

4th Edition
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
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Loudoun County has an area of 520 square miles and enrolls about 7 white and 2 colored school pupils for each square mile. The sparsity of the population of either race is one of the most difficult of the county's school problems.

The system of schools as now established in Loudoun has not been organized after a comprehensive study of the needs of the entire unit of area but each school has just grown as the need of the individual community has seemed to arise. High schools have been located at almost every point in the county where the residents asked for one and offered to pay a part of the cost of the building.

Loudoun now has 9 four-year accredited high schools, Aldie, Ashburn, Leesburg, Lincoln, Lovettsville, ^{Luckeys,} Round Hill, Unison-Bloomfield, and Waterford. Hillsboro offers two years of high school work and Middleburg one year. Purcellville elementary school has 7 teachers, Hamilton 4, Bluemont and Lincoln each 3, Pleasant Valley, Arlington, and North Fork each 2 and all other white schools, 34 in all, are one-teacher schools. The largest school is Leesburg with 13 teachers and a total enrollment of 385. Lincoln has the largest high school department with 7 teachers and 123 pupils.

Leesburg colored school has 3 teachers and offers a part of the first year high school course, Middleburg and Purcellville each have 2 teachers and all other colored schools, 21 in all, are one-teacher schools.

All of the white schools have a term of 9 months and all of the colored schools have a term of 8 months. This is very considerable increase over the term of a few years ago particularly for the smaller schools.

The county is now the unit of school administration. The management of the county school system comes into authority in this wise. The people elect a general assembly, the general assembly select a judge of the circuit court, the judge of the circuit court appoints three members of a school trustee electoral board, the school trustee electoral board elect members of the county school board, the county school board elect the division superintendent, and likewise the clerk of the school board and teachers on the recommendation of the superintendent.

Supervision of the work of the teachers is done by the superintendent, principals, and a rural supervisor who has charge of one and two-room white schools only.

The business affairs are handled by the school board, assisted by the superintendent.

The clerk keeps minutes and other records of the board, issues warrants in payment of all accounts, and serves as office assistant to the superintendent.

Our county has a total of 53 different school buildings for white children. These range in size from 12 class rooms and auditorium to 1 class room. There are 24 buildings in use for colored schools. The present estimated value of this property is \$436,000 and furniture and equipment has an estimated value of \$39,000. Of these 53 buildings for white children 13 are heated by furnaces and 20 by an improved type

of stove. Only 26 are correctly lighted according to modern standards.

There still exists quite a contrast between the best and worst building in use for white children. The worst condition would naturally be found in a one-room school community and a poor condition would frequently be allowed to continue on account of the doubt as to the wisdom of continuing the one-room school for any considerable period of time.

Loudoun had last year 34 high school teachers, 101 elementary white teachers, and 28 colored teachers. The teaching load for each white teacher averages low, being 16 pupils per teacher in the high school and 30 pupils per teacher in the elementary grades. Of the total number of 163 teachers, 23 had had no experience prior to beginning their work last year and 27 others had had less than three years of experience.

The salaries of the teachers last year ran as follows:

9	high school principals	received from	\$165 to \$270	per month
25	" " teachers	" " "	\$100 to \$125	" "
6	elementary school principals	received from	\$105 to \$130	per month
95	" " teachers	" " "	\$65 to \$115	" "

28 colored school teachers received from \$50 to \$75 per month

The average white teacher's salary was \$915 and colored \$472.

Our school teachers have a live education association which meets three times each year. Their interest is devoted to their own improvement and advancement to a limited extent, but is unselfishly directed toward the goal of greater achievements for the benefit of the children being taught.

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The high schools have an athletic association which promotes a championship series each spring in baseball, basket ball, tennis and track.

The schools likewise take an active interest in public speaking and literary contests which are managed by a committee appointed by the superintendent.

A very important auxiliary to the school itself is the Community or Junior League and Parent-Teachers' Association. Nearly every school has one of these organizations and they accomplish many lasting benefits for the school and community.

Every effort is being made to meet the needs of the children of our county in the preparation which they are making for life but the schools still are mindful of the fact that to children school is life. The job before the school authorities is so vast and of such universal appeal that it calls for the help of all good citizens.

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