pupils only in the first eight grades, class sizes were usually small. Exceptions occurred at the Powers and Pleasant Ridge schools. On the other hand, most of the schools enrolling pupils in grades one through 12 usually had classes of reasonable sizes in at least the elementary grades. The exceptions here being Moselle and Whitfield. However, only the high schools at Calhoun (the largest of the county high schools), Sandersville, and Soso had as many as an average of 30 pupils per grade in the upper four grades.

From analysing the data in Table IV-W, it is apparent that something should be done with regard to the consolidation of both the elementary schools and high schools if the requirements of the State Educational Finance Commission are to be met. Several of the elementary schools do not meet the requirement of one teacher for each grade taught. Moreover, none of the high schools, except Laurel and the Jones County Agricultural High School, meets the requirement for "new high schools". This requirement calls for a minimum

potential enrollment of 250 in grades nine through 12. Presently accredited high schools are not required to meet this standard. Nevertheless, a high school of this minimum size should be considered.

Negro Schools

Attendance Centers. In 1955-56 Jones County had five attendance centers for Negro boys and girls. All five of these schools, Benson, Jones County Training, Friendship, Mt. Olive, and Shady Oak enrolled pupils in grades one through 12. In addition, there were two elementary schools, grades one through six, and one high school, grades seven through 12, located at Laurel. Also, Ellisville had a Negro elementary attendance center, grades one through eight.

More Negro children were enrolled in the Laurel school than in all of Jones County, plus Ellisville. Of the 3,394 pupils enrolled in 1955-56, 1,921 or 57 per cent of the children were in the Laurel schools, 1,324 or 39 per cent were in the county schools, and 149 or four per cent were in the Ellisville school.

One of the difficulties encountered in establishing new school districts is the fact that Jones County has relatively few Negro children. Moreover, the Negro children in Jones County are widely scattered. The Jones County and the Ellisville schools had about four times the number of white children in average daily attendance as they had Negro pupils. Table III-N, which follows, lists the seven Negro schools and the number of pupils in average daily attendance for each of the last eight school years. As may be seen from the table, the Ellisville, Friendship, Mt. Olive, and Shady Oak schools are decreasing in number in average daily attendance. Benson and Jones County Training schools have had a fluctuating attendance, and it would be difficult to estimate whether or not they are decreasing or holding their own. However, since other schools have been discontinued during the eight-year period covered, and children from the discontinued school sent elsewhere, it is more likely that these two schools, too, are decreasing in size. The Laurel schools definitely increased in number of pupils in average daily attendance during the eight-year period listed.

TABLE III-N

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1948-49 -- 1955-56; NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND BUSES 1955-56; BY NEGRO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER, JONES COUNTY

Attendance Center	Grades Taught 1955-56	Number 1955-56		School Year							
		Teachers	Busses	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Ellisville S.D.	1-3	5	1	170	171	156	152	137	162	153	149
Laurel S.D.	1-12	50		1605	1594	1784	1838	1711	1720	1820	1921
Benson	1-12	8	5	182	186	257	246	270	246	208	241
Friendship	1-12	5	1	185	157	161	143	151	149	139	133
Jones Co. Tng.	1-12	11	4	304	343	335	323	299	315	298	303
Mt. Olive	1-12	12	4	267	417	402	379	346	344	315	307
Shady Oak	1-12	13	4	332	334	348	350	414	374	350	340
Other Schools*				362	305	209	183	64	20	18	
Jones County		49	18	1632	1742	1712	1624	1544	1448	1328	1324
Totals		104	19	3407	3607	3662	3614	3392	3330	3311	3394

*Schools consolidated prior to 1955-56.

Source: Superintendents annual reports.

Note: Busses are listed for each school at which they discharge pupils
ADA is rounded to the nearest whole number.

Teachers. There were 49 teachers instructing the Negro boys and girls in the Jones County schools. In addition, there were five in Ellisville and 50 in Laurel - - a total of 104. In Ellisville and the county schools the number of teachers is about the same as would be assigned on the basis of one teacher for each 30 pupils in average daily attendance. In Laurel, however, the number of teachers is considerably less.

Busses. All the Negro schools outside Laurel are served by school busses. In all, children in the county are served by busses making 18 school stops, and Ellisville is served by one bus.

Size of Classes. In only two of the Jones County schools for Negroes are there as many teachers as there are grades in school. Ellisville also does not have enough pupils to have a teacher per grade. These schools do not meet the requirement of the State Educational Finance Commission of one teacher per grade. Enrollments in grades one and two are very high in each of the Negro schools. However, grade sizes in the high schools, exclusive of Laurel, are very small.

Table IV-N, which follows, shows the distribution of pupils in the various classes by schools. As may be seen from the table, the first grade enrolled a very large number of pupils when compared with enrollments in the other grades. About one-fifth of the pupils in the county schools and Laurel were in the first grade.

With the consolidation of school attendance centers as proposed in a later chapter, it will be possible to provide at least one teacher for each grade in each attendance center and to have 30 pupils per grade in average daily attendance. This will meet with one of the requirements of the State Educational Finance Commission and also be financially advantageous.

TABLE IV-N

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY NEGRO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, JONES COUNTY
1955-56

Attendance Center	Grade															
	Elementary							Jr.-Sr. High School								
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total 1-6	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total 7-12	Total 1-12	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
LAUREL:																
Oak Park High								158	136	108	75	59	45	581	581	
Nora Davis El.	109	103	105	72	58	154	601									601
Sandy Gavin El. and Annex	284	132	121	116	86		739									739
Total Laurel	393	235	226	188	144	154	1340	158	136	108	75	59	45	581	1921	
Ellisville	50	22	14	16	17	15	134	8	7					15	149	

TABLE IV-N (CONT'D.)

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY NEGRO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, JONES COUNTY,
1955-56

Attendance Center	Grade														
	Elementary							Jr.-Sr. High School							
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total 1-6	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total 7-12	Total 1-12
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
JONES COUNTY:	277	143	120	111	121	122	894	100	91	80	60	57	42	430	1324
Benson	36	27	27	15	13	24	142	21	16	20	15	17	10	99	241
Friendship	25	13	11	13	14	14	90	10	11	3	9	6	4	43	133
Jones Co. Tng.	66	23	25	28	32	18	192	26	22	24	11	15	13	111	303
Mt. Olive	60	35	25	23	29	34	206	25	18	25	13	10	10	101	307
Shady Oak	90	45	32	32	33	32	264	18	24	8	12	9	5	76	340
TOTALS	720	400	360	315	282	291	2368	266	234	188	135	116	87	1026	3394

Source: Superintendents' annual reports.

Note: ADA is rounded to the nearest whole number.

CHAPTER IV

CURRICULUM, BUILDINGS, CURRENT COSTS

The Curriculum

The curriculum originally conceived was only the program of studies. More recently, it has been considered to include all the experiences the school provides which promote the positive growth and development of children and youth. If the curriculum is limited or constricted, the opportunity for a sound education may be denied some pupils attending the school. Some of the pupils in a school with a limited curriculum remain in school the entire school period, but fail to develop to their maximum ability. Some may be forced into situations which create frustrations and cause disciplinary problems. Still others may later drop out of school because they will not or cannot profit from an instructional program which is limited in scope and nature. It should not be assumed, however, that all children who drop out do so because of the poor curricula available.

The phase of the curriculum with which most

people are familiar and which is most readily observed is the program of studies, and since it is an important portion of the curricular offerings in the schools, a report of this area is made in order to provide some basis for the evaluation of the services the schools are providing.

Elementary Schools

The White Elementary Schools. In nearly all the elementary schools in Mississippi the program of studies is determined by the textbook purchases of the State Textbook Commission. As a starting point for providing a program which meets the needs of every child, this is satisfactory. However, to accept it as the entire program of studies is to deny the existence not only of the individual differences of the pupils but also of the wide range of needs of different communities.

In the elementary schools of Jones County the scope of the program of studies ranges from the minimum state program to a more comprehensive offering. It is interesting to note that as

there are differences between the schools there are often also equally-wide differences between the classrooms in the individual schools. These differences seem to indicate the absence of a general policy of enrichment in the administration of the schools which may be due to the fact that so many administrative units have existed. Some other factors that have influenced the extent of curricular offerings are: obsolete school buildings, lack of proper equipment, limited teaching supplies, and one teacher in charge of several grades.

In Mississippi many of the municipal separate school districts have had greater wealth to draw on than other types of districts. Municipal separate school districts have usually been more fortunate in the quality of curricular offerings than those in adjacent districts. This condition prevails in the Laurel Municipal Separate School District. The elementary schools in Laurel have been influenced by a long policy of enrichment, a situation which has provided many factors contributing to an

expanding program of studies.

In the Ellisville Separate School District there is evidence of enrichment, especially in some classrooms. It is apparent that acceptance of the policy of enrichment exists in the administration of the school, and this should afford a good opportunity for further development when reorganization is effected.

There is reason to believe that in the reorganized administrative pattern, the elementary schools of Jones County, both within and without the present municipal separate school districts, will have the opportunity to improve the quality and scope of curricular offerings.

The Negro Elementary Schools. The program of studies of the Negro elementary schools of Jones County is almost entirely limited to the state textbook program. The limitation of the program of studies also is dependent upon many factors which must be altered before any sizeable improvement can occur. Only one school plant, the new building at Shady Oak, provides a

satisfactory setting for a good elementary program in the county schools for Negroes. Dilapidated buildings, poor equipment, and the almost complete absence of teaching supplies, are factors which contribute to the deficiencies.

In all county schools for Negroes, several grades are being taught by one teacher, a factor which limits the extent and quality of the program of studies. There is only so much time available for teaching during each day. When this time either is divided consecutively among several grades or used simultaneously for teaching at several levels of instruction, the quality of teaching and the program of studies both suffer.

The Ellisville Municipal Separate School District elementary school follows the pattern of the county elementary schools, although the building is better than any except the Shady Oak school building.

In the Laurel Municipal Separate School District, the schools show evidence of a general administrative policy of enrichment. The new buildings, better

equipment, and the use of teaching supplies, promote this policy. However, many classrooms are overcrowded. A continuation of the general policy together with the reduction of class size should ultimately provide curricular opportunities of high quality. Acceleration of this process should become an important phase of the policy.

High Schools

The White High Schools. High school curricula which are wide in scope and intensive in their efforts may exist in high schools of almost any size. Small high schools, due to the excessive cost per pupil both in the operation of these curricula and in their housing, may be unable to provide adequate educational experiences. With the exception of the Jones County Agricultural High School which is attended by pupils from Ellisville and some sections of Jones County, all high schools in the county are small. The courses offered in the high schools in 1955-56 may be seen in the data provided in Table V-W, which follows.

