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PARENT'S
COUNTY
BALDWIN
SEPARATE
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
SURVEY

THE REPORT OF A SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF
PRENTISS COUNTY
AND
BALDWIN SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bureau of Educational Research
School of Education
The University of Mississippi

July, 1956



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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Prentiss County. Prentiss County lies in the northeast part of the State of Mississippi. On the east it is bounded by Tishomingo County and is only some 10 miles from the State of Alabama. Alcorn County lies to the north of Prentiss County and separates it from the State of Tennessee. Tippah and Union Counties bound Prentiss County on the West, and on the south she is bounded by Lee and Itawamba Counties. For the most part, township and section lines describe the boundaries. Prentiss County has 418 square miles of territory, and at its widest points extends 20 miles north and south and 23 miles east and west. The town of Baldwyn lies partially in Prentiss County and partially in Lee County, the county line about equally dividing the town.

Most of Prentiss County is largely an agricultural county with some beef cattle. More than half of the labor force have jobs connected with agriculture, and about one-eighth of the workers are occupied in manufacturing.

Booneville, the only city in Prentiss County, is located near the center of the county, and Mississippi highway 4 intersects U.S. highway 45 there. Highway 45 extends north and south of Booneville and goes near Wheeler and through Baldwyn to the south. Mississippi highway 30 from New Albany to the west joins U.S. highway 45 near Wheeler.

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 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

1. Mississippi Code, 1942, Annotated, 1954 Supplement, Section 6246-01.

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 No. 3 reads:

Each school district reorganized or reconstituted under 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 No. 3 of the 1953 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature abolished all school districts,

1. Mississippi Code, 1942, Annotated, 1954 Supplement, Section 6246-11.

2. Ibid. Section 6328-03.

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 October 1, 1954, as amended under effective date 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 the general rule that such facilities 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 to maintain a high school for 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 Prentiss County Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of the Baldwin 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 Prentiss County, and each of the schools in the Baldwyn Separate School District. Also, the school at Guntown, five miles south of Baldwyn in Lee County, was visited and pictures made. Black and white pictures were made of the inside and outside of each school building. The pictures of the county schools and pictures of the separate school district schools are filed with the county superintendent and separate school district superintendent, respectively. Also, 50 copies of this report are filed with the county superintendent and 50 copies are filed with the separate school district superintendent.

In addition to the black and white pictures, color slides were made of all the schools for white children and several of the schools for Negroes. These slides showed 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 superintendent of the separate school district. 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 progress, the staff met with the superintendents and discussed the findings and progress of the survey. Prior to the drawing of conclusions or the forming of recommendations, the survey staff spoke at meetings in Booneville and Baldwyn. These meetings were arranged by the boards of education for the purpose of informing the people

about the survey. Both the meetings were well attended. At the Baldwyn meeting school officials and patrons from the east section of Union County and the north section of Lee County were in attendance, as well as the people from the Baldwyn Separate School District.

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 problem 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 Prentiss County and Baldwyn, 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 Prentiss County and the Baldwin Separate School District 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 Prentiss County and the people of the Baldwin Separate School District 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 the

Baldwyn Separate School District and of
Prentiss 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. Population in Prentiss County is decreasing. Although between 1930 and 1940 the county population rose from 19,265 to 20,921, a gain of 1656, by 1950 it had fallen to 19,810--a loss of 1111. These are the population figures reported by the U. S. Bureau of the Census which may be found in Table I, which follows. Moreover, according to 1955 estimates of population as listed in the Mississippi State College publication Mississippi's Counties, Some Social and Economic Aspects, the population of Prentiss County was down to 19,100--an additional loss of nearly 700 people. Thus--in a fifteen-year period, Prentiss lost nearly 1800 inhabitants or nine per cent of her population of 1940. This decrease is even greater than these figures indicate if the number of babies born in the county during this period is considered. This will be discussed later.

Table I, which follows, shows the population of Prentiss County by community and by beats for the years 1930, 1940,

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

1930, 1940, 1950

Beat Number	1950	1940	1930
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total for County	19,810	20,921	19,265
(White)	17,477	18,522	16,792
(Non-white)	2,333	2,399	2,473
One Booneville	7,131 (3,295)	6,340 (1,893)	5,567 (1,703)
Two	2,772	2,781	2,696
Three Baldwyn (part)	4,185 (818)	4,504 (669)	4,418 (603)
Four	2,821	3,672	3,536
Five	2,901	3,624	3,048
Per Cent Change 1950 from 1930		All 3 White 4 Non-white -6	
1950 from 1940		All -5 White -6 Non-white -3	

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

and 1950. It may be found from this table that between 1940 and 1950, Beats Four and Five lost in population, Beat Two remained about the same, and Beats One and Three gained in population. Beat Four had the heaviest loss of 851 people while Beat One gained 791. Booneville, which is in Beat One, gained 1402 and the part of Baldwyn that is in Prentiss County, gained 149. Thus, the beats containing Baldwyn and Booneville gained in population, while the other three lost. During this decade there was some out-migration of both whites and Negroes. The relatively small Negro population of 2399 in 1940 decreased to 2333--a loss of 66. However, the white population decreased from 18,522 to 17,477--a loss of 1045 white people.

Loss of population may be attributed to several reasons. First, the increased use of mechanized farm equipment has replaced many hand laborers. Second, the reduction of the total cotton acreage allotment has decreased the need for many other farm workers. Third, the out-migration of both whites and Negroes to cities tends to reduce the number of people in Prentiss County.

How much further the reduction in population will extend in the next ten years obviously is not known. It is thought, however, that the population will not increase in the next decade and probably will continue to decrease.

Number of Births in Decade. Between the years 1945 and 1954, inclusive, the total number of babies born in Prentiss County ranged from 413 in 1954 to 592 in 1947. The average number per year was 503. This information, as well as information in the rest of this paragraph, may be found in Table II, which follows. The number of white babies ranged from 344 in 1954 to 521 in 1947, while the number of Negro babies ranged from 51 in 1945 to 90 in 1949. The average number of white babies born yearly during this decade was 429 compared with 74 Negro babies. Of the babies born in Prentiss County from 1945 through 1954, about 85 per cent were white and 15 per cent were non-white. About this same ratio of white to non-white prevailed for the total population also. As was indicated previously the white population of

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

YEAR (1)	TOTAL (2)	BIRTHS	
		WHITE (3)	NON-WHITE (4)
1945	452	401	51
1946	589	515	74
1947	592	521	71
1948	575	502	73
1949	525	435	90
1950	538	450	88
1951	480	405	75
1952	438	355	83
1953	426	363	63
1954	413	344	69
Decade Average Number Per Cent	503 100	429 85	74 15

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

Prentiss County decreased by 1111 people between 1940 and 1950. During this period some 4300 white babies were born, thus, the total decrease in white population exceeded 5000. Likewise, the total decrease for the Negro population was 66 plus some 740 and so exceeded 800. Obviously, death accounts for some of the loss of population, but out-migration is responsible for most of it. This is true with respect to people of both races. This sizeable loss in population with indications of further losses has great bearing on the number and size of school buildings that should be established as school attendance centers in Prentiss County.

CHAPTER III

THE SCHOOLS IN PRENTISS COUNTY

White Schools

Number of Schools. At the time of this survey Prentiss County operated 13 schools. In addition, schools were operated by the Baldwyn Separate School District at Baldwyn and Pratt. The Baldwyn Separate School District is a line separate school district lying partially in Prentiss County and partially in Lee County. Shortly before this survey was started two white schools in Prentiss County had been discontinued as school attendance centers. Also, the two schools, Burton and New Hope, had combined, but continued to use both buildings. One of these school buildings was used the first four-months term, and the other was used the second four-months term. While school was being held in one building, the other remained unoccupied.

