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## INSTRUCTION COST PER CHILD

### COST OF INSTRUCTION

The table which appears elsewhere shows the rank of the one hundred counties of the state in the amount spent on instruction per white child enrolled in all white rural schools for the school year 1923-24. Following the table showing the rank of the counties is a separate table showing the rank of the twenty-four largest city school systems in cost of instruction per white child enrolled in city schools. The tables cover all grades.

The cost of instruction is largely governed by two factors: (1) the quality or grade of the teacher, and (2) the length of the school term. Other factors, such as the number of children per teacher, help to determine the cost of instruction per pupil enrolled.

### New Hanover First

New Hanover county ranks first in the state in the amount spent on instruction per white child enrolled in rural schools. New Hanover was the first county in the state to adopt the county-wide plan. Her rural children receive the same school advantages enjoyed by the children in the Wilmington city schools. There is very little difference in the amount spent per pupil enrolled in rural and urban schools in New Hanover. This is the only county in the state that provides a term of nine months uniformly for all districts and for all schools, white and colored.

Northampton ranks second in cost of instruction per white pupil enrolled in rural schools, while Rockingham county ranks second in average annual salary paid rural white teachers. Here the number of pupils per teacher is an important factor.

Along with Northampton, Hyde and Currituck rank remarkably well, their wealth considered.

Surry county ranks last in the cost of instruction per white child enrolled in all rural schools. In other words, she spends less per pupil for instruction than any other county in the state.

The mountain counties as a rule fall toward the end of the table in cost of instruction per white child, although several mountain counties rank well up in the amount spent per negro child enrolled, often due largely to the few negroes enrolled per teacher.

### Last, Wealth Considered

Johnston county, her wealth considered, makes the poorest showing of all the counties of the state in the amount spent on the teachers charged with instructing the white children in her rural schools. She ranks among the fifty leading counties of the United States in crop wealth produced annually. She is the greatest cotton county in the state. Yet she ranks 92nd, along with the poorer mountain counties, in the amount spent on instructing her white country children.

The twenty-four largest cities of the state spent \$40.91 on white teachers' salaries for each white child enrolled in school. The average amount spent on each white rural child for the same purpose was \$20.07 or slightly less than half the average for the 24 largest cities.

The average cost of instruction per white child in all city schools in the state was \$36.42, contrasted with \$20.07 for all rural schools. And it should be remembered that the schools in many small towns over the state operate under the county system and are classed as rural.

### Greensboro Leads

Instruction of white children is more expensive in Greensboro per child enrolled than in any other city in the state, with Durham and Winston-Salem following in order. Greensboro spends nearly five times as much on instruction per white child as Surry, and nearly three times as much as the average spent on all white rural children the state over.

The above are some of the outstanding facts as reported in the recent issue of School Facts, Vol. I, No. 18. As we said in the beginning, the cost of instruction per child is determined largely by the length of the school term and the quality or grade of the teachers. The following table which covers the year 1923-24 is immensely significant, and goes far towards explaining why city schools are more expensive than

rural schools. They have longer terms and better-trained teachers.

	Length of Term in Days		Scholarship of White Teachers
	White	Colored	
24 largest cities	178.2	177.6	7.06
All cities	176.9	174.3	6.86
The state average	146.2	134.6	5.34
Rural schools	136.0	122.8	4.75

The scholarship rating refers to the number of school credit years beyond grammar grades the average teacher possesses. Thousands of white teachers in the rural schools have never finished high school.

### DAVIDSON COUNTY BULLETIN

Davidson County: Economic and Social, is the title of the latest county study to come from the press. It was written and published through the efforts of Miss M. Jewell Sink of Thomasville, N. C. To Miss Sink goes the honor of being the first undergraduate woman student in North Carolina, perhaps in the United States, to publish a systematic interpretation of her home county. The significance of this will easily be seen, especially by the club women of North Carolina.

The hundred pages of the bulletin cover ten chapters as follows: Historical Background, Natural Resources, Facts about the Folks, Wealth and Taxation, Industries, Farm Conditions and Practices, Home-Raised Food and Feed and the Local Market Problem, Churches and Schools, Evidences of Progress, Davidson County Problems. The bulletins are being mailed out free of charge to Davidson County citizens, and a small supply is being reserved in the Department of Rural Social-Economics at the University for those who are sufficiently anxious for a copy to write for it.