TABLE V-W

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL,
IN JONES COUNTY 1953-54--1955-56

Course (1)	School											
	Calhoun			Glade			Mosele			Myrick		
	'54 (2)	'55 (3)	'56 (4)	'54 (5)	'55 (6)	'56 (7)	'54 (8)	'55 (9)	'56 (10)	'54 (11)	'55 (12)	'56 (13)
English												
9th Grade	43	62	56	34	37	41	20	29	23	48	25	33
10th Grade	41	43	59	32	36	40	22	25	24	20	45	25
11th Grade	37	40	37	25	27	24		23	19		50	39
12th Grade	25	34	36	24	16	21	25		11	48		19
Social Studies:												
Civics & Geog.	43	65	60	34	39	41	18	33	23	56	28	33
W. History	36	41	39	30	33	40	22	23	24	18	45	25
Amer. History	36	39	35	22	29	20	15	12	23	34	20	39
Gov't. & Ec.	35	26	33	15	14	17	10	33	17	14	14	15
Mathematics:												
Gen. Math.	43	63	57	36	39	42	20	31	23	48	30	33
Algebra I	42	39	60	31	33	38	22	17	24	17	47	24
Algebra II	26		26	12	11	27	10	12			27	
Pl. Geometry		26		22	16		12		9	13		14
Science:												
Gen. Science	29	37	33	28	19	17		10		48	28	33
Biology	27	26	40	18	19	21	20		12	16	45	25
Chemistry		18								39		24
Physics												

TABLE V-W (CONT'D.)

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL,
IN JONES COUNTY 1953-54--1955-56

-44-

Course (1)	School											
	Calhoun			Glade			Moselle			Myrick		
	'54 (2)	'55 (3)	'56 (4)	'54 (5)	'55 (6)	'56 (7)	'54 (8)	'55 (9)	'56 (10)	'54 (11)	'55 (12)	'56 (13)
Commerce:												
Typing	49	46	41	32	35	31	24	18	20	13	42	15
Shorthand		22	9	34		35		7		7	14	9
Bookkeeping	11	18	14		34			21			19	16
Sec't. Training							10		14	15		
Home Economics:												
1st year	21	25	24	14	21	26	12	29	22	11	13	15
2nd year	13	11	24	15	13	18	10	10	13			11
3rd year	11	23	10	22	10	10	10					
Agriculture												
1st year							22	11	12			
2nd year							17	13	12			
3rd year							10	10	8			
Other:												
Music, Piano										18	23	23
Music, Choral	43	51	55							32	37	49
Internat. Rel.	29	26	40									
Total Number												
Subjects	20	22	21	19	19	18	20	19	19	18	18	21

Source: The school principals and superintendents.

TABLE V-W

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL
IN JONES COUNTY 1953-54--1955-56

Course (1)	School														
	Sandersville			Shady Grove			Sharon			Soso			Whitfield		
	'54 (2)	'55 (3)	'56 (4)	'54 (5)	'55 (6)	'56 (7)	'54 (8)	'55 (9)	'56 (10)	'54 (11)	'55 (12)	'56 (13)	'54 (14)	'55 (15)	'56 (16)
English															
9th Grade	37	35	40	25	32	34	35	20	31	40	38	50	21	7	14
10th Grade	30	46	40	37	22	31	24	36	15	28	28	37	16	16	8
11th Grade	29	28	32	32	36	22	24	21	24	27	31	23	16		21
12th Grade	24	20	15	25	27	31	10	18	18	18	17	20		17	
Social Studies:															
Civics & Geog.	34	35	34	25	32	36	25	21	32	40	36	51	15	7	15
W. History	32	42	46	37	23	31	24	35	15	28	28	35	18	16	10
Amer. History	29	38		30	34	24		31		27	34	30	15		23
Gov't. & Ec.			48	19	15	14	33			18	17	22		17	
Mathematics:															
Gen. Math.	40	36	39	31	32	37	35		32	40	36	53	20	7	15
Algebra I	35	44	39	35	26	30	24	34	18	30	33	34	16	16	10
Algebra II	23				20		10		16	15	19			17	
Pl. Geometry		43	40	8		10		13				16	5		5
Science:															
Gen. Science			40					32	38					23	
Biology	25			27		30	16	29		30	37	23	25		20
Chemistry		26			28				20			14		17	11
Adv. Science													16		

TABLE V-W (CONT'D.)

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL,
IN JONES COUNTY 1953-54--1955-56

Course (1)	School														
	Sandersville			Shady Grove			Sharon			Soso			Whitfield		
	'54 (2)	'55 (3)	'56 (4)	'54 (5)	'55 (6)	'56 (7)	'54 (8)	'55 (9)	'56 (10)	'54 (11)	'55 (12)	'56 (13)	'54 (14)	'55 (15)	'56 (16)
Commerce:															
Typing	24	28	34	32	29	31	15	16	16	30	22	39	14		16
Shorthand	15	12	14	22	21	12	12	12		6	6	11			
Bookkeeping				19	21	17	10	18	27	10	11	25	12		12
Sec't. Training	23	11	15			10		7	9						
Home Economics:															
1st year	26	15	18	15	18	14	33	31	12	18	17	26			
2nd year	18	22	16	16	14	17	26	32	30	16	20	19			
3rd year	15	12	18		10	10			13	10	13	24			
Agriculture															
1st year	19	24	14	10	14	20				20	19	24			
2nd year	25	15	10	16	10	13				14	14	17			
3rd year	7	10	4	17	19	10				18	30	11			
Other:															
P. E.				40	83	32									
Music, Piano									20			26			
Music, Choral												42			
Total Number															
Subjects	20	20	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	21	21	24	13	11	13

Source: The school principals and superintendents.

The number of courses taught in the county high schools in any one year, ranges from a high of 24 at Soso to a low of 11 at Whitfield. It is interesting to note that although serving a rural area, agriculture is not offered at Sharon, Whitfield, Calhoun, Glade, and Myrick. Also, although each high school is equipped with a commodious gymnasium which should form the nucleus for a good health and physical education program, only Shady Grove provides this opportunity. Even though some of the county high schools offer twice as many courses as do others, it should not be assumed that the high schools offering the wider range of courses are providing all the services which should be available to boys and girls attending these schools.

In our modern society, knowledge of a modern foreign language is considered important. This is especially true in the South where our increasing economic and social relations with the South American countries makes some understanding of Spanish important. No high school in this county offers any modern foreign language. Art

in its many forms provides an opportunity for every child to express his native aesthetic desires. Moreover, modern economy demands and pays well for men and women who are prepared in this field. No county high school offers this educational opportunity. Other fields, such as industrial arts, distributive education, music, speech, classical foreign language, as well as courses which may be planned to care for a purely local need, are either entirely absent or exist to a limited extent.

Examination of Table V-W, reveals an administrative device commonly used in smaller high schools to increase course offerings. This device is the offering of certain courses in alternate years. This procedure, which certainly is better than reducing the offerings by failure to use this practice, still lacks much in educational value since it involves placing students of widely-different experience in the same class. Courses in English III and English IV furnish an example. In some schools, English III and English IV are offered every other year. This means that

"Class A" (eleventh-grade students) will enter English IV without the advantage of having English III. Also, they must compete with twelfth-grade students who have had the added advantage of one additional year of English instruction, or English III. The next year "Class A" (now twelfth-graders) students will enter the English III with "Class B" (eleventh-grade students). "Class A" students have the added advantage of having already taken English IV. This situation will not provide the best educational environment for students.

Although Table V-W does not attempt to describe the number enrolled in each course offered, some evidence is available. One would scarcely expect to find more than one class, where less than 30 pupils are enrolled in a course. However, an occasional practice of this nature may exist. A cursory examination of Table V-W shows that although some classes exist with an enrollment of more than 25, a considerable number have less than 20, and some have fewer than 12 pupils. The small classes make the average teacher-

pupil ratio far below the ratio of one teacher per 30 children, the basis on which the Mississippi Minimum Foundation Program operates. Thus, the amount of local funds necessary for the support of the schools must be increased. The survey staff agrees that the foundation program does not provide funds sufficient for more than a minimum secondary education program. However, classes that are smaller than can be justifiably defended educationally and financially should be discontinued.

Many of the high school pupils of Jones County and all those of the Ellisville Municipal Separate School District attend the Jones County Agricultural High School, which is administered as part of the institution which includes the Jones County Junior College. Under this arrangement some curricular advantages are gained for the high school pupils. Table V, which follows, shows the courses offered. There were 40 courses offered high school youngsters in 1953-54 and 36 courses during the last two years. Forty courses provided great opportunity

TABLE V

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, IN LAUREL AND
JONES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL - 1953-54--1955-56

Course	School											
	Laurel Sr. Hi.			Laurel Jr. Hi.			A. H. S.			Oak Park (N)		
	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
English												
9th Grade				229	220	234	193	212	239	89	90	117
10th Grade	183	176	201				155	168	172	68	75	79
11th Grade	105	201	170				130	137	153	70	63	65
12th Grade	74	80	124				93	129	106	37	64	50
Social Studies:												
Civics & Geog.				79	72	76	56			65	90	48
W. History	199	242	115	77	72	76	166	178	174	68	75	79
Amer. History	74	160	166				123	136	151	70	63	65
Gov't. & Ec.	54	56	42				56	64	62	35	64	50
Mathematics:												
Gen. Math.	12	27		148	117	163				24	35	30
Algebra I	92	125	114	121	113	124	215	214	230	89	90	117
Algebra II	150	124	132				16	25	33			
Pl. Geometry	50	64	66				167	204	229	70	63	65
Business Math.												
Science:												
Gen. Science				118	97	97	105	88	98	89	90	117
Biology	112	121	113				19	26	44	68	75	79
Chemistry	74	70	77				58	58	74	37	64	50
Physics	17	25	33				21	22	19			
Adv. Science	33	28	23									

TABLE V (CONT'D.)

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, IN LAUREL AND
JONES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL - 1953-54--1955-56

Course (1)	School											
	Laurel Sr. Hi.			Laurel Jr. Hi.			A. H. S.			Oak Park (N)		
	'54 (2)	'55 (3)	'56 (4)	'54 (5)	'55 (6)	'56 (7)	'54 (8)	'55 (9)	'56 (10)	'54 (11)	'55 (12)	'56 (13)
Other:(Cont'd.)												
Speech							9	13	13			
Bible	78	92	62									
Gen.Social Sc.								86	106			
Debate								9				
Manual Arts				53	44	60						
Div.Occupations	75	88	94				10	12	14			
Consumer Math.							9					
Mech. Drawing							11	14	20			
Radio									11			
Shop I(Type B)	31	35	37				82	114	103			
Shop II(Type B)							37	45	77			
Home Ec. IV							21		34			
P. E.				56	64	59	95	105	150			
Total Number												
Subjects	23	24	23	13	13	13	40	36	36	20	19	19

TABLE V (CONT'D.)