Of the 13 white schools in Prentiss County, seven enrolled pupils in grades one through 12, and six enrolled pupils

in grades one through eight. Schools containing high schools were: Booneville, Jumpertown, Marietta, New Site, Pisgah, Thrasher, and Wheeler. Schools having only grades one through eight were: Blackland, Burton-New Hope, Hills Chapel, New Candler, Southwest Prentiss, and Tuscumbia. The Baldwyn schools enrolled pupils in grades one through six at Pratt and one through 12 at Baldwyn. Thus, there were eight high schools and 15 elementary schools for white children in Prentiss County in 1955-56, including the Baldwyn district.

Total Pupils Enrolled. Table III-W, which follows, indicates the number of pupils in average daily attendance, as reported by the schools from 1948-49 to 1955-56, inclusive. It may be seen from Table III-W that the schools at Booneville, enrolling 1054 pupils in average daily attendance in 1955-56, had nearly one-third of the total 3460 white pupils enrolled in the Prentiss County schools. Four of the other schools that enrolled pupils in grades one through 12, were about the same size, having 298, 320, 336, and 340 pupils. Pisgah was

TABLE III-W

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1948-49 -- 1955-56; NUMBER OF TEACHERS
AND BUSES 1955-56; BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER, PRENTISS 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)
Blackland	1-8	3	2	95	83	106	115	104	90	83	80
Booneville	1-12	36	8	950	913	955	1004	1004	927	926	1054
Burton-New Hope	1-8	3	2	73	72	80	85	80	70	101	95
Hills Chapel	1-8	4	3	143	143	127	130	130	105	110	107
Jumpertown	1-12	13	4	370	356	392	405	354	245	314	298
Marietta	1-12	14	5	504	362	376	372	345	345	345	336
New Candler	1-8	2	1	120	84	74	115	81	65	64	70
New Site	1-12	14	5	422	415	401	429	326	360	360	340

TABLE III-W (CONT'D.)

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

-22-

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)
Pisgah	1-12	7	3	326	301	312	326	326	245	224	172
S.W. Prentiss	1-8	3	1	129	122	121	120	105	94	83	77
Thrasher	1-12	14	4	325	367	367	223	360	348	358	320
Tuscumbia	1-8	4	2	118	118	124	120	131	115	115	102
Wheeler	1-12	15	5	390	465	373	387	356	351	425	409
*Other Schools				502	336	315	289	251	193	77	
Prentiss County		132	45	4467	4142	4123	4120	3953	3553	3585	3460
Baldwyn S. D.	1-12	23	6	496	491	497	476	468	556	587	591
Total		155	51	4963	4633	4620	4596	4421	4109	4172	4051

*Consolidated prior to 1955-56.

Source: Superintendents' annual reports.

smaller with 172 pupils, while Wheeler was larger, with 409 pupils. The Baldwyn schools enrolled 591 pupils.

All the elementary schools were small and were about the same size. They enrolled 70, 77, 80, 95, 102, and 107 pupils in grades one through eight.

The total number of pupils in the Prentiss County schools decreased considerably during the eight-year period as is shown in Table III-W. In 1948-49 there were 4467 pupils in average daily attendance, while in 1955-56 there were only 3460 pupils--a decrease of more than 1,000 pupils. During this period, several schools were discontinued, and the pupils now attend the schools listed in Table III-W. A few of these schools had a greater number of pupils in average daily attendance last year than in 1948-49. Booneville schools had the greatest gain--about 100 pupils. Ten of the 13 schools, however, had fewer pupils last year than they had in 1948-49. The Baldwyn schools had about 100 more pupils in average daily attendance last year than they had in 1948-49. Most of the gain occurred in 1953-54.

Teachers. In 1955-56 there were 132 teachers instructing the white boys and girls in the Prentiss County schools and 23 in the Baldwyn Separate School District schools, a total of 155 teachers. None of the six elementary schools nor the Pratt school in the Baldwyn Separate School District had as many as one teacher per grade. If the measure of 30 pupils per teacher were applied, Prentiss County schools would have several teachers in excess, and Baldwyn would have a few. It is estimated that with the consolidation of the high schools and the reorganization of the elementary schools, as is recommended in a later chapter, at least 10 fewer teachers will be needed in the Prentiss County schools. At even \$2,500 salary per year, this would mean a savings of \$25,000 per school year.

Busses. Table III-W shows that busses discharge pupils at the Prentiss County schools 45 times and at the Baldwyn schools six times. This does not mean there were 51 busses, since one bus may discharge some pupils at an elementary school and others at a high school.

TABLE IV-W

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, PRENTISS 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)
Booneville	134	113	116	101	98	92	654	104	77	57	46	66	50	400	1054
Blackland	13	5	16	8	14	7	63	10	7					17	80
Burton-New Hope	16	12	13	10	10	13	74	9	12					21	95
Hills Chapel	22	9	16	9	10	19	85	10	12					22	107
Jumpertown	32	34	38	29	37	31	201	17	26	12	11	16	15	97	298
Marietta	32	37	31	28	29	38	195	40	23	19	25	14	20	141	336
New Candler	19	8	8	8	7	7	57	6	7					13	70
New Site	25	33	35	33	23	21	175	31	25	38	28	23	20	165	340
Pisgah	30	19	21	17	27	6	120	13	12	9	5	5	8	52	172
Southwest															
Prentiss	18	9	13	10	10	5	65	8	4					12	77
Thrasher	30	25	20	20	24	21	140	19	21	46	41	32	21	180	320
Tuscumbia	14	15	15	11	10	9	74	10	18					28	102

TABLE IV-W (CONT'D.)

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY WHITE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, PRENTISS 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)
Wheeler	34	38	43	42	27	40	224	35	25	32	38	32	23	185	409
Prentiss County	419	362	385	326	326	309	2127	312	269	213	194	188	157	1333	3460
Baldwyn S. D.	78	59	57	59	46	53	352	43	46	38	41	40	31	239	591
Total	497	421	442	385	372	362	2479	355	315	251	235	228	188	1572	4051

Source: Superintendents' annual reports.

A map showing the various bus routes has been filed with the county superintendent and the superintendent of the separate school district, together with a map showing the bus routes recommended, if the plans proposed in this study 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 was small in schools at Blackland, Burton-New Hope, Hills Chapel, New Candler, Southwest Prentiss, Tuscumbia, and Pisgah. Grades seven through 12 at Jumpertown also were small.

Negro Schools

Attendance Centers. Prentiss County had only three schools for Negroes in 1955-56. Only a few schools were needed since only a relatively few Negroes live in Prentiss County. There were 458 Negro boys and girls in average daily attendance in the Prentiss County schools in 1955-56. In addition, 281 Negroes were in average daily attendance at Baldwyn. In

all, there were 739 pupils in average daily attendance in the Prentiss County and Baldwyn Separate School District schools for Negroes. Table III-N, which follows, lists the four 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 total number of pupils in the county schools decreased during this period by nearly 100 pupils. The Baldwyn schools, however, increased 66 pupils in the eight-year period.

Teachers. There were $15\frac{1}{2}$ teachers instructing the Negro boys and girls in the Prentiss County schools and nine teachers in the Baldwyn Separate School District school. This provides approximately the number of teachers both in the Baldwyn and Prentiss County schools that would be allowed on the basis of one teacher for each 30 pupils in average daily attendance.