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, IN LAUREL AND
JONES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL - 1953-54--1955-56

Course	School											
	Laurel Sr. Hi.			Laurel Jr. Hi.			A. H. S.			Oak Park (N)		
	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Commerce:												
Typing	155	141	165				69	87	105			
Shorthand	105	90	113				31	38	46			
Bookkeeping	134	142	123				54	70	74			
Sec't. Training												
Home Economics:												
1st year				100	93	119	88	92	127	41	40	69
2nd year	20	22	25				74	74	64	42	37	49
3rd year							24	47	20	21	42	33
Agriculture												
1st year							58	54	60	26		
2nd year							23	23	19			
3rd year							6	6				
Other:												
Business English							5	11				
French				15	21	28						
Latin I	17	14	36				7					
Spanish							5	9	2			
Music, Choral		60	80	31	31	33	124	146	151	322	464	477
Violin							4					
Band	84	86	90	76	76	96	124	95	114	60	40	58
Art				17	27	16	31	34	25			
Ceramics									4			

Source: Superintendent's annual high school reports.

for choice of subjects, but even with this choice one may still question the absence of some courses which should enrich the lives of some pupils.

Table V also shows the offerings of the Laurel senior high school and the junior high school. Since Laurel operates a three-year junior high and a three-year senior high school, the number of course offerings need to be considered in a different manner than those of the four-year high school, such as the Jones County Agricultural High School. In 1955-56 there were 23 courses offered in the Laurel high school and 13 courses in the ninth grade of the junior high school. Thus, 36 courses per year were offered. This was the same number of courses offered in the same year by the Jones County Agricultural High School. However, with the construction of the proposed Laurel high school and with the larger enrollment anticipated, a substantial number of new courses should be added.

Many factors enter into the quality of the program of studies and into the improvement of the curriculum. Much is lost in any instructional

program unless the quality of libraries, laboratories, and shops, as well as the availability of a multitude of teaching aids such as maps, charts, recordings, and film strips, are of high order. The investment made in original purchase and in maintenance support of these items is high when limited use is made of them. However, when extensive use is made by many pupils, the per pupil cost is relatively low.

The Negro High Schools. The Oak Park High School in the Laurel Municipal Separate School District offers only 19 courses per year, which provides a limited program of studies. This, too, may be seen in Table V. However, in most instances, the school plant and the equipment support these course offerings to a higher degree of excellence than is found in the county high schools. Additions to and revisions of the curriculum are necessary, if the needs of the boys and girls attending are met.

The Jones County high schools for Negroes are all small schools. Table V-N, which follows,

TABLE V-N

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL,
IN JONES COUNTY 1953-54--1955-56

Course	School														
	Benson			Friendship			Jones Co. Tng.			Mt. Olive			Shady Oak		
	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56	'54	'55	'56
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
English															
9th Grade	27	19	28	8	13	14	22	16	26	22	19	25	21	19	10
10th Grade	22	20	19	9	6	10	19	20	14	14	18	15	17	19	14
11th Grade	15	14	19		6	10	12	16	16	15	14	15	4	8	9
12th Grade	16	13	13			4	10	10	14	8	9	10	5	4	6
Social Studies:															
Civics & Geog.							22	16	26	22	19	25	21	19	10
W. History	22	19	47	8	13		19	20	14	14	18	15	17	19	14
Amer. History		24	28	9	6	14	12	16	16	15	14	15	4	8	9
Gov't. & Ec.	16	13	13		6	10	10	10	14	8	9	10	5	4	6
Mathematics:															
Gen. Math	22	47	28	8	13		22	16	26	22	19	25	21	19	10
Algebra I	27	19		9	6	10	19	20	14	14	18	13	17	19	14
Algebra II						4	12	16	16	8	9	10	4	8	9
Pl. Geometry			32		6	6	10	10	14	15	14	13	5	4	6
Science:															
Gen. Science		76	32	8	13	4	22	16	26	22	19	25	21	19	10
Biology	22		19	9	6	10	19	20	14	14	18		17	19	14
Chemistry							12	16	16	15	14	13			
Physics							10	10	14						
Advanced Sc.				6	10										

TABLE V-N (CONT'D.)

ENROLLMENT BY COURSES TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL, BY SCHOOL,
IN JONES COUNTY 1953-54--1955-56

Course (1)	School														
	Benson			Friendship Jones Co. Tng.						Mt. Olive			Shady Oak		
	'54 (2)	'55 (3)	'56 (4)	'54 (5)	'55 (6)	'56 (7)	'54 (8)	'55 (9)	'56 (10)	'54 (11)	'55 (12)	'56 (13)	'54 (14)	'55 (15)	'56 (16)
Commerce:															
Typing										15	20	17			
Shorthand															
Bookkeeping															
Sec't. Training															
Home Economics:															
1st year	10	22	23				6	12	12	9	10	13	15	9	3
2nd year		5	13				27	19	17	6	8	8	9	14	5
3rd year		9	9				9	15	20	7	6	7	2	6	6
Agriculture															
1st year	12	17	24				10	16	14	13	9	15	6	10	3
2nd year		9	6				14	17	22	8	10	7	8	5	9
3rd year		4	4				13	11	10	8	8	8	4	2	3
Other:															
Physical Ed.													47	50	40
Total Number															
Subjects	11	16	17	8	12	12	22	22	22	22	22	21	21	21	21

shows that the most courses are offered in the Jones County Training School and the least in Friendship. It is extremely doubtful if the program of these schools provide the type of programs which meet the needs of the boys and girls attending them. Probably the greatest handicap in providing an adequate program of studies is the poor school plants. Although agriculture and home economics are listed as courses in each school except Friendship, it is obvious from the lack of equipment and the poor housing available that only limited value can be obtained. A similar situation exists in the laboratory sciences. Library holdings and facilities are practically non-existent.

The survey staff has not attempted to measure all the factors which have an influence on the curriculum. It is recommended, however, that a study be made and a plan of action approved for the improvement of the curriculum. Such a plan should include administration, supervision, teachers, instructional equipment and supplies, plant construction, plant operation, and plant maintenance.

THE SCHOOL PLANT

The White Schools

Table VI-W, which follows, presents data on the physical plant of the white schools in Jones County. A statement of each school follows.

Calhoun. At Calhoun, the main building of brick construction and the gymnasium, also of brick, constitute the plant. These buildings are in good condition and with proper maintenance should be useful for many years. The main building needs redecorating and some new equipment. The school site should be carefully restudied for the maximum use. At present, little attention has been given to site beautification, a condition which does not place the buildings in the environment to which they are entitled. The presence of a public cemetery within the school site presents a problem. A possible solution would be the extension of the site east and releasing the site about the cemetery. Access to the cemetery should not be through the school grounds.

TABLE VI-W

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Type of Construction	Date Constructed	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ellisville El.	Brick	1933, 54	Good	3.56	\$125,000
Laurel High	Brick		Obsolete	10	220,000
Jr. High	Brick	1926, 30	Fair	3	212,000
Wisner Bldg.	Brick	1939	Fair	1.75	200,000
Central El.	Brick	1910	Obsolete	1.75	88,000
Gardiner El.	Brick	1908	Obsolete	1.5	100,000
Lamar El.	Brick	1913, 48	Good	6	300,000
Prentiss El.	Brick	1913, 49	Good	3.18	261,000
Stone Deavours El.	Brick	1936, 49	Fair	10	212,000
Antioch	Frame		Obsolete	4	10,000
Calhoun	Brick	1938, 48	Good	15	257,000
Glade	Brick	1940, 48	Good	7.5	153,000
Johnson	Frame	1921, 34	Obsolete	5	10,000
Landrum	Frame	1925	Obsolete	6	1,500
Moselle	Block-Tile	1954	Good	30	110,000
Myrick	Brick-Frame	1934, 47	Good-Fair	8.2	175,000
Oak Bowery	Frame	1923	Obsolete	2	10,000

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Regular	Number of Classrooms						Office Rooms	Library (Seats)	Lunchroom or Cafeteria Seats	Indoor Toilets	Indoor Fountains	Gymnasium	Auditorium (Seats)
		Homemaking	Commercial	Music	Science Laboratory	Agriculture	Shop							
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
Ellisville El.	16							1		200	4	14		390
Laurel High	20		2		1		1	2	30		4	4		571
Jr. High	22	1						2	90		4	4		336
Wisner Bldg.	6	1		1	1		1	2		120	4	3	yes	
Central El.	8							1	40	80	4			
Gardiner El.	10							1	36	(80)	4	6		
Lamar El.	15							2		200	8	8		500
Prentiss El.	16							1		160	8	5		450
Stone														
Deavours El.	14							1		yes	4	4		383
Antioch	4									60				
Calhoun	16	2	1		1			1	90	275	4	2	yes	500
Glade	17	2	1	1	1			1	150	175	4		yes	475
Johnson	4									75				175

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Type of Construction	Date Constructed	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ovett	Frame	1914	Fair	15	\$20,000
Pendorff	Brick	1951	Good	6	90,000
Pleasant Ridge	Frame	1923	Fair	5	40,000
Powers	Brick-Block	1951, 52	Good	8 1/3	125,000
Rainey	Frame	1922	Obsolete	14	25,000
Sandersville	Brick-Frame	1930, 46	Fair	40	250,000
Sand Hill	Brick	1951	Good	7.5	15,000
Shady Grove	Brick	1939, 48	Good	7	158,000
Sharon	Concrete	1938, 46	Good	8	100,000
Soso	Brick	1927, 47	Fair	24	150,000
Sweetwater	Frame	1920, 47	Fair	3	12,000

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Regular	Number of Classrooms					Office Rooms	Library (Seats)	Lunchroom or Cafeteria Seats	Indoor Toilets	Indoor Fountains	Gymnasium	Auditorium Seats	
		Homemaking	Commercial	Music	Science Laboratory	Agriculture								Shop
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
Landrum	4									40				60
Moselle	14	1	1		1	1	1	1	50	200	4		yes	350
Myrick	16	2	1		1			1	72	200	4	3	yes	gym
Oak Bowery	3									60		4		150
Ovett	6							1		60	2	1		200
Pendorff	6							1		100	2	4		340
Pleasant Ridge	9							1		180	2	6		400
Powers	8							1		120	2	3		300
Rainey	10							1	yes	65	yes		yes	300
Sandersville	20	1	1		3	1	1	2	60	150	6		yes	600

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Type of Construction	Date Constructed	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Union	Frame	1925	Obsolete	3	\$ 8,000
Union Line	Frame	1937	Fair	5	25,000
Whitfield	Brick	1936	Fair	40	30,000

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Regular	Number of Classrooms						Office Rooms	Library (Seats)	Lunchroom or Cafeteria Seats	Indoor Toilets	Indoor Fountains	Gymnasium	Auditorium (Seats)
		Homemaking	Commercial	Music	Science Laboratory	Agriculture	Shop							
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
Sand Hill	3									80				200
Shady Grove	17	2	1		1	1	1	1	75	200	4	3	yes	510
Sharon	15	1	1		2			1	50	125	4	2	yes	400
Soso	15	1	1		1	1	1	1	125	150	4		yes	500
Sweetwater	4								30	40				80
Union	3									80	2	2		75
Union Line	4									75	2			260
Whitfield	8				1			1	40	150	2		yes	250

Source: The school principals and superintendents.

Glade. At Glade there are three brick buildings and the principal's home, a frame dwelling. The cafeteria is in the gymnasium building. The home economics suite, the auditorium, where the library is located, are in one building, and the main classroom building completes the group. All are in good condition and should, with proper maintenance, be useful for many years. The site needs restudy for use and for improving the setting for the building. The driveway in front of the building and auditorium should be removed, walks installed, and this portion of the site beautified. Driveways should be constructed south of the main building.

Mozelle. At Mozelle there is a new classroom building, well designed and well built. A brick gymnasium, a frame vocational building, and a lunchroom building, together with frame dwellings for the teachers, complete the unit. All are in good condition and should be useful for many years. The site is good and is well-planned. Additional improvement, including walks, drives, and landscaping will improve it.

Myrick. A brick elementary school and a brick high school classroom building connected by a covered passageway, a frame gymnasium in which a lunchroom and some classrooms are located, and the principal's home comprise the unit. The high school classroom wing is in good condition, the elementary school wing in fair condition. The gymnasium is adequate for a basketball court but leaves much to be desired as a physical education and health unit. The classrooms and lunchroom in this gymnasium are unsatisfactory. The site is well-utilized, and there is a football field with some seating. Landscaping, including well-placed walks and drives, would improve the entire plant.

Sandersville. The Sandersville main building, of brick construction, houses most of the classes and the cafeteria. A brick gymnasium could be developed into an adequate health and physical education unit. Frame buildings house homemaking and agriculture. Faculty homes, which are also frame, complete the unit. The main building is in good condition, as is the gymnasium. The other classroom buildings are

poor and should be replaced as soon as possible. The site is more than adequate, especially since the tract east of the building adjoining the highway was purchased. A considerable sum should be used to put all buildings in first class condition. The site needs to be restudied and some new planning considered.

Shady Grove. The central classroom building here is of masonry construction, very well-planned and fairly well-maintained. A brick gymnasium, a frame cafeteria, a frame shop building, ^{a teachers' home,} and an unused canning plant, complete the plant. The site is limited but is well utilized. The entire unit should have a long period of usefulness. Some attention should be given to general overhauling and site improvement.

Sharon. The main classroom building is of masonry construction and in good condition. The gymnasium building, which is of frame construction, houses the cafeteria. A principal's home, a frame dwelling, is on

the site. Under proper maintenance conditions, this plant may be used for sometime. Immediate attention should be given to redecoration and site improvement.

Soso. The main classroom building is brick; several additions had been made to the original plant. A separate frame building contains the homemaking unit and the agriculture shop. This building and the frame cafeteria building are easily accessible to the main building. A gymnasium completes the unit. All buildings are in fair condition. It may take a considerable sum to bring these buildings to a condition desirable for school use. Some attention has been given to site improvement; more should be planned.

Whitfield. The main building is of masonry construction; a gymnasium building, a cafeteria building, and faculty homes complete the unit. Only the cafeteria is considered good. The remainder of the plant is fair and should be thoroughly remodeled and much equipment replaced and added to bring the plant up to standard.

Site improvements are necessary.

Antioch. A frame school building which is obsolete should no longer be used as a school.

Johnson. A frame school building, a frame cafeteria building, and a faculty home on a small site, make up this unit. By any measure the plant is obsolete and should not be used for a school.

Landrum. A frame school building and a frame cafeteria on a small site describes this plant. As it is an obsolete unit, it is fortunate that it has been abandoned as a school.

Oak Bowery. This frame school building is obsolete and should not be used as a school. The faculty home is sound and has some resale value.

Ovett. Ovett has a frame school building and nearby is a frame lunchroom. Although this building may be rated fair insofar as condition goes, it is doubtful whether it should be used as a school. The site is large and beautiful.

Pendorff. Pendorff is one of the better school buildings in the county. Relatively new, of

brick construction, and well-designed, it should render excellent service for many years. A former community clubhouse is being used for classroom purposes. Some attention has been given to site improvement, and a unique shelter house and barbecue furnace are available for school and community use.

Pleasant Ridge. A frame building, which has had several additions, is located on an adequate site. Although far from a modern school plant, continued use may be made of this unit.

Rainey. A frame building and a gymnasium in which is located the cafeteria make up this unit. This is an obsolete unit and should be abandoned.

Sand Hill. A relatively new brick classroom building and a nearby frame cafeteria building are in use. A teachers' home is nearby. Site improvement is needed. With consolidation of schools as recommended, this building might be sold or used as a community club.

Sweetwater. Sweetwater school is a frame building on a pleasant site. It is an obsolete unit and

should no longer be used for a school.

Union. This two-story frame building is obsolete and should no longer be used as a school.

Union Line. A frame building in fair condition has fortunately been abandoned as a school.

Powers. This brick building of recent construction is a well-designed brick building in good condition. If the site size could be substantially increased, future additions can be made. A nearby clubhouse is used for some extra-curricular activities. Many years of use are ahead for this plant.

Jones County Agricultural High School. This school utilizes the building resources of the Jones County Agricultural High School and Junior College. One building, designated as the junior high school, accommodates most of the ninth and tenth grade academic classes and some home-making classes. There is a library in this unit. Other classes of the high school meet in the other buildings on the campus. Many of these buildings were not designed for the present uses, and

therefore, are not satisfactory teaching areas. Some temporary buildings are also being used. The new gymnasium stands out as a good modern school unit.

In the Ellisville Municipal Separate School District there is one attendance center for white children, housing grades one through eight. The original building is brick and contains, in addition to classrooms, the auditorium. The new building, which has needed two additions, provides for the cafeteria. The buildings are good and should serve for many years. Some general overhauling and site improvement should be planned.

In the Laurel Municipal Separate School District there are nine attendance centers for white children.

Central Elementary School. This building is a brick building near the center of town on a very small site. This building has long since served its usefulness as a school building and should be abandoned as a school.

Gardiner Elementary School. Across the street from the Central Elementary School, it possesses similar characteristics. It, too, has served its purpose and should be abandoned as a school.

Lamar Elementary School. The older portion of this building has been thoroughly remodeled and modern wings have been added. Of brick construction, it will be used for many years. Unfortunately, the site is small, and no further construction should be considered. The site needs considerable improvement.

Prentiss Elementary School. This building also consists of an old building that has been remodeled and a new wing added. It, too, will be used many years. The limited site precludes any addition. Site improvement is in order.

Stone Deavours Elementary School. The brick original building has had extensive additions. A frame lunchroom building is convenient to the main unit. This unit has many useful years ahead. The site of this school is by far the most ample of any of the Laurel Elementary

Schools but should be subject to continuous improvement. Removal of the senior high school shop from this site would be considered an item of improvement.

Junior High School. The original section of this building was built in 1926. An addition constructed in 1930 increased its capacity, but at present, it lacks many features which can be expected of a modern junior high school. When alterations are made and replacement of much of the antiquated seating equipment is achieved, the building, under proper care, should serve many years. Additions to the building should be avoided because of the limited site.

Homemaking Building. Across the street from the junior high school, this building serves both senior and junior high school classes. It will be used for some time.

Wisner Building. Located at a point midway between the junior high school and the senior high school, this unit provides service areas for both schools. A gymnasium-auditorium combination room, a band

hall, shops, and a small cafeteria are in this building. Although it is not too far from either school, it is also inconvenient to each, especially to the high school. It may be useful for many years, but due to site limitations, no additions should be made.

Gardiner Senior High School. In one of the more picturesque settings for high schools in any area, this building was built nearly forty years ago. At that time Laurel was a small community with a small high school. The plan of this building was probably sound at that time, but in 1956, it is completely outmoded. Small classrooms, a reconstructed library, outmoded auditorium, all make it an obsolete building. Basement areas are used for classrooms and considerable ingenuity used to overcome the many deficiencies of the plant. Recently, structural and mechanical difficulties have occurred which further reduce the efficiency of the building. This building should be replaced at once by a new, modern senior high school building, probably located on the same site. In planning the new building,

consideration should be given to using the older building until the new building is constructed.

Machinshop. The senior high school machinshop is located on the Stone Deavours Elementary School site. It should be abandoned when the new senior high school is built and accommodations for all shops should be provided in the new building.

The Negro Schools

Table VI-N, which follows, presents school plant data for each of these school centers for Negroes in Jones County.

Benson. There are three buildings in this unit. The high school building is concrete block, the elementary school and cafeteria building frame. They are located on an adequate site through which a public thoroughfare passes. The plant is obsolete and should not be used for a school.

Friendship. A frame classroom building, teachers' home, and a concrete block cafeteria building are

TABLE VI-N

NEGRO SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Type of Construction	Date Constructed	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ellisville S. D.	Brick	1934-55	Good	.1.07	\$ 45,000
Laurel S. D.					
Oak Park High	Frame	1928	Fair	14	\$100,000
Nora Davis El.	Brick	1948	Good	6	145,000
Sandy Gavin El.	Brick	1927,1952	Good-Fair	2	220,000
Benson	Frame - Concrete	1938,1949	Obsolete	27	15,000
Friendship	Frame	1931	Obsolete	5	3,100
Jones Co. Tng.	Concrete		Obsolete	40	6,000
Mt. Olive	Frame	1922,54	Obsolete	12	7,500
Shady Oak	Frame - Brick	1953	Obsolete - Fair	8	51,500

TABLE VI-N (CONT'D.)

NEGR SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center and Name of Building	Number of Classrooms							Office Rooms	Library (Seats)	Lunchroom or Cafeteria Seats	Indoor Toilets	Indoor Fountains	Gymnasium	Auditorium (Seats)
	Regular	Homemaking	Commercial	Music	Science Laboratory	Agriculture	Shop							
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
Ellisville S. D.	5									65	No	2		200
Laurel S. D.														
Oak Park High	13	1	1		1	1	2	48		150	2	1		300
Nora Davis El.	15						1			120	4	3		450
Sandy Gavin El.	16						1			yes	4	2		700
Benson	9				1	1				50				300
Friendship	6									100				150
Jones Co. Tng.	12				1	1				50				No
Mt. Olive	12					1				No				125
Shady Oak	10					1				No	2	1		100

Source: Offices of the Superintendents.

the components of this unit. A building designated as a shop also exists. The site is small. This plant is obsolete and should be abandoned.

Jones County Training School. Two classroom buildings and a shop building exist here. None of these should be retained as school buildings.

Mt. Olive. Three buildings, including two classroom buildings and a shop, make up this obsolete unit. It should be abandoned.

Shady Oak. A new classroom building, which is the only school building for Negroes that has any substantial value in the county, and an obsolete shop and second classroom building are located here. Only the new classroom building has value. When additions are made here, additional site must be purchased.

In Ellisville one attendance center for Negro children is maintained. Grades one through eight are housed in a brick building which is of sound construction and has some value. There

is also a cafeteria building. The site is too small and must be enlarged if additional buildings are to be located here.

Three attendance centers for Negro children are maintained in the Laurel Municipal Separate School District.

Nora Davis Elementary School. This new building, is well-designed and well-constructed, and will render long service as an elementary school. It is centrally located with respect to the population it serves. Continued site improvement will increase its efficiency. Additional site, up to at least 12 acres, should be purchased now.

Sandy Gavin Elementary School. This school is composed of two units, an older unit which can be used with some renovation, but for which an early replacement should be considered. The new unit is well-planned for use as an elementary school. The site is small and additional site, even at considerable expense, should be obtained.