Busses. Many of the Negro boys and girls in Prentiss County ride the school bus. Five bus stops are made at the three county schools for Negroes, and two bus stops are made at the Baldwyn school.

TABLE III-N

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1948-49 -- 1955-56; NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND BUSES 1955-56; BY NEGRO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER, PRENTISS 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)
Booneville	1-12	7½	2	242	202	198	246	252	211	190	196
Geo. W. Carver	1-8	4	2	91	122	164	163	130	128	113	109
Lincoln	1-8	4	1	119	137	127	132	128	116	133	153
*Other Schools				103	77	71	53	58	37	21	
Prentiss County		15½	5	555	538	560	594	568	492	457	458
Baldwyn S. D.	1-12	9	2	215	222	232	225	222	263	252	281
Totals		24½	7	770	760	792	819	790	755	709	739

*Consolidated prior to 1955-56

Source: Superintendents' annual reports.

Size of Classes. As may be seen in Table IV-N, which follows, the Booneville, Carver, and Lincoln schools all have relatively small class sizes. In Baldwyn, the class sizes for the high school grades also are small. In these schools there are not enough children per grade to justify one teacher for each grade, if finances are to be considered. In both the county and Baldwyn schools there was a relatively large number of children enrolled in the first and second grades in comparison with the other grades.

The average daily attendance in the high school is small in each of the two schools. In grades nine through twelve there were 54 pupils at Booneville and 36 at Baldwyn--a total of 90 pupils. Class size in each of these schools is small, and retention of high schools under present circumstances would be hard to justify either from a financial or educational point of view. If the holding power of the high school can be increased to the extent that most of the elementary school boys and girls will go to high school--then the two schools

TABLE IV-N

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE BY NEGRO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER
AND BY GRADE, PRENTISS 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)
Booneville	32	17	21	15	19	16	120	13	9	26	12	5	11	76	196
Carver	29	10	15	11	19	7	91	11	7					18	109
Lincoln	28	48	16	17	18	11	138	9	6					15	153
Prentiss County	89	75	52	43	56	34	349	33	22	26	12	5	11	109	458
Baldwyn S. D.	44	51	25	29	30	20	199	22	24	12	11	5	8	82	281
Total	133	126	77	72	86	54	548	55	46	38	23	10	19	191	739

Source: Superintendents' annual reports.

possibly could secure enough pupils to justify their existence as high schools. The sparsity of Negro population in Prentiss County and the relatively few Negroes in the entire area mitigate against securing the best type of high school.

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 of the experiences the school provides which promote the positive growth and development of children and youth. If the curriculum is limited by any of the factors which may result from a variety of conditions within the school, the opportunity for a sound education may be denied some attending the school. When this occurs, certain results may be expected. Some of those pupils who do remain in school fail to develop to their maximum ability. Others may be forced into situations which may create frustrations which often may be observed as 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.

Curricula that are wide in scope and intensive in their efforts may exist in schools of almost any size. Small schools, however, and especially small secondary schools, may be unable to provide the pupils adequate educational experiences. This may be due to excessive cost per pupil both in the operation of these curricula and in their housing. As schools increase in size these costs tend to decrease, finally reaching a leveling off point when an elementary school of six grades reaches an enrollment of 200, and when a high school has an enrollment of 650.

In this study no major effort has been made to analyse and evaluate the curricula of any school, however, an appraisal of some phases of the curricula has been necessary to define more clearly the educational values in these schools.

Since people generally are more familiar with the program of studies than with any other features, this

area has been chosen for examination.

The White Elementary Schools. The white elementary schools of Prentiss County and of the Baldwyn Separate School District generally follow the program of studies which is similar to that in most of the elementary schools in Mississippi. Although this program is a good beginning for an elementary school, continuous expansion and development should always be a problem of local concern. In some classrooms, individual teachers have apparently accepted the responsibility, while others are seriously handicapped by conditions over which they have little or no control; such as, the shortage of instructional supplies, limited library facilities, inadequate building facilities, and the problem of carrying on an instructional program for children in two or more grades at the same time. The last handicap occurs principally in schools of small enrollment. In these schools the wide range of abilities which exists within a grade composed of children of the same chronological age is greatly increased when two

or more grades are combined. Teachers have only a few hours each day to teach children. When this time must be shared by children who are widely separated in ability, attitude, and achievement, little opportunity exists for the teacher to enrich the curriculum.

As one would expect, the curriculum available for the children who attend the elementary schools in this county varies from school to school and from room to room. Any reorganization of the district and any accompanying plan for locating attendance centers should endeavor to provide each child with the kind of an educational program most valuable to him.

The White High Schools. All of the high schools in Prentiss County, including the Baldwyn Separate School District, are small high schools. As previously stated, small high schools frequently find it necessary to limit the program of studies due to higher financial expenditures. Table V-W, which follows, illustrates this situation more clearly. It may be noted from this table that the course offerings in the high schools of

TABLE V-W

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

Course	School											
	Baldwyn			Booneville			Jumpertown			Marietta		
	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
English												
9th Grade	52	40	34	65	68	75	30	20	13	25	35	19
10th Grade	37	48	36	58	60	65	25	25	12	31	20	28
11th Grade	38	36	46	56	58	70	15	23	15	22	26	17
12th Grade	33	29	34	53	54	58	18	5	16	22	18	15
Social Studies:												
Civics & Geog.	52	54	36	33	29	27				25	35	18
W. History	35	36	34	36	33	32				31	20	27
Amer. History	32	36	37	60	62	55			18	22	20	27
Gov't. & Ec.	26			35	36	37				12	13	11
Mathematics:												
Gen. Math	31			32	36	45			13	25	36	21
Algebra I	36	67	59	62	59	66			12	30	17	25
Algebra II	78	37	34	37	48	35				10	14	
Pl. Geometry	19	24	17	22	25	28						14
Science:												
Gen. Science	29	31	31	37	46	45			18			
Biology	28	45	54	36	33	37				16	6	20
Chemistry	23	17	18		42					7		
Physics	24	16	17	30		31						

TABLE V-W (CONT'D.)

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

Course (1)	School											
	Baldwyn			Booneville			Jumpertown			Marietta		
	'53 (2)	'54 (3)	'55 (4)	'53 (5)	'54 (6)	'55 (7)	'53 (8)	'54 (9)	'55 (10)	'53 (11)	'54 (12)	'55 (13)
Commerce:												
Typing	42	45	42	58	49	51			30	35	40	24
Shorthand	23	17	24	22	25	23			10	8	17	15
Bookkeeping	24	24	24	43	42	48			16			
Sec't. Training		14	11						10			
Home Economics:												
1st year	26	24	28	34	37	36	14	6	6	10	21	12
2nd year	17	19	29	37	35	35	8	16	9	16	10	15
3rd year	18	16	17	24	26	28	13	18	10	10	10	10
Agriculture												
1st year	18	20	23	18	18	12	13	7	7	16	11	11
2nd year	17	13	22	20	16	18	7	8	3	14	14	13
3rd year	12	25	21	15	19	22	11	7	5	11	11	10
Other:												
P. E.	34	36		112	118	125						
Piano			60	68	72	75						
Choral Music				42	38	37						
Total Number												
Subjects	26	25	25	27	27	27	*	*	18	21	20	20

*Information for courses for these years was incomplete.

TABLE V-W

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

Course	School											
	New Site			Pisgah			Thrasher			Wheeler		
	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
English												
9th Grade	31	33	40	18	14	17	40	55	48	39	46	37
10th Grade	38	26	30	15	7	12	32	39	43	28	33	40
11th Grade	31	27	25	12	9	8	30	26	36	26	26	33
12th Grade	25	19	20	10	11	9	28	20	22	19	23	23
Social Studies:												
Civics & Geog.	30	29	40	10	9	12	40	55	48	34	20	25
W. History	34	24	31	12	11	6	32	39	43		20	45
Amer. History		35	25	14	12	9	30	26	36	26	25	30
Gov't. & Ec.	25		6				15	20		15	11	20
Mathematics:												
Gen. Math.	35	34	40	18	14	17	40	55	48	24	46	40
Algebra I	30	28	30	12	10	12	32	39	43	28	33	38
Algebra II		40		10	11			15		10	6	16
Pl. Geometry	33		16							20	7	
Business Math.												
Science:												
Gen. Science			18	18	10	12	40		48	38	28	45
Biology		33		10		10	28	25		13	26	26
Chemistry	25									12		
Adv. Science									20			

TABLE V-W (CONT'D.)

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

-40-

Course	School											
	New Site			Pisgah			Thrasher			Wheeler		
	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55	'53	'54	'55
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Commerce:												
Typing	42	38	28	15	12	10	48	48	48	24	20	32
Shorthand	14	11	5	12	10		20	35	28	6	9	7
Bookkeeping				12	12	10	20	15	16			14
Sec't. Training						13				20	17	12
Home Economics:												
1st yr.	17	17	23				25	21	22	24	28	18
2nd yr.	15	13	16				30	25	20	14	12	26
3rd yr.	12	10	12					15	20	14	10	7
Agriculture:												
1st yr.	13	14	19				18	31	26	22	18	17
2nd yr.	20	16	14				17	15	20	14	21	14
3rd yr.	13	17	11				15	30	15	7	13	13
Other:												
P. E.										35	25	30
Piano										23	20	25
Choral										35	25	30
Total Number												
Subjects	19	19	20	16	15	15	20	21	20	26	26	26

Source: Superintendents' annual high school reports.

the county range from 15 in the Pisgah high school to 27 in the Booneville high school. How this affects the students in these schools one may quickly observe. Every boy or girl who is graduated from the Pisgah and Jumpertown schools must complete practically the identical program of studies, while those attending Baldwyn, Booneville, and Wheeler high schools have a more enriched program from which to choose. These schools offered 25, 27, and 26, subjects, respectively, while Marietta, Thrasher, and New Site offered only 20. Jumpertown and Pisgah offered even fewer.

It should not be assumed that even the high schools in the county offering the wider range of courses are providing all the services which should be available to the boys and girls in Prentiss County. 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 not only an opportunity for every child to express his native aesthetic desires, but modern economy demands and pays well for men and women who are prepared in this field. No high school in the county offers this educational opportunity. Other fields, such as industrial arts, distributive education, health education, music, speech, and other courses which may be planned to care for a purely local need, are either entirely absent or exist to a limited extent only in some schools.

Table V-W does not attempt to list the number that is enrolled by grade in every course offered, since some courses enroll two or more grades. However, some evidence is available. One would scarcely expect to find more than one grade 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 few 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 one teacher per thirty children ratio on which the Mississippi Minimum Foundation Program operates, thus, increasing the amount of local funds necessary for the support of the schools. 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, can be raised to a defensible size by combining classes of two or more high schools. If this is followed, local funds may be used for greater enrichment ~~ment~~ of the school program and for increased salaries for teachers.

Many other 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

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 becomes relatively low.

The Negro Elementary Schools. The program of studies in the Negro elementary schools in Prentiss County and in the Baldwyn Separate School District follows the pattern established by the textbooks provided by the State Textbook Purchasing Commission. There is little done to extend this situation. Under the present poor housing conditions little more should be expected. This situation interferes with and, in most cases, prohibits not only the extension of the program of studies, but also, prohibits any full realization of the values of the basic program of studies as provided by the state. More will be said in another section of this report concerning housing, but it must be said here that no sound educational program for elementary Negro children can be established until extensive replacements and additions are made to the present school plants.

The Negro High Schools. The Negro high schools in both Prentiss County and in the Baldwyn Separate School District are small high schools. In Booneville, agriculture and home economics are listed in the program of studies. The remainder of the program is traditional. It is doubtful whether either home economics or agriculture are an effective part of the program. Table V-N, which follows, presents the program of studies.

The School Plant

White Schools. There were in 1955-56, 15 attendance centers in Prentiss County and two in the Baldwyn Separate School District. In Booneville there were two centers. One, a four-grade unit for grades one through four, the other an eight-grade unit for grades five through 12. Twelve-grade attendance centers were maintained at Jumpertown, Marietta, New Site, Pisgah, Thrasher, and Wheeler. Other centers were eight-grade schools. An unusual, if not unique situation, existed at the Burton-New Hope center. Here, two buildings were used during the year by a single student body; the New Hope school was used during the first half,

TABLE V-N

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

Course (1)	School					
	*Baldwyn			Booneville		
	'53 (2)	'54 (3)	'55 (4)	'53 (5)	'54 (6)	'55 (7)
English						
9th Grade			12	15	20	33
10th Grade			11	34	10	16
11th Grade			5	18	18	5
12th Grade			8		13	13
Social Studies:						
Civics & Geog.				15	20	33
W. History				34	10	16
Amer. History				31	18	5
Gov't. & Ec.					13	13
Mathematics:						
Gen. Math					13	13
Algebra I				15	20	33
Algebra II				34	10	16
Pl. Geometry				14	18	5
Science:						
Gen. Science				15	20	33
Biology				34	10	16
Chemistry						13
Home Economics:						
1st year				36	16	
2nd year				34	22	
3rd year				31	9	
Agriculture:						
1st year				20	20	31
2nd year				9	21	28
3rd year				4	10	
Total Number						
Subjects				17	20	17

*Data not available.

Source: Office of the superintendents.

the Burton school during the latter.

In Baldwin there is a 12-grade center and in the district just outside of the city of Baldwin, there is a six-grade center at Pratt.

Table VI-W, which follows, presents information about the buildings. Ratings of each plant as made by the survey staff are listed in this table. The buildings considered good are expected to be used with minor repairs or alterations, those considered fair can be used with major repairs and alterations, and those listed obsolete should be abandoned as unfit for further service.

Negro Schools. In Prentiss County there were three attendance centers for Negroes and one in the Baldwin Separate School District. The schools at Booneville and Baldwin were 12-grade centers, and the school at Carver and Lincoln were eight-grade centers. Table VI-N, which follows, describes these schools. None of these centers presents a good condition. The schools at Baldwin, Lincoln, and Carver should be abandoned

TABLE VI-W

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Construction Type of-	Date of-	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Baldwyn S.D. High	Brick	1943	Good	13	\$200,000
Elementary	Brick	1943	Good	()	()
Pratt Center	Brick	1922	Fair	2	7,500
Blackland	Frame	1930,49	Obsolete	3	6,000
Booneville High	Brick	1937,50	Good	16	500,000
Elementary	Brick	1948	Good	8	140,000
*(Burton	Brick	1923	Fair	5	10,000)
(New Hope	Frame	1926	Obsolete	1/2	3,000)
Hill's Chapel	Frame	1910, 1936	Fair	3 1/2	8,000
Jumpertown H.S.	Brick	1929	Fair	15	85,000
Elementary	Brick	1950	Good	()	()
Marietta	Brick	1940	Good	28	200,000

*Two centers

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center	Construction Type of-	Date of-	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
New Candler	Frame	1927	Obsolete	5	\$ 10,000
New Site	Brick	1923 1934	Good	13	128,000
Pisgah	Brick	1937	Fair	15	100,000
S. W. Prentiss	Frame	1930	Obsolete	2	4,000
Thrasher	Brick	1941 1952	Fair	12	75,000
Tuscumbia	Frame		Obsolete	5	6,000
Wheeler	Brick	1942	Good	13½	140,000
East Prentiss	Concrete	1948	Fair	5	10,000

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1955-56

-50-

School Center and Name of Building	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)
Baldwyn S.D. High	9	1	1		2	1	1	1	75	175	2	2	yes	500
Elementary	6							1			2	2		
Pratt	4									60	2	1		100
Blackland	4									50		1		200
Booneville High	22	2	1		1		1	2	75	yes	4	3	yes	527
Elementary	14							1		120	4	4		390
*Burton-New Hope	3-2									60-45				400- 200
Hills Chapel	6								25	40				200
Jumpertown	15	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	60	100	4		yes	500
Marietta	14	1	1		1	1	1	1	25	100	4	6	yes	350
New Candler	4								50	50				250

*Two centers.