Oak Park High School. Five separate units make up this campus-type school. Although, each is

of frame construction, it can serve well the high school pupils until new construction is completed. The site of this school is probably unsurpassed by any school anywhere. Future plant development here will only be limited by lack of imagination of the community.

Current Costs

Present Financial Status. The financial status of the various districts in Jones County and the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts as reported for the 1955-56 school year is presented in Table VII, which follows. From this table it may be seen that the assessed valuation of Jones County, including Ellisville and Laurel, is slightly more than 35 million dollars. The assessed valuation of the Ellisville Separate School District is about one and one-half million dollars and for the Laurel Separate School District is slightly more than 19 million dollars, based on county assessments. Properties in the City of Ellisville and in the City of Laurel are subject to two assessments- - one by the county and one by the city. The city assessment of the

TABLE VII

ASSESSED VALUE, MILLAGE, INDEBTEDNESS AND
FUNDS ON HAND, BY DISTRICT, JONES
COUNTY, 1955-56

District	Assessed Value	Current Expense Millage	Indebtedness		Funds on Hand June 30, 1956
			Bonded	Floating	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
County (Includes Laurel & Ellis.)	\$35,280,123 a	10	--		\$ 16,817
Antioch	142,150	10	--		871
*Bryan	127,751	10	--		460
Calhoun	576,374	10	\$ 39,130		130
*Centerville	185,977	10	--		8
*Eatonville Line	71,779	10	--		130
*Gitano	337,704	10	--		-266
Glade	487,626	10	25,580		1,207
*Hebron	214,262	10	--		13
Johnson	367,898	10	--		5,287

a Mississippi State Tax Commission Bulletin No. 51.

TABLE VII (CONT'D.)

ASSESSED VALUE, MILLAGE, INDEBTEDNESS AND FUNDS ON HAND, BY DISTRICT, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

District	Assessed Value	Current Expense Millage	Indebtedness		Funds on Hand June 30, 1956
			Bonded	Floating	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Landrum	\$ 91,537	10	\$ 80		\$ 859
Moselle	935,568	10	95,900		- 43
Myrick	527,263	10	14,800		994
Oak Bowery	166,499	10	3,000		247
Ovett R.S.D.	286,314	10	--		6,706
*Oak Grove	165,534	10	200		--
Pendorf	932,263	10	68,000		4,905
*Pine Grove	247,267	10	--		834
Pleasant Ridge	237,425	10	7,420		633
Powers	635,877	10	56,000		7,597
Rainey	254,745	10	5,020		2,410

TABLE VII (CONT'D.)

ASSESSED VALUE, MILLAGE, INDEBTEDNESS AND
FUNDS ON HAND, BY DISTRICT, JONES
COUNTY, 1955-56

District	Assessed Value	Current Expense Millage	Indebtedness		Funds on Hand June 30, 1956
			Bonded	Floating	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
*Sanford Line	\$ 23,421	10	\$ --		\$ 26
Sand Hill	175,449	10	13,000		1,831
Sandersville	2,191,936	10	34,900		6,286
Shady Grove	756,892	10	37,700		342
Sharon	457,608	10	13,740		69
Soso	691,988	10	14,860		333
Sweetwater	216,535	10	--		1,424
Union	244,369	10	--		4,053
Union Line	191,684	10	--		1,135
Whitfield	237,751	10	4,890		1,293

TABLE VII (CONT'D.)

ASSESSED VALUE, MILLAGE, INDEBTEDNESS AND FUNDS ON HAND, BY DISTRICT, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

District	Assessed Value	Current Expense Millage	Indebtedness		Funds on Hand June 30, 1956
			Bonded	Floating	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ellisville S.D. Co. assessment	\$1,437,080	17	\$ 30,000		\$ 7,191
City assessment	1,729,736				
Per cent city is of county assessment	120				
Laurel S.D. Co. assessment	19,094,880	15	^{504,000} 1,403,000		661
City assessment	25,489,521				
Per cent city is of county assessment	133				
County less Laurel, county assessments	16,185,043				

*Maintains no school in Jones County.

Source: Office of the Superintendents and the State Department of Education.

City of Ellisville is higher, being \$1,729,736, while the county assessment is only \$1,437,080. Percentage-wise, the city assessment is 20 per cent more than the county assessment for the same property. Likewise for Laurel, the city assessment is higher than is that of the county. The city assessment is \$25,489,521, and the county assessment is \$19,094,880. Percentage-wise, the Laurel assessment is 33 per cent more than the county assessment. Tax-wise, the county must levy on its assessments 1.20 mills and 1.33 mills, respectively, to equal revenue secured from a one-mill levy by Ellisville and Laurel on their assessments.

A 10-mill levy was made for current expenses for each of the consolidated school districts and the Ovetts Rural Separate School District, as shown in Table VII. Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts levied 17 mills and 15 mills, respectively, and these levies were based on city assessments. A 10-mill county-wide (exclusive of Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts) school tax also was levied on

the districts in the county as a part of the minimum foundation program fund, and this must be added to the district millage for the total levy. Thus, all school districts in the county levied a total of 20 mills for school current expenses. These tax levies did not include levies for buildings, bonds or other capital outlay purposes.

The 17-mill tax levy of Ellisville based on her city assessment corresponds to 20.4 on the county assessments. Laurel's 15 mills on her city assessment corresponds to 20.0 mills on the county assessment. Thus, all districts impose about the same net tax for the current expenses of schools.

It may be seen from the columns indicating the amount of indebtedness, that very little school indebtedness exists for most districts. However, some districts have sizeable debts. County districts with indebtedness between 25 and 50 thousand dollars are: Glade, Sandersville, Shady Grove, and Calhoun. County districts with indebtedness between 50 and 100 thousand dollars are: Powers, Pendorff, and Mozelle. The

Ellisville district had \$30,000 indebtedness and the Laurel district \$1,403,000. The amount of funds on hand June 30, 1956, for many of the districts, was not large. However, several districts had sizeable sums on hand. Overtt, Johnson, and Union, all had sizeable sums on hand, but had no bonded debt. Other districts with sizeable sums had bonded debt.

Operation Costs. The cost of operating the schools in Jones County and in the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts for 1955-56, is presented in Table VIII, which follows. It should be stated that the present accounting system of school funds does not account for funds strictly according to the three major divisions shown. However, from the annual reports, it was possible to break down a reasonable charge for each one of these items with respect to expenses of administration and the like, which could be charged in order to get the per pupil cost.

Per Pupil Cost. Probably the most significant column in Table VIII is the one listing the per

TABLE VIII

TOTAL AND PER PUPIL COST OF OPERATING SCHOOLS, BY THREE MAJOR DIVISIONS,
BY ATTENDANCE CENTER, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

District	Number Pupils ADA	Costs				Per Capita Costs			
		In-struction*	Trans-portion	Opera-tion	Total**	In-struction*	Trans-portion	Opera-tion	Total**
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Antioch	93	\$3,161	\$1501	\$726	\$10,388	\$88	\$16	\$8	\$112
Calhoun	503	42,314	7140	5713	55,167	84	14	11	110
Glade	494	43,674	4750	7209	55,633	88	10	15	113
Johnson	100	11,154	2901	1430	15,485	111	29	14	155
Landrum	42	4,434	1156	1626	7,216	106	28	39	172
Moselle	276	33,570	6287	6593	46,450	122	23	24	168
Myrick	452	36,408	7616	7569	51,593	81	17	17	114
Oak Bowery	48	6,045	1599	886	8,530	126	33	18	178
Pendorff	200	19,871	1620	3104	24,595	99	8	16	123
Pleasant Ridge	229	21,766	6521	3830	32,117	95	28	17	140
Powers	228	22,877	5758	3811	32,446	100	25	17	142
Rainey	95	10,298	3225	2161	15,684	108	34	23	165
Sandersville	478	45,557	8234	8284	62,075	95	17	17	130
Sand Hill	77	7,236	2722	1547	11,505	94	35	20	149
Shady Grove	447	41,861	7071	11,126	60,058	94	16	25	134
Sharon	304	28,394	4237	5602	38,233	93	14	18	126

TABLE VIII (CONT'D.)

TOTAL AND PER PUPIL COST OF OPERATING SCHOOLS, BY THREE MAJOR DIVISIONS,
BY ATTENDANCE CENTER, JONES COUNTY, 1955-56

District	Number Pupils ADA	Costs			Per Capita Costs				
		In-struction*	Trans-portion	Opera-tion	Total**	In-struction*	Trans-portion	Opera-tion	Total**
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Soso	341	\$39,362	6616	9032	55,010	115	19	26	161
Sweetwater	96	8,777	3814	1630	14,221	91	40	17	148
Union Cons.	67	7,096	4163	877	12,136	106	62	13	181
Union Line	80	8,993	1973	1668	12,634	112	25	21	158
Whitfield	182	18,329	2557	2299	23,185	101	14	13	127
Ellisville S.D.	573	49,738	4519	12,626	66,883	87	8	22	117
Laurel S.D.	3006	366,325		79,337	445,662	122		26	148
Ovett S.D.	154	12,992	3165	2945	19,102	84	21	19	124
Jones Co. Negro	1306	120,296	23,724	16,745	160,765	92	18	13	123
Ellisville Negro	163	10,157	1195	407	11,759	62	7	2	72
Laurel Negro	1820	116,211		20,692	136,903	64		11	75

Source: State Department of Education.

pupil cost. By and large, per pupil costs for schools in Jones County and the separate school districts is low. It may be seen from the table that the per pupil cost for white schools ranges from \$110 for the school at Calhoun to \$181 for the elementary school at Union. Usually, schools operating a high school have a higher per pupil cost than do those having only an elementary school. However, this is not the case with respect to some of the white schools in Jones County. The per pupil cost for the Ellisville Elementary School was \$117 and for the schools in the Laurel Separate School District the cost was \$148. Per pupil cost for Negroes was relatively much lower than for the white pupils in the separate school districts and in most of the county schools. These costs were: Jones County, \$123, Laurel, \$75, and Ellisville, \$72.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COSTS

Jones County and the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts have presented many problems that had to be considered in planning for reorganization. Some of these problems were brought about because of the large size of the county, the sparcity of the Negro population, the great number of white inhabitants, and the existence of the Jones County Agricultural High School. Recommendations in this chapter were accepted by the survey staff only after much thought and time had been given various proposals and what effect each would make on the children involved. The survey staff realizes that in some instances there may be more than one possible solution to a given situation. Moreover, it is known by the survey staff that in some of the details, the people who live in a given area are far better versed on detail procedures than the staff. Most of the recommendations listed are major, and for each one the survey staff thinks that its judgments

are educationally and financially sound. It believes that if the recommendations were submitted to a group of leading educators for evaluation, they would each be adjudicated as sound.

District Reorganization

Two Districts. The survey staff believes that two school districts would be the best district organization plan for Jones County and the Ellisville and Laurel Separate School Districts. The staff recommends:

1. That the Municipal Separate School District of Laurel be reconstituted without changes in boundaries.
2. That the Municipal Separate School District of Ellisville be reorganized into a special municipal separate school district embracing all the territory in Jones County, exclusive of the territory in the Laurel Municipal Separate School District.