TABLE VI-W (CONT'D.)

WHITE SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center and Name of Building	Regular	Homemaking	Number of Classrooms					Office Rooms	Library (Seats)	Lunchroom or Cafeteria Seats	Indoor Toilets	Indoor Fountains	Gymnasium	Auditorium (Seats)
			Commercial	Music	Science Laboratory	Agriculture	Shop							
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
New Site	13	1	1		2	1	1	1	40	100	4	3	yes	400
Pisgah	13		1		1			1	40	60	2	4	yes	500
S.W. Prentiss	4													yes
Thrasher	10	1	1		2	1	1	1	40	60	2	1	yes	200
Tuscumbia	4									40				
Wheeler	15	1	1		1	1	1	1	100	200	2	2	yes	500
East Prentiss	3								40	50				250

Source: The school principals and superintendents.

TABLE VI-N

NEGRO SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1955-56

-52-

School Center	Construction Type of-	Date of-	Present Condition of Building	Size of School Site (Acres)	Present Estimated Value (Replaceable)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Baldwyn S. D.	Brick	1947	Good	1	\$24,000
Booneville	Brick	1938 1952	Fair	5	60,000
Carver	Brick	1951	Fair	2	25,000
Lincoln	Brick	1951	Fair	1½	25,000

TABLE VI-N (CONT'D.)

NEGRO SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1955-56

School Center and Name of Building	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)
Baldwyn S. D.	8													
Booneville	8					1	1	1		40	2	2		
Carver	4								40	40				300
Lincoln	4									100				300

Source: The school superintendents.

At Booneville, if sufficient care is taken and considerable money spent, some of the new building might be salvaged. However, the remainder of the plant should be abandoned. Although, in later estimates of building needs some utilization of the present Booneville plant is considered, in the long run a completely new plant may be more economical. This alternative should be carefully studied when architectural services are available.

Current Costs

Present Financial Status. The financial status of the various districts in Prentiss County and of the Baldwyn Separate School District 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 Prentiss County, exclusive of Baldwyn, is \$5,455,583, and that of the Baldwyn Separate School District, which includes parts of Prentiss and Lee Counties, is \$1,438,467--a total of \$6,894,050.

TABLE VII

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

District	Assessed Value	Current Expense Millage	Indebtedness		Funds on Hand June 30, 1955
			Bonded	Floating	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Baldwyn S.D.	\$1,438,467	17	\$9,000		\$
Prentiss County	5,455,583*	10			12,232
Blackland	139,456	5			394
Booneville	2,687,536	10	76,395		3,981
Burton	84,486	10			861
Geeville	135,346	5	1,800		800
Hills Chapel	161,567	5			845
Jumpertown	224,486	10	21,160		88
Marietta	300,867	10	5,900		46
New Candler	97,927	10			159
New Hope	67,987	4			559

*Excludes Baldwyn Separate District.

TABLE VII (CONT'D.)

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

District	Assessed Value	Current Expense Millage	Indebtedness		Funds on Hand June 30, 1955
			Bonded	Floating	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
New Site	\$296,840	10	\$20,876		525
Pisgah	150,360	10	3,000		990
South Prentiss	74,856	10			317
S.W. Prentiss	81,475	5			665
Thrasher	290,850	10	18,986		78
Tuscumbia	72,760	10	3,500		178
Wheeler	588,784	10	19,850		21

Source: County Superintendent of Education and the Superintendent of the Separate District.

Levies for current expenses for the consolidated school districts, as shown in Table VII, vary from four mills in the New Hope district to 10 mills in 11 of the 16 districts. Blackland, Geeville, Hills Chapel, and Southwest Prentiss districts, have a five-mill levy each. A 10-mill county-wide school tax also is levied on the districts in the county, and this must be added to the district millage for the total levy. The Baldwyn Separate School District does not participate in the county-wide tax but now levies 17 mills on its assessment.

It may be seen from the columns indicating the amount of indebtedness, that Booneville with \$76,395 bonded indebtedness has the greatest debt. Four of the other districts have bonded debts amounting to some \$20,000 each. Five other districts have debts in lesser amounts. The bonded debt on the schools is relatively small when compared to the total investment in the school buildings. The amount of funds on hand June 30, 1955, for most of the districts, was not large. However, Prentiss County

had some \$12,000 on hand at that time.

Operation Costs. The cost of operating the schools in Prentiss County and in the Baldwyn Separate School District for 1954-55, 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 costs.

Per Pupil Cost. Probably the most significant column in Table VIII is the one listing the per pupil cost. It may be seen from the table that the per pupil cost for white schools ranges from \$93 for the Tuscumbia elementary school to \$126 in the Booneville school. These are some of the lowest per pupil costs that may be found anywhere. The low cost is to be desired if the education of the children is as good or better

TABLE VIII

TOTAL AND PER PUPIL COST OF OPERATING SCHOOLS, BY THREE MAJOR DIVISIONS,
BY ATTENDANCE CENTER, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1954-1955

District	Number Pupils ADA	Costs				Per Capita Costs			
		In- struc- tion*	Trans- porta- tion	Opera- tion	Total **	In- struc- tion *	Trans- porta- tion	Opera- tion	Total **
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Baldwyn S. D.	587	\$57,106	\$6,782	\$5,811	\$69,699	\$97	\$12	\$10	\$119
Baldwyn Negro	252	15,736	1,256	1,820	18,812	62	5	7	75
Blackland	83	7,178	1,052	1,137	9,367	86	13	14	113
Booneville	926	96,302	6,001	14,220	116,523	104	6	15	126
Burton	101	9,257	848	1,065	11,170	92	8	11	111
Hills Chapel	110	8,411	1,745	661	10,817	76	16	6	98
Jumpertown	314	30,187	2,430	3,868	36,485	96	8	12	116
Marietta	345	32,394	2,792	4,656	39,842	94	8	13	115
New Chandler	64	3,668	1,905	524	6,097	57	30	8	95
New Site	360	32,023	5,976	4,253	42,252	89	17	12	117

TABLE VIII (CONT'D.)

TOTAL AND PER PUPIL COST OF OPERATING SCHOOLS, BY THREE MAJOR DIVISIONS,
BY ATTENDANCE CENTER, PRENTISS COUNTY, 1954-1955

-60-

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)
Pisgah	225	\$22,331	\$1,292	\$2,798	\$26,421	\$99	\$ 6	\$12	\$117
South Prentiss	77	5,424	928	1,005	7,357	70	12	13	96
S.W.Prentiss	83	5,921	1,266	879	8,066	71	15	11	97
Thrasher	358	31,057	2,021	4,364	37,442	87	6	12	105
Tuscumbia	115	8,939	885	870	10,694	78	8	8	93
Wheeler	425	38,625	2,705	7,269	48,599	91	6	17	114
County Negro	457	36,800	4,248	4,940	45,988	81	9	11	101

Source: Superintendents' annual reports.

*Includes administration. County administration prorated by ADA of pupils in district.

**Includes auxiliary services plus items in columns (3),(4), and (5). Costs are rounded to the nearest dollar.

than the education of children in schools costing more. However, in some of the schools in other counties in Mississippi, the per pupil cost is twice the amount spent in Prentiss County. The survey staff recommends that study of the cost-quality of the education in the Prentiss County and Baldwyn Separate School District schools accompany reorganization of schools, as recommended in the next chapter.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COSTS

Prentiss County and the Baldwyn Separate School District have presented many problems that had to be considered in planning for reorganization. Most of these problems were brought about because of the many small schools already in the county, the fact that Baldwyn is a line school district, the sparsity of population and the lack of Negro population, and the relative large loss of population with its accompanying decrease in number of school-age pupils.

Recommendations in this chapter were accepted by the survey staff only after much thought and time had been given various proposals as to the 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 judgements 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 Prentiss County and the Baldwyn Separate School District. The staff recommends: that there be established two school administrative districts-- a Prentiss County School District and a Baldwyn Special Municipal Separate School District. The Prentiss County School District should consist of all the territory in Prentiss County, except the territory contained in Beat Three of Prentiss County. The Baldwyn Separate School District should consist of all the territory in Beat Three of Prentiss County and Beat One of Lee County.

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.

Prentiss County Schools

White High School. The survey staff believes that only one white high school, grades seven through 12, should

be operated in the proposed Prentiss County School District. The staff recommends: that the district operate one high school, using the present high school building facilities at Booneville. This school should accommodate the pupils in grades seven through 12, now attending high school at Booneville, and the pupils in grades nine through 12, now attending schools at Jumpertown, Marietta, New Site, Pisgah, and Thrasher. Also, it should accommodate any pupils within the Prentiss County District, grades seven through 12, now attending the Wheeler school who can be served more conveniently by the Booneville school than by the Baldwyn school. Pupils, in grades seven through 12, from the Burton-New Hope area should attend the Booneville school or should be assigned on a transfer basis either to the Tishomingo or Iuka schools.

White Elementary Schools.

1. Booneville School
 - a. Tuscumbia School
 - b. Hills Chapel School
 - c. Burton-New Hope School

2. West Booneville
a. Blackland School

The Booneville elementary school should be continued as an elementary school center and should include grades one through six. The fifth and sixth grades now holding classes in the Booneville high school should attend either the Booneville or West Booneville school. The rooms vacated in the Booneville high school should be used to accommodate the additional high school pupils who will attend there under the proposed reorganization plan.

A new elementary school to house pupils in grades one through six should be constructed west of Booneville. Pupils from Booneville, Blackland, Hills Chapel, and Tuscumbia schools, as well as any other pupils who can be served more conveniently by these schools than by another, should attend the Booneville or the West Booneville elementary schools. Pupils from the Burton-New Hope area who can be served more conveniently by the Tishomingo or Iuka schools should attend these

schools on a transfer basis. The Blackland, Hills Chapel, Burton-New Hope, and Tuscumbia schools should be discontinued as school attendance centers.

3. Jumpertown School
 - a. Pisgah School

The Jumpertown elementary school should be continued as an elementary school center for children in grades one through eight. Pupils in the Jumpertown and Pisgah schools should attend the school at Jumpertown. The Pisgah school should be discontinued as a school attendance center.

4. Marietta School

5. New Site School

6. Thrasher School

a. New Center to Thrasher

The elementary schools at Marietta, New Site, and Thrasher, should be continued for pupils in grades one through eight who can be served by one of these schools more conveniently than by another school.

Negro School Center. It is the opinion of the survey staff that one and only one Negro elementary-high school center is needed in the proposed Prentiss

County School District. The survey staff recommends: the establishment of a Prentiss County School District school center for Negroes in grades one through 12. This Negro school should be located in or near Booneville. (The location should be determined by the ease with which it may be reached by the most children living within walking distance, its accessibility to main highways, and the availability of public utilities.) This school should accommodate all Negro boys and girls in grades one through 12 who live in the proposed Prentiss County school district.

Baldwyn Separate School District Schools
White High School. The survey staff believes that only one white high school, grades seven through 12, is needed in the Baldwyn Separate School District. The staff recommends that the present high school at Baldwyn be continued to accommodate pupils in grades seven through 12 from Baldwyn and pupils in grades nine through 12 who now attend schools at Wheeler, Guntown, and Cedar Hill. Also, those pupils in the

east part of Union County who can more conveniently attend the Baldwyn high school than the New Albany high school, should attend the Baldwyn school on a transfer basis. (Guntown and Cedar Hill are outside the present Baldwyn Separate School District but are in the proposed Baldwyn Separate School District. Extensive data for these schools may be found in the survey report of Lee County. Average daily attendance figures of these two schools for 1954-55 follow:

Cedar Hill: grades one through eight, 139; grades nine through 12, 67.

Guntown: grades one through eight, 162; grades nine through 12, 52.

These schools are close to Baldwyn, and their attendance at this school would require no additional building construction. The Baldwyn high school is large enough to be educationally desirable for the boys and girls now attending the Cedar Hill and Guntown schools. Table IX, which follows, gives pertinent data on these schools.)

TABLE IX

ADA AND FINANCIAL DATA FOR CEDAR HILL, GUNTOWN,
WHITE AND NEGRO SCHOOLS, AND BEAT ONE, LEE COUNTY, 1954-1955

School or Taxing Unit	ADA Grades			Number of Teachers	Assessed Valuation 1955	Current Cost Millage	Bonded Debt	Per Pupil Cost
	1-8	9-12	1-12					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Cedar Hill	139	67	206	9	\$301,174	10	\$19,700	\$165
Guntown (W)	162	52	214	7	348,678	6	34,100	125
Guntown (N)	159	27	186	7				87
Beat One Lee County					1,302,135*			

*As of June, 1956.

White Elementary Schools.

1. Baldwyn School
 - a. Pratt School

The elementary school at Baldwyn should be continued as an elementary school center for the children in grades one through six. Pupils in the Pratt schools should attend the school at Baldwyn, and the Pratt school should be discontinued as a school attendance center.

2. Wheeler School

The elementary school at Wheeler should be continued for children in grades one through eight. Pupils in the Wheeler school, grades one through eight, as well as pupils near Wheeler but in the proposed Prentiss County school district, should attend the Wheeler school, if they can do so more conveniently than at another school.

3. Guntown School

The Guntown elementary school should be continued as an elementary school center for children in grades one through eight. Pupils in these grades in the Guntown

area and pupils in grades seven and eight in the Cedar Hill and Southwest Prentiss area, who can be served more conveniently by this school than by another, should attend the Guntown school.

4. Cedar Hill School

a. Southwest Prentiss School

The Cedar Hill school should be continued as an elementary school center for grades one through six. This school should serve the pupils in the Cedar Hill and Southwest Prentiss school areas who can more conveniently be served by this school than by another school. The Southwest Prentiss school should be discontinued as a school attendance center. Pupils on the east side of Union County who can be served more conveniently by this school than by another, should attend the Cedar Hill school on a transfer basis.