The special municipal separate school district is a new type school district provided in Senate Bill 1640 passed by the legislature in 1956.

This type of district for Jones County should be carefully considered. In the opinion of the survey staff, this type district is better for Jones County than is the county-unit district. Both of these types of districts use the county assessments as a basis for levying taxes.

However, the selection of the board in the county-wide district allows the voter the privilege of voting for only one of the five school board members; whereas in the special municipal separate school district, according to the recommendation which follows, the voter is allowed to vote for all five members of the school board. Thus, the school board is responsible to all the people in the district, rather than to the people in one beat. Jones County is fortunate to have the Ellisville Municipal Separate School District, since only through an existing municipal separate school district may a special municipal district be formed.

The special municipal separate school district provides that representatives on the school board may be secured in a variety of ways, but

it is recommended by the survey staff that the school board be elected on a county-wide basis. It is further recommended that the school boards and governing officials involved in the selection of the initial board of trustees of the proposed special municipal separate school district, select two members from the present board of the Ellisville Municipal Separate School District board and three members from the present Jones County Board of Education. Further, the survey staff recommends that the present Jones County superintendent become the superintendent of the proposed special municipal separate school district.

Attendance Centers

In determining the location of attendance centers, consideration was given to the following:

1. The regulations of the State Educational Finance Commission, as they relate to the existence of high schools for each race within each school district.
2. The state law particularly as it relates to the minimum education program.

3. The time required for transporting the child to his school.

4. Concern for the cost of the additional plants needed and as a factor of this, the utilization of existing facilities when their condition renders such use feasible.

5. Educational factors which produce the greatest return from the annual expenditure per child.

White Schools. The attendance center areas for white children may be placed in seven groups.

A discussion of each follows.

- I. a. 1. Laurel High School
2. Glade School
3. Myrick School
4. Powers School(no high school)
5. Shady Grove School

High schools at these four schools should be continued at present. However, the high school in Laurel is inadequate to house the number of boys and girls now attending. It is recommended that a new high school be built in Laurel and that the new school be of such a size as to accommodate the high school youngsters, grades nine through 12, for Laurel and for Glade, Myrick,

Powers, and Shady Grove. It is recommended that when such a high school is built, high school boys and girls from these four county schools be transferred to Laurel on a tuition basis.

Until the proposed high school is built, it is recommended that the high schools at Glade, Myrick, and Shady Grove, continue operating and that the pupils from the Powers area continue to attend the high school they are now attending.

Details and costs of such a high school are presented later. However, the cost of such a proposed high school should be borne mainly by the Laurel Separate School District, but an amount proportionate to the number of high school youngsters anticipated from outside this district should be borne by the district in which Glade, Myrick, Powers, and Shady Grove will be located after reorganization. After the erection of the proposed high school and the elementary schools recommended later, all children residing in the Laurel Municipal Separate School District should attend school in the Laurel schools.

b. Laurel Junior High Schools

Laurel should continue to operate the junior high school but should plan the proposed high school to accommodate the ninth grade and relieve the overcrowding in the junior high school. This should be considered as only an intermediate step, however, since with the growth in the Laurel area, it is anticipated by the survey staff that another junior high school plant will need to be constructed in a different part of the city within the next ten years. Therefore, the proposed high school should be built large enough to accommodate all youngsters in grades nine through 12, indicated in the foregoing paragraphs - - but not so large as to accommodate a sizeable increased number, since it is proposed that as such a sizeable increase occurs, the ninth grade, including ninth grades from Glade, Myrick, Powers, and Shady Grove, be removed from the proposed high school and distributed in the present and the proposed junior high schools. All boys and girls in grades seven through nine should be allowed to attend the junior high school nearest their homes.

c. Laurel Elementary Schools

In the opinion of the survey staff, the Lamar, Prentiss, and Stone Deavours elementary schools should be continued. However, the Central Elementary School and the Silas Gardner Elementary School should be discontinued as school attendance centers. These two schools, located in the heart of the city, have served their usefulness as schools. Cost figures for elementary schools at different locations to accommodate the pupils now attending these schools, are presented later.

- d. 1. Glade School
2. Myrick School
- (a). Antioch School
3. Powers School
4. Shady Grove School

After the proposed high school has been built in Laurel with the pupils in grades nine through 12 from the above-named schools attending on a tuition basis, these four schools should be continued as elementary schools, grades one through eight. Pupils now attending the Antioch school should attend the Myrick school, and the Antioch school should be discontinued as a school attendance center.

II. Pendorff School

It is recommended that the present elementary school at Pendorff be continued, but only for grades one through six. It is suggested that grades seven and eight be discontinued in this school and that the children in grades seven and eight be sent to the proposed junior high school at Ellisville. High school youngsters from the Pendorff area should continue to attend the school they are now attending.

III. 1. Sandersville School 2. Sharon School

It is recommended that the Sandersville school continue to operate grades one through 12, and that the Sharon school send its students, grades nine through 12, to Sandersville. This will provide a high school of minimal defensible size within a few miles of all the pupils involved. The Sharon school should be continued as an elementary school, grades one through eight.

IV. 1. Calhoun School 2. Pleasant Ridge School 3. Soso School

The Pleasant Ridge elementary school, grades one -

eight, and the Calhoun and Soso schools, grades one through 12, should be continued at present. However, if and when growth of school population makes it necessary to enlarge either the Calhoun or the Soso school plants, then instead of enlarging these schools it is recommended that a new high school building for grades nine through 12 be built in the Calhoun area and that all the high school pupils enrolled in the Calhoun school and in the Soso school attend this proposed high school. If such a high school is erected, the children in the elementary school at Pleasant Ridge should attend the Calhoun school, and the Pleasant Ridge school should be discontinued as a school attendance center. On the other hand, if the number of high school pupils at Calhoun and Soso decrease substantially, then the high school pupils from one school should be transferred to the other school and the high schools consolidated.

- V. 1. Moselle School
 - a. Rainey School
 - b. Sweetwater School
 - c. Union School

The Moselle school should be continued as a school attendance center, but only as an elementary school for pupils in grades one through eight. Moselle pupils in grades nine through 12 should attend high school at Ellisville. Pupils in grades one through eight, now attending school at Rainey, Sweetwater, and Union, should attend school at Moselle, and these three schools should be discontinued as school attendance centers.

VI. 1. Whitfield School
a. Ovet School

The Whitfield school should be continued as a school attendance center but only for grades one through eight. Whitfield pupils in grades nine through 12 should attend high school at Ellisville. Pupils in grades one through eight now attending school at Ovet should attend the school at Whitfield, and the Ovet school should be discontinued as a school attendance center.

Pupils from Perry County desiring to attend the elementary school at Whitfield or the high school at Ellisville should be allowed to do so on a tuition basis.

- VII. 1. Ellisville School
- a. Johnson School
 - b. Oak Bowery School
 - c. Sand Hill School

There is need for school construction at Ellisville.

For many years the Jones County Agricultural High School has served as the high school for the boys and girls in Ellisville and in the south and east sections of Jones County. There are advantages and disadvantages in continuing the present high school arrangement, and the citizens of Jones County know them well.

It is recommended by the survey staff that a high school be located in Ellisville. The survey staff believes, however, that the choice of continuing the present arrangement with the Jones County Agricultural High School or of building a new high school should be the choice of the people involved. If the present arrangement is continued, it is recommended that financial accounting be made, as is now required for high schools in consolidated or municipal separate school districts and that such accounting be submitted to the public school district

superintendent and district board for their information. All financial transactions involving payments or receipts for high school pupils should be kept entirely separate from transactions involving junior college students even though, in some instances, it will be necessary to prorate amounts. County-wide tax for the support of the Jones County Agricultural High School should not be levied, since Laurel will not benefit from the Jones County Agricultural High School but will have to support her own high school. Tuition from district tax sources, over and above the funds from the minimum foundation program, should be paid, however.

If the present arrangement with the Jones County Agricultural High School is continued, then a junior high school, grades seven and eight, should be built. The proposed junior high school should be located in Ellisville, near the site of the present elementary school. Ellisville and Pendorff pupils in grades seven and eight should attend this school.

If a high school separate and apart from the

Jones County Agricultural High School is desired, then it is recommended that a junior-senior high school, grades seven through 12, be built in Ellisville on a new site.

Pupils from the Johnson, Oak Bowery, and Sand Hill schools should attend the schools at Ellisville, and these three schools should be discontinued as school attendance centers.

Negro Schools. The attendance center areas for Negro children may be placed in three groups. These groups are discussed in the following paragraphs.

- I. a. 1. Laurel Oak Park High School
 - (a). Benson School
 - (b). Ellisville School
 - (c). Friendship School
 - (d). Mt. Olive School

The Laurel Oak Park High School, grades seven through 12, should be continued and the pupils in these grades now attending school at Benson, Ellisville, Friendship, and Mt. Olive, should attend the Oak Park High School on a tuition basis. The present Friendship school and the

Mt. Olive school for pupils in grades one through six, should be consolidated. A new building for these pupils should be built in or near Sandersville and both of the present schools discontinued as school attendance centers.

b. Laurel Elementary Schools

The Nora Davis and the Sandy Gavin schools should be continued as school attendance centers for pupils in grades one through six.

II. Shady Oak School

a. Jones County Training School

The Shady Oak school and the Jones County Training School should be combined and located at the Shady Oak school. The new building at Shady Oak should be used, but the other building should be razed and a new plant built.

III. Ellisville Schools

a. Benson Elementary School

The elementary school, grades one through six, should be continued at Ellisville, and the pupils in these grades, now attending the Benson school, should attend school here. The Benson school should be discontinued as a school attendance center.

If the recommendations for consolidating school attendance centers are put into operation, the following will occur:

1. There will be a teacher for each grade.
2. All children will attend school in pleasant buildings that will house many children of their own age.
3. Much better educational opportunities for boys and girls in Jones County will be available than were previously provided.

Alternate Proposal

There is no doubt in the minds of the survey staff but that the recommendations for district reorganization, presented before, are superior to the alternate proposal which follows.

However, if it is not possible for the Jones County School Board and the Ellisville Separate School District Board of Trustees to accept the recommendations at this time, an intermediate step might be taken.

Intermediate Step. An intermediate step might allow two consolidated school districts to be organized. District I should consist of Beats

One and Three, exclusive of the Laurel Municipal Separate School District, and District II should consist of Beats Two, Four, and Five. If this step is taken, the same schools should be built as are recommended in the foregoing pages, and the children should attend the same schools they would attend if there were only one district. If the intermediate step is taken, the conditions of the Educational Finance Commission will be met with the exception that no high school for Negroes will exist in proposed District I. If it is necessary to accept two consolidated districts rather than the one special municipal separate school district which is recommended, then a petition should be made to the Educational Finance Commission to allow the Negro high school pupils to attend the high school for their race in Laurel. This would allow the pupils the chance to attend the same school on the same basis, regardless of the type of district organization. It is the opinion of the survey staff that the intermediate step is inferior to the plan recommended, but that it is superior to

a county-unit plan. The intermediate step would however, provide for two district school boards and one county school board. The assessed valuation of the two districts would be some six and one-third million dollars for District I and some seven and one-third million dollars for District II.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

If the proposed plan for reorganization is followed by the schools in Jones County, Ellisville, and Laurel, school construction, including new buildings, additions to old buildings, remodeling of old buildings and equipment, additions and replacements will be necessary. The building proposals submitted here are on the basis of modern design, fire-resistant construction and minimum requirements. It is possible to erect buildings for the educational programs which will cost less, and it is possible to exceed the current estimates. The staff believes the estimates presented here provide a fair basis for estimating the total

building program cost.