Negro High School. It is the opinion of the survey staff that one and only one Negro high school is needed in the Baldwyn Separate School District. The

survey staff recommends the establishment of a Baldwin Separate School District school center for Negroes in grades one through 12. This Negro school center should be located in or near Baldwin. (The location should be determined by the ease with which it may be reached by the most children living within walking distance, its accessibility to main highways, and the availability of public utilities.)

Negro Elementary Schools. Besides the school center, grades one through 12, proposed at Baldwin, the survey staff recommends that the elementary school for Negroes at Guntown be continued for pupils in grades one through six.

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. The number of teachers needed will be less than before, thus, costs may be reduced.

3. Much better educational opportunities for boys and girls in Prentiss County will be available than were previously provided.

Building Construction

White Schools. The recommendations of the survey staff relating to buildings were formulated after the staff considered carefully the population trends in both Prentiss County and Baldwyn. It does not appear likely that enrollments will increase; indeed, there is greater likelihood of their decrease. The present high school plant at Booneville will accommodate the total high school enrollment of the proposed Prentiss County School District. The proposed West Booneville elementary school, together with the present Booneville elementary school, will permit removal of two grades, which will allow space for added high school enrollment.

All buildings, except the new Booneville elementary school, are in need of redecoration and repairs.

New equipment, both as replacements and additions, is needed, and should become a part of the total building program.

When the district is reorganized, some elementary school pupils now attending Baldwin may be assigned either to Guntown or Wheeler. In Baldwin, therefore, no difficulties should be encountered with added high school enrollment, but even if some crowding occurs, it would be wise to wait for a short time in order to get an accurate gauge of enrollment trends before beginning additional building.

Both at Booneville and Baldwin, additions to the high school sites should be purchased.

Negro Schools. A new 12-grade school for Negroes should be built at both Baldwin and Booneville. The Negro school near Guntown should be used, and the Negro school in Baldwin should be abandoned.

Some use may be made of the new Negro school building at Booneville, but the poor condition of the plant makes this questionable.

Transportation

If attendance units are located as recommended, more pupils will be transported but no major problem of transportation should occur. Prentiss and Lee Counties have a fair road system which is constantly improving. Moreover, transportation units are more comfortable and safer than ever before. Their durability has been increased and their cost of operation reduced. Under these conditions and with well planned bus routing, no elementary child should spend an excessive period of time on a bus. Since there is only one high school planned for each race in each of the two districts, high school boys and girls may find it necessary to spend a slightly longer period en route than elementary children. However, good routing will still keep this period of time within reasonable limits. The school boards should continuously be studying 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 Prentiss County or the two proposed school districts. In planning bus routes, consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing bus routes for high school pupils and separate bus routes for elementary school children. Especially should this be done when the two groups attend widely separated schools.

Board of Education Building. When the new proposed districts are formed, the Boards and their superintendents will have increased responsibilities. An adequate administrative unit in each district will be needed with offices for the superintendent, his staff, and warehouse space for supplies and equipment.

Proposed Attendance Centers. Tables X and X-A, which follow, list the proposed attendance centers and the anticipated enrollment of each.

TABLE X

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED*
 IN PROPOSED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTERS
 IN PRENTISS COUNTY, BY RACE

WHITE SCHOOLS		NEGRO SCHOOLS	
Center (1)	Enrollment (2)	Center (3)	Enrollment (4)
Prentiss County High School (7-12)	900	County-wide School (1-12)	525
Elementary:			
East Booneville (1-6)	450		
West Booneville (1-6)	450		
Jumpertown (1-8)	425		
Marietta (1-8)	275		
New Site (1-8)	250		
Thrasher (1-8)	300		
Totals	3050	Totals	525

*Based on 1955-56 enrollments

TABLE X - A

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED*
 IN PROPOSED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTERS
 IN BALDWIN MUNICIPAL SEPARATE
 SCHOOL DISTRICT, BY RACE

WHITE SCHOOLS		NEGRO SCHOOLS	
Center	Enrollment	Center	Enrollment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
High School (7-12)	550	Baldwyn School (1-12)	360
Elementary:		Elementary:	
Baldwyn (1-6)	300	Guntown (1-6)	160
Wheeler (1-8)	370		
Guntown (1-8)	260		
Cedar Hill (1-6)	190		
Totals		Totals	
Baldwyn Separate School District	1670	Baldwyn Separate School District	520

*Based on 1955-56 enrollments.

BUILDINGS FOR SCHOOLS IN THE PRENTISS COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

White Buildings

Prentiss County Grades 7-12 Enrollment 900
High School

Cost Estimate

Equipment		\$3,000
Added site	10 acres @\$2000	20,000
Remodeling and site improvement		<u>25,000</u>
	Total	\$48,000

Elementary Schools:

West Booneville	Grades 1-6	Enrollment	450
Classrooms	2@1000 sq. ft.		2000
Classrooms	11@ 750 sq. ft.		8250
Gymnateria			3000
Toilet rooms	4@ 200 sq. ft.		800
Principal's office			400
Circulation			2900
Construction			<u>1750</u>
	Total number square feet		19,100

Cost Estimate

Building	19,100 sq. ft. @\$8.00 sq. ft.	\$152,800
Equipment		9,200
Site	10 acres @\$200 acre	<u>2,000</u>
	Total	\$164,000

White Elementary Schools: (Remodeling and site improvement)

Jumpertown (1-8)	Enrollment 425	\$10,000
Marietta (1-8)	Enrollment 275	\$10,000
New Site (1-8)	Enrollment 250	\$10,000
Thrasher (1-8)	Enrollment 300	<u>\$10,000</u>
	Total	\$40,000
Total Cost for Prentiss White Schools		\$252,000

Negro Buildings

Booneville School (Additions) Grades 1-12 Enrollment 525

General purpose classrooms	8@ 750 sq. ft.	6000
Multipurpose classrooms	1@1000 sq. ft.	1000
Science classroom-lab.	1@1000 sq. ft.	1000
Vocational Education		3000
Business Education		1000
Homemaking: clothing lab.		
food lab.	2@ 750 sq. ft.	1500
Library		1050
Physical Education: gym		12500
Music room		1000
Auditorium: stage, etc.		6800
Cafeteria and kitchen		3600
Administrative offices		600
Toilet rooms	4@ 300 sq. ft.	1200
Auxiliary services		2000
Circulation (corridors, etc.)		10000
Construction (walls, partitions, etc.)		<u>8500</u>
Total number of square feet		60,750

Cost Estimate

Building	60,750 sq. ft. @\$9.00 sq.ft.	\$546,750
Equipment		65,610
Site	25 acres @\$200.00	<u>5,000</u>
	Total	\$617,360

<u>Booneville</u>	Grades 1-12	Enrollment 525
	Renovation and site improvement	\$20,000

Board of Education Office and Warehouse Building

Offices		1200 sq. ft.
Warehouse		<u>1800 sq. ft.</u>
	Total	3000 sq. ft.
	3000 sq. ft. @\$7.00 sq. ft.	\$21,000
Site		<u>2,000</u>
	Total	\$23,000

Total Building Costs Prentiss County District

White Schools		\$252,000
Negro Schools		637,360
Board of Education Building		<u>23,000</u>
	Total	\$912,360
State's part: 75% of \$837,420		628,065
District's part		<u>\$284,295</u>

BUILDINGS FOR SCHOOLS IN BALDWIN SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

White Buildings

Baldwyn High School Grades 7-12 Enrollment 550

Additions:

General purpose classroom 3@ 750 2250

Music suite 1250

Circulation
and
Construction 500

Total number square feet 4,000

Cost Estimate

4,000 sq. ft. @\$9.00 \$36,000

Added site 12 acres @\$2000 24,000

Remodeling and site improvement 10,000

Total \$70,000

White Buildings

Elementary Schools: (Remodeling and site improvement)

Baldwyn (1-6) Enrollment 300 \$5,000

Wheeler (1-8) Enrollment 370 5,000

Guntown (1-8) Enrollment 260 5,000

Total \$15,000

Total Cost for Baldwin White Schools \$85,000

Negro Buildings

<u>Baldwyn School</u>	Grades 1-12	Enrollment	360
General purpose classrooms	8@ 750 sq. ft.	6000	
Multipurpose classroom	1@1000 sq. ft.	1000	
Science classroom-lab.	1@1000 sq. ft.	1000	
Vocational Education		3000	
Business Education		1000	
Homemaking: clothing lab.			
food lab.	2@ 750 sq. ft.	1500	
Library		1050	
Physical Education: gym.		12500	
Music room		1000	
Auditorium: stage, etc.		6800	
Cafeteria and kitchen		3600	
Administrative offices		600	
Toilet rooms	4@ 300 sq. ft.	1200	
Auxiliary services		2000	
Circulation (corridors, etc.)		10000	
Construction (walls, partitions, etc.)		<u>8500</u>	

Total number square feet 60,750

Cost Estimate

Building	60,750 sq. ft. @\$9.00 sq. ft.	\$546,750
Equipment		65,610
Site	25 acres @\$200.000	<u>5,000</u>
	Total	\$617,360

Elementary School

Guntown	Grades 1-6	Enrollment 160
Renovation and site improvement		\$5,000
Total Cost Baldwyn Negro Schools		\$622,360

Board of Education Office and Warehouse Building

Offices	1200 sq. ft.
Warehouse	<u>1800 sq. ft.</u>
Total	3000 sq. ft.
3000 sq. ft. @\$7.00	\$21,000
Site	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$23,000

Total Building Costs Baldwin Separate School District

White Schools	\$35,000
Negro Schools	622,360
Board of Education Building	<u>23,000</u>
Total	\$730,360
State's part: 75% of \$485,370	<u>\$364,027</u>
District's part	<u>\$366,333</u>

Financial Implications

Minimum Foundation Program. Prentiss County and the Baldwyn Separate School District are required to bear a portion of the minimum foundation program. The amount to be raised in Prentiss County from ad valorem taxes is \$60,462, including \$14,090 from Prentiss County's Beat Three which is a part of the proposed Baldwyn Separate School District. These estimates are based on the last economic index figures. The amount to be raised in Lee County is \$186,902 including \$14,339 from Lee County's Beat One which is a part of the proposed Baldwyn Separate School District. Thus, the ad valorem taxes to be raised for the minimum foundation program in these two proposed districts are Prentiss County \$46,123, and Baldwyn Separate School District \$28,429. (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 9.4 mills levy for the Prentiss County district and a 10.1 mills levy for the Baldwyn

district. Assessments for the proposed districts and for each beat in Lee and Prentiss Counties are presented in Table XI, which follows.

Cost Above the Minimum Foundation Program. Both the white schools in the Baldwyn Separate School District and the Prentiss County white schools were supported above the level of the minimum foundation program in 1954-55. Both school districts employed more teachers than were supported by the minimum foundation program. Moreover, Booneville operated a nine-month, rather than an eight-month term. In most schools the additional teachers were used, not so much for enriching the curriculum, but because the small class size requires more teachers.

Only the white schools at Booneville were operated for nine months. If all of the proposed schools in Prentiss County and the Baldwyn district were operated nine months per year, this would require sums above the minimum program. The cost is estimated at \$57,486 for the Prentiss County district and \$28,955 for the

TABLE XI

TOTAL ASSESSMENT VALUATION, BY BEATS, FOR
PRENTISS AND LEE COUNTIES, AND FOR PROPOSED
BALDWYN DISTRICT, JUNE, 1956

Beat or Taxing Unit (1)	Assessment Valuation (2)
Prentiss County:	\$6,401,427
(Proposed Prentiss County School District)	(4,883,267)*
Beat One	3,115,322
Beat Two	648,835
Beat Three	1,518,160
Beat Four	594,117
Beat Five	524,993
Lee County:	\$17,272,127
	(15,969,992)*
Beat One	1,302,135
Beat Two	961,008
Beat Three	11,155,891
Beat Four	2,117,806
Beat Five	1,735,287
Proposed Baldwin Separate District	\$2,820,295

*Less Proposed Baldwin Special Municipal Separate District.

Baldwyn district. This would require an additional levy of 11.8 mills and 10.3 mills, respectively, above the minimum foundation levy for this enrichment program. Thus, current expenses would require 21.2 mills for the proposed Prentiss County district and 20.3 mills for the proposed Baldwyn district.

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. Under reorganization fewer teachers will be needed than are currently being used. The proposed attendance centers can provide better educational opportunities for the children and do so with at least ten fewer white teachers in the Prentiss County district and five fewer teachers in the proposed

Baldwyn district. Even at \$2500 per teacher, a savings of \$25,000 and \$12,500, respectively, will be made. This savings, if applied to the costs of current expenses, would reduce the millage, and the saving has been included in figuring the "cost of enrichment program."

Building Costs. The proposed buildings will cost \$912,360 for the proposed Prentiss County district and \$730,360 for the Baldwyn district, according to the estimates in the foregoing pages. Of this amount the state will pay approximately \$837,420 to Prentiss County and \$485,370 to Baldwyn. However, the state limits immediate borrowing to 75 per cent of these amounts, or \$628,065 and \$364,027, respectively. The difference may be used for interest on the proposed borrowing. Present outstanding building obligations for the Prentiss County district are \$149,817 and \$84,450 for the proposed Baldwyn district (including Cedar Hill and Guntown). The total cost to the proposed districts for buildings is \$1,062,177 for the Prentiss County district and \$450,783 for the Baldwyn district, which on a 20-year basis will require a Prentiss

County district millage of 4.4 and a Baldwin district millage of 8.0.

Total Millage. Under the proposed plan for reorganization the costs and levies necessary are indicated below.

Current Expenses (Local ad-valorem)

90 per cent of assessments times present county and city districts and county school levies (including line district)	Proposed Prentiss District \$93,118	Proposed Baldwyn District \$44,149
Ninth-month enrichment program for all children	35,491 \$128,609	25,735 \$69,884
Savings (ten and five fewer teachers)	25,000	12,500
Total	\$103,609	\$57,384

	<u>Prentiss District</u>		<u>Baldwyn District</u>	
	Mills		Mills	
	Assessment		Assessment	
Minimum program	\$46,123	9.4	\$28,429	10.1
Enrichment program	<u>57,486</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>28,955</u>	<u>10.2</u>
Proposed Current Expenses	\$103,609	21.2	\$57,384	20.3

Building Costs:

New Buildings	\$912,360	\$730,360
Debts Outstanding	149,817	84,450
Total	<u>\$1,062,177</u>	<u>\$814,810</u>
Less State Funds	<u>628,065</u>	<u>364,027</u>
	\$434,112	\$450,783

Cost per year 20-year period.	\$ 21,706	4.4	\$ 22,539	8.0
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Total Millage-Current Expense and Buildings	25.6	28.3
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These millages represent approximately the levies that must be made over the next twenty 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 may 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 colored. The sooner the proposed plan is put into operation the sooner the benefits of an improved education will be seen.

With this report the Prentiss County School Board, the Board of Trustees of the Baldwin Separate School District, the Lee County School Board, and the people of these school districts have the privilege of deciding what they want to do with their schools.