In the proposed Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County, all schools which are recommended for continued use need some replacements or major repairs, equipment additions, and site improvements. The amount estimated for these should be considered as the initial step toward the goal of improved housing, but it should be emphasized that a continuous program of maintenance is necessary to prolong the life and to insure the usefulness of the school plant.

County

White Schools. Whether the people of the Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County desire to continue their present relationship with the Jones County Agricultural High School or not, some construction at Ellisville will be necessary. Two estimates are submitted for study.

The first anticipates continued use of the present Jones County Agricultural High School and plans

for the erection of a junior high school, housing grades seven and eight. This construction should be near the present Ellisville Elementary School, so that duplication of existing units, such as the cafeteria and the auditorium will be avoided, and so that within the new building certain areas such as the physical education and health area may be available to pupils in grades one through six. Its construction will relieve the present elementary plant of grades seven and eight, providing classroom space for pupils transferred from schools which are to be closed. Three hundred pupils could be accommodated in this unit.

The second or alternate estimate proposes a new junior-senior high school, grades seven through 12, unit on a new site. This means that the Jones County Agricultural High School would no longer serve as the high school for Ellisville and some parts of Jones County, and the present Jones County Agricultural High School facilities would become available for use

of the Jones County Junior College. This alternate proposed unit would house 1000 junior-senior high school pupils.

Negro Schools. As is the case in most districts in Mississippi, construction of Negro schools occupies an important part of the building program.

An addition to the Ellisville Elementary School is recommended. The present building can be placed in good condition and when equipped, it, together with the new addition, will care for at least 325 pupils.

A new elementary school at or near Sandersville will provide building accommodations for 350 elementary school pupils. This building as all buildings should be built on an ample site with good physical characteristics. The nearness of public utilities and the accessibility to the highway system, together with freedom from traffic hazards, should be major concerns in site selection.

Board of Education Building. When the new Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County is established, the board of education, its chief executive and his assistants will need much more space for the performance of their duties than now exists. In addition to office space, this unit should provide a warehouse for storage of equipment and supplies and shops where the maintenance of all types of school materials will be carried on. It would probably be more convenient for this building to be located in or near Ellisville.

Laurel

White Schools. The Silas Gardiner and the Central Elementary Schools should be replaced by a new building on a site located most convenient to the children who will attend school in the proposed new building. The business area of Laurel, expanding as it is, precludes the use of the present site. The proposed new building provides for an enrollment of 600 in grades one through six.

The junior high school needs and should use the entire homemaking unit as well as the Wisner Building. Classes in the junior high school are now using rooms which are not suited for the purposes of a modern junior high school..

The Gardiner high school building has had long and useful service. Since it was designed and constructed as a small high school having only an academic curriculum, it is doubtful whether remodeling even though of major character could overcome the limitations the old construction places on a modern secondary school program. Serious structural difficulties have arisen in recent years. The roof, plumbing, heating and power facilities are in poor condition. It is recommended that a new high school, accommodating twelve hundred pupils, be constructed on the present site. The proposed building should provide adequate quarters for a secondary school for many, many years. It is believed that the present building can be razed for the value of its salvage.

Negro Schools. All new buildings are in excellent condition. Additional classrooms should be added as enrollment justifies. Generally, some addition to school site will be needed when this occurs.

The old building at the Sandy Gavin school should be kept in good repair, but a date should be determined for replacing it with a modern unit.

The site of the Oak Park High School probably is not surpassed by a school site anywhere.

The present buildings which are all frame should be replaced by a new plant which should accommodate 1000 pupils in grades seven through 12. Consideration should be given to the development of a campus-type design for the new plant.

All schools, Negro and white, in the Laurel Separate School District, should be studied for necessary equipment and replacement of equipment. All school sites should be improved and landscaped in order that the schools provide the aesthetic values comparable to those in the residence sections of Laurel.

Board of Education Building. The present quarters for the board of education and its chief executive in Laurel are not satisfactory for the services which this office should perform. A new unit should be constructed which not only will provide sufficient accommodations for administrative and supervisory services but which will provide warehouse space for equipment and supplies and shops for maintaining school equipment. The building should be located, so that it will be convenient to all who will use it.

Transportation. The rural road system in Jones County is being used for current school transportation, and little difficulty is encountered in even the worst winter weather. Transportation provided pupils in the future should be even better since the road system is being constantly improved, and school busses are becoming more comfortable and safer than ever before. Rerouting of some busses which is necessary under the proposed plans for attendance centers also should provide more

efficient transportation. Some consideration should be given to establishing bus routings which will provide for the separation of elementary pupils and secondary pupils when schools for each are located in different areas.

When bus routes are replanned it appears that no elementary child will remain on the bus for an unreasonable period of time. Due to the reduction of the number of secondary schools, high school pupils will have a longer period for transportation, but this period should not be so long that it will be harmful to the pupils.

The school board continuously should be evaluating attendance areas. Children should be provided with the opportunity to attend the school that is most convenient and most desirable to them. This opportunity should exist irrespective of district lines within or without the administrative units of Jones County.

Proposed Attendance Centers. Tables IX-W and IX-N, which follow, list the proposed attendance centers and the anticipated enrollment of each.

TABLE IX-W

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PUPILS IN AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE IN PROPOSED WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTERS IN JONES COUNTY

LAUREL		A.D.A.	
High School(9-12)		1177	
(Present A.D.A. 10-12, 541, to be continued until new building is constructed at which time Glade, Myrick, Powers, and Shady Grove pupils, grades 9-12, should attend here)			
Junior High School			
(Present)		727	
(Ninth grade to new high school)		515	
Elementary Schools		1783	
COUNTY-WIDE DISTRICT SCHOOLS			
Center	A.D.A.	Center	A.D.A.
<u>High Schools(9-12)</u>		<u>Elementary Schools(1-8)</u>	
<u>Present</u>			
1. Glade	114	1. Calhoun	335
2. Myrick	115	2. Glade	399
3. Shady Grove	115	3. Myrick	381
4. Calhoun	175	4. Moselle	460
5. Ellisville(A.H.S)	727	5. Pleasant	
6. Sandersville	217	Ridge	218
7. Soso	130	6. Powers	232
		7. Sanders-	
		ville	388
<u>Long Range</u>		8. Shady	
1. Calhoun	305	Grove	339
2. Sandersville	217	9. Sharon	206
3. Ellisville(A.H.S)	647	10. Soso	293
(Exclusive of 80		11. Whit-	
from Powers)		field	285
or		Elementary Schools(1-6)	
Ellisville Jr.-		1. Pendorff	159
Sr.High(7-12)	877	2. Ellis-	
		ville	606
		Junior High Schools(7-8)	
		1. Ellis-	
		ville	230

TABLE IX-N

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PUPILS IN AVERAGE DAILY
ATTENDANCE IN PROPOSED NEGRO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
CENTERS IN JONES COUNTY

LAUREL	A. D. A.
High School (9-12)	
Laurel Oak Park	839
Elementary Schools	
Nora Davis	601
Sandy Gavin	739

COUNTY-WIDE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Center	A. D. A.
Elementary-High Centers (1-12)	
Shady Oak	643
Elementary Schools (1-6)	
Ellisville	276
Mt. Olive	296

ELLISVILLE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL
DISTRICT FOR JONES COUNTY

White Schools

(If Jones County Agricultural High School is used)

Junior High School Grades 7-8 Enrollment 300
(Ellisville)

General purpose classroom, 6@750 sq.ft.	4,500
Multipurpose classrooms, 1 @ 1000 sq.ft.	1,000
Science classroom and laboratory, 1 @ 1200 sq.ft.	1,200
Homemaking suite	1,200
Industrial arts shop	1,500
Library	1,200
Physical Education and Health	10,000
Toilet Rooms 4 @ 300 sq.ft.	1,200
Administrative Suite	600
Auxiliary Services	2,000
Circulation	2,400
Construction	<u>1,500</u>

Total number square feet 28,300

Cost Estimate

Building	28,300 sq.ft. @\$9	\$254,700
Equipment		15,000
Site	10 acres @ \$1000	<u>10,000</u>
	Total	\$279,700

Alternate Plan

(If Jones County Agricultural High School is not used)

Junior-Senior High School Grades 7-12 Enrollment 1000
(Ellisville)

General Purpose Classrooms	16@750sq.ft.	12,000
Multipurpose Classrooms	3@1000sq.ft.	3,000
Science and Laboratory	3@1000sq.ft.	3,000
Business Education	3@833sq.ft.	2,500
Homemaking Suite	2@2000sq.ft.	4,000
Music Suite		1,500
Art Suite		1,250
Vocational Education	4@1125sq.ft.	4,500
Library		2,000
Physical Education		14,500
Auditorium, stage		7,200
Cafeteria - Kitchen		3,600
Toilet Rooms	6@300 sq.ft.	1,800
Administrative Suite	3@333 sq.ft.	1,000
Auxiliary Services		2,000
Circulation		12,770
Construction		11,380
Total number square feet		<u>88,000</u>

Cost Estimate

Building	88,000 sq.ft. @\$10	\$880,000
Equipment		90,000
Site	30 acres @\$1000	30,000
		<u>Total \$1,000,000</u>

Negro Schools

Ellisville(addition) Grades 1-6 Enrollment 325

General purpose classrooms	3@ 750 sq.ft.	2,250
Multipurpose classrooms	2@1000 sq.ft.	2,000
Toilet Rooms	4@ 300 sq.ft.	1,200
Gymnateria and Kitchen		2,200
Administrative Suite		600
Auxiliary Services		2,000
Circulation		2,000
Construction		1,250
Total number square feet		<u>13,500</u>

Cost Estimate

Building	13,500 sq.ft. @\$9	\$121,500
Equipment		9,500
Site	9 acres @\$400	3,600
Total		<u>\$134,600</u>

Sandersville Grades 1-6 Enrollment 350

General purpose classrooms	7@ 750 sq.ft.	5,250
Multipurpose classrooms	3@1000 sq.ft.	3,000
Toilet Rooms	2@ 300 sq.ft.	600
Cafetorium and Kitchen		2,200
Administrative Suite		600
Auxiliary Services		2,000
Circulation		2,400
Construction		1,250
Total number square feet		<u>17,300</u>

Cost Estimate

Building	17,300 sq.ft. @\$9	\$155,700
Equipment		13,500
Site	10 acres @\$200	2,000
Total		<u>\$171,200</u>

SUMMARY OF BUILDING COST ESTIMATES

Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School
for Jones County

<u>WHITE SCHOOLS</u>		<u>Alternate Plan</u>
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Ellisville)	\$279,700	
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Ellisville)		\$1,000,000
NEW EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS, AND SITE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD SCHOOL PLANTS	<u>150,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>
TOTAL FOR WHITE SCHOOLS	\$429,700	\$1,150,000
 <u>NEGRO SCHOOLS</u>		
ELEMENTARY (Sandersville)	\$171,200	\$171,200
ELEMENTARY (Ellisville Addition)	134,600	134,600
ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL (Shady Grove Addition)	<u>504,100</u>	<u>504,100</u>
TOTAL FOR NEGRO SCHOOLS	\$809,900	\$809,900
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING, WAREHOUSE AND REPAIR SHOPS	<u>\$ 66,800</u>	<u>\$ 66,800</u>
TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS	\$1,306,400	\$2,026,700
DIFFERENCE IN ALTERNATE PROPOSAL		\$720,300

LAUREL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

White Schools

Laurel Elementary School Grades 1-6 Enrollment 600

General purpose classrooms	14@ 750 sq.ft.	10,500
Multipurpose classrooms	3@1000 sq.ft.	3,000
Toilet Rooms	4@ 300 sq.ft.	1,200
Cafeteria(Dining Room and Kitchen)	1@3000 sq.ft.	3,000
Auditorium, stage, and foyer		4,800
Activity Room		4,800
Administrative Suite		800
Auxiliary Services		1,600
Circulation		4,000
Construction		2,000
Total number square feet		<u>35,700</u>

Cost Estimate

Building	35,700 sq. ft. @\$9	\$321,300
Equipment		16,000
Site	12 acres @\$2000	24,000
Total		<u>\$361,300</u>

Laurel Senior High School Grades 7-12 Enrollment 1200

General purpose classrooms	24@ 750sq.ft.	18,000
Multipurpose classrooms	6@1000sq.ft.	6,000
Science classroom and laboratory	3@1000sq.ft.	3,000
Business Education	3@ 833sq.ft.	2,500
Homemaking Suite	2@2000sq.ft.	4,000
Music Suite		2,000
Art Suite		1,400
Vocational Shops	4@1350sq.ft.	5,400
Library		2,000
Physical Education and Health		16,000
Auditorium and stage		8,400
Cafeteria-kitchen-dining room		3,600
Toilet Rooms	8@ 300sq.ft.	2,400
Administrative Area		1,200
Auxiliary Services		3,200
Circulation		20,000
Construction		10,000
Total number square feet		<u>109,100</u>

Cost Estimate

Building	109,100sq.ft. @\$10	\$1,091,000
Equipment		150,000
Site(grading and improvement)		3,000
Total building site		<u>\$1,244,000</u>

Negro Schools

Oak Park High School Grades 7-12 Enrollment 1000

General purpose classrooms	16@ 750sq.ft.	12,000
Multipurpose classrooms	3@1000sq.ft.	3,000
Science and laboratory	3@1000sq.ft.	3,000
Business Education	3@ 833sq.ft.	2,500
Homemaking Suite	2@2000sq.ft.	4,000
Music Suite		1,500
Art Suite		1,250
Vocational Education	4@1125sq.ft.	4,500
Library		2,000
Physical Education		14,500
Auditorium, stage		7,200
Cafeteria - Kitchen		3,600
Toilet Rooms	6@ 300sq.ft.	1,800
Administrative Suite	3@ 333sq.ft.	1,000
Auxiliary Services		2,000
Circulation		12,770
Construction		11,380
Total number square feet		<u>88,000</u>

Cost Estimate

Building	88,000 sq.ft. @\$10	\$ 880,000
Equipment		90,000
Site	30 acres @\$1000	30,000
Total		<u>\$1000,000</u>

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING, WAREHOUSE, AND REPAIR SHOPS

Offices		2,400 sq.ft.
Warehouse and shops		6,000 sq.ft.
Total		<u>8,400 sq.ft.</u>
8,400 sq.ft. @\$7		\$58,800
Equipment		4,000
Site 2 acres @\$2000		4,000
Total		<u>\$66,800</u>

SUMMARY OF BUILDING COSTS

Laurel Municipal Separate School District

WHITE SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$ 361,000
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	1,244,000
NEW EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS AND SITE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD BUILDING	<u>30,000</u>
Total	\$1,635,000

NEGRO SCHOOLS

OAK PARK JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	\$1,000,000
NEW EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS AND SITE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD BUILDINGS	<u>25,000</u>
	\$1,025,000

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING, WAREHOUSE, AND REPAIR SHOPS	\$ 66,800
Total	\$2,726,800

Financial Implications

Minimum Foundation Program. The proposed Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County and the Laurel Separate School District are required to bear a portion of the minimum foundation program. The total for Jones County, including the cities, is \$324,863. Of this, the amount to be raised by the Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County from ad valorem taxes is \$132,057, and by Laurel it is \$192,806, according to estimates based on the last economic index figures. (Poll tax receipts and severance taxes are also part of the local school district's contribution.) The ad valorem levy for the minimum program would require a 8.2 mills levy for the Jones County district based on county assessments and a 7.6 mills levy for the Laurel district based on city assessments and assuming 100 per cent collection and no collection costs. On a comparable assessment basis, Laurel would be required a 10.1 mill levy since Laurel is proportionately wealthier than the rest of Jones

County, as indicated by the county assessed valuations.

Cost Above the Minimum Foundation Program. The Laurel Separate School District schools, the Jones County Agricultural High School, as well as some of the schools in Jones County, were supported above the level of the minimum foundation program in 1955-56. In some schools more teachers were employed than were supported by the minimum foundation program. Moreover, the Laurel schools and the Jones County Agricultural High School, as well as the elementary school at Ellisville, operated a nine-month, rather than an eight-month term. In many schools the additional teachers were used either to enrich the curriculum or to provide more teachers than one per 30 children.

Most schools in the United States are finding a nine-month school term superior to an eight-month term. Laurel and the Jones County Agricultural High School and Ellisville are accustomed to operating nine months. It

seems equally desirable that all children in Jones County have a nine-month school term. Moreover, no school in the county should be brought from a nine-month to an eight-month term. Therefore, the survey staff recommends that a nine-month school term be provided for every child in Jones County. It is estimated that the additional month will cost about five mills in taxes. However, the benefits to the children and to the people in Jones County will, in the long run, offset the added effort. Some savings may occur in consolidation, but they will not offset the cost of the ninth month. However, spreading the bonded debt and new building debt over the entire proposed district will afford overall relief to some areas.

The total cost for current expenses for the schools in the proposed Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County operating for a nine-month term would be about five mills above the present 20-mill levy (10 mills for the minimum foundation

program fund and 10 mills district funds).

Transportation Costs. Transportation for an eight-months term is provided largely at state expense. The main added expense here to the districts is for transportation for the ninth school month, and this cost has been included in the amount for "enrichment program". Some savings may be effected in transportation when the proposed attendance centers are in operation.

Savings. Current expenses for the Laurel Separate School District would remain at 15 mills, until the proposed high school is built. Then, possibly, one additional mill will be needed to provide for added services in the school.

Building Costs. The proposed buildings will cost \$1,306,400, or \$2,026,700, if the Ellisville Junior-Senior High School is built for the proposed Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County. The cost will be \$2,726,800 for the Laurel Separate School District, according to the estimates in the foregoing pages. Of this amount, the state

will pay approximately \$1,876,590 to the Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County and \$1,250,910 to the Laurel Separate School District. However, the state limits immediate borrowing to 75 per cent of these amounts, or \$1,407,442 and \$938,128, respectively. The difference plus the amounts credited to the districts by the state since 1954 may be used for interest on the proposed borrowing.

When the proposed two high schools are built in Laurel some 424 white pupils and some 258 Negro pupils will be transferred to Laurel. This will reduce the amount of state funds for school buildings in the Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County by \$128,565 (75 per cent of the total) and increase the funds for Laurel by the same amount. Thus, the amounts Jones County and Laurel may anticipate are \$1,278,877 and \$1,066,693, respectively.

In addition, it is recommended that the Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County pay part of the building cost for

the 672 pupils transferred to the Laurel schools. It is estimated that the cost of the building divided by the number of pupils who will occupy it at one time will be about \$1,000. It is recommended that the district transferring the pupils pay one-half this amount less state funds. This would be \$341,000 less \$171,420 state funds(100 per cent) or \$169,580. This amount should be added to the cost of the Ellisville and subtracted from the Laurel districts.

Present outstanding building obligations for the territory embraced in the proposed Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County are \$464,220 and \$504,000 for the Laurel Separate School District.

The total cost to the proposed districts for the building payment for transferred pupils, outstanding bonds, and the proposed buildings is \$661,323, or \$1,381,623, if the Ellisville Junior-Senior High School is built for the Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County, and \$2,893,527 for

the Laurel district. On a 20-year basis these amounts will require an Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County millage of 2.1 or 4.3 if the junior-senior high school is built and a Laurel Separate School District millage of 3.9 - - all plus cost of collection. However, the total millage indicated is not in addition to present millage, since bonded indebtedness in the amounts of \$464,220 and \$504,000 is now being paid through millages on the various districts in Jones County and the Laurel Separate School District, respectively.

ESTIMATE OF MILLAGE FOR BUILDING COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Ellisville Special Municipal Separate School District for Jones County</u>	<u>Laurel Separate School District</u>
Buildings listed	\$1,306,400	\$2,726,800
Outstanding Bonds	464,220	504,000
Partial payment for building by 672 transfer pupils	169,580	(169,680)
	<u>\$1,940,200</u>	<u>\$3,061,220</u>
Less state building funds(75 per cent)	1,278,877	1,066,693
	<u>\$ 661,323</u>	<u>\$1,994,527</u>
Total	\$ 661,323	\$ 99,726
20-year period,per year	\$ 33,066	
Mills necessary for new buildings and present outstanding bonds	<u>2.1</u>	3.9
If junior-senior high school is built at Ellisville, add	\$ 661,323	If present bonded indebtedness of \$504,000 is retired under present arrangements, the only new millage is on \$1,490,527 and amounts to 2.9 over a 20-year period.
Total	<u>720,300</u>	
20-year period,per year	<u>\$1,381,623</u>	
Mills	4.3	

These millages represent approximately the levies that must be made over the next 20 years until the costs of the school buildings recommended in this report are paid. The number of teachers employed above the minimum foundation naturally will cause some fluctuations in current expenses. However, the over-all for this should change the millage only slightly.

Better Schools for All

The costs indicated above promise better schools for all. A nine-months school term will be extended to all the boys and girls in the entire county. New school buildings and new additions will be provided. Moreover, a high school curriculum that is broad, rich, and comprehensive, will be available to all boys and girls, white and Negro. The sooner the proposed plan is put into operation, the sooner the benefits of an improved education will be seen.

With this report, the Jones County School Board, the Boards of Trustees of the Ellisville Separate School District, and the Laurel Separate School District, and the people in these school districts,

have the privilege of deciding what they want to do with their schools.