### READING IN RURAL HOMES

Do country people in North Carolina read as much as urban people? Any observer of reading matter in rural homes is likely to be impressed by the general absence of reading matter in farm homes, especially when compared with reading matter in urban homes. Recent issues of the News Letter have dealt with reading habits in North Carolina by counties, and the state compared with other states. To what extent is our low rank attributable to the excessive rural population ratio of the state? Three years ago a complete survey of two entire townships disclosed the facts in a mid-state county. In this brief article we are presenting some facts recently gathered from what we believe to be a typical rural township in eastern North Carolina. The facts are gathered from one hundred white homes in a township in Duplin county. Reading matter in negro homes in this township will be treated later. The information was secured by the questionnaire method, the data being filled in by the author in a house-to-house survey. The information is direct and accurate. It is believed that the families surveyed can be said to represent a cross-section of rural North Carolina. Ninety-four family heads pursued farming, three merchandising, one contracting, one brick-laying, and one preaching.

### Papers and Magazines

The following table shows the current reading facilities in these one hundred white homes.

Types	No. Papers and Magazines Taken	Percent of Families Taking Papers and Magazines
Dailies	21	17
Weeklies	41	37
Children's papers	1	1
Farm papers	47	39
Church papers	15	14
Magazines	16	16
Others	9	5

Percent of families taking papers or magazines, 54.

Farm papers seem to be most popular with these families, followed by weekly news sheets. Children were found in a big majority of the homes, yet only one home took a children's paper. The fact of most significance, however, is that 46 percent of these

### AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Because it believes that there is no subject of more importance to North Carolinians at the present time than the matter of taxation, the News Letter will offer in the succeeding thirteen issues a tax study outline for the use of any organization that may desire it. The outline, prepared by Mr. Paul W. Wager, research student at the University, does not pretend to be exhaustive but is merely intended to simplify the fundamentals of a vast field of study. Especial emphasis is laid on county taxes but it should provide a useful guide for any club desiring to study state and national taxation as well. Woman's Clubs, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Civitan, and other men's organizations are invited to make full use of the outline to the end that the citizenship of our state may be made more enlightened concerning the support of their government and the services that citizens have a right to expect from it. The thirteen issues will cover in order the following topics:

1. What is a Tax?
2. Kinds of Taxes.
3. Taxable Wealth.
4. Tax Assessing.
5. Tax Collecting.
6. Limits of Taxation and Indebtedness.
7. Administration of Public Business.
8. Care of Public Property.
9. Where the Taxpayer's Money Goes.
10. Financial Control.
11. State Taxation in North Carolina.
12. Federal Taxation.
13. Taxation, the Citizen's Business.

Each of the thirteen topics is divided into four parts: (a) Outline, (b) Explanation, (c) Questions, (d) Sources of Information. The outline is in turn subdivided into topics, usually four or five in number, and these may be assigned to individual members for special report to the tax study club. The questions may be used as the basis for general discussion after the special reports have been heard. The consolidated statutes in the county court house, the county tax books, county tax officials, and any standard text book on civics may be consulted for help either in answering the questions or in preparing papers on the special reports.

Any individual or organization desiring additional copies of the News Letter during the outline series may secure them by request. Write for the number you need before the beginning of the series in the next issue.

farm families take no paper or magazine of any sort whatsoever. If this township is typical of rural North Carolina—and a survey of more than three hundred homes in two other townships gave about the same results—then there are nearly one hundred thousand white farm homes in the state, representing a half million white people, where no reading of current literature is to be found. How much do these people know about what is happening in the world about them? What do the children and grown-ups do with their leisure time? These are significant facts and questions.

### Books in These Homes

To get a complete picture of reading facilities and habits it is necessary to know, in addition to the facts about current reading matter, the facts about books in these one hundred white homes. The following table is an analysis of the facts gathered from an actual count.

Type	No. of Books In Homes	Percent of Families Having Each Type
Religious:		
Bible	121	98
Others	37	17
Agriculture	0	0
Fiction	63	14
Children's books including school textbooks	341	47
Literature and history	13	8
Almanacs	103	47
Catalogues	109	84
Others	98	19

The percent of families having books other than the Bible, school textbooks, almanacs, and catalogues was 21.

In other words, 79 percent of the white families possessed no books of a general reading nature. Since practically no country people have access to public libraries, the conclusion is that about four-fifths of the country people of the state do not read books, and never have any chance to read them.

The fact that a larger number of families have Bibles than any other type of book is what would be expected, but the fact that out of the one hundred families, ninety-four of which are engaged in the occupation of farming, not a single book on agriculture was found is both interesting and significant. The modern professional and commercial world is founded on knowledge about one's occupation. Farming is a business, a highly technical one, requiring broad knowledge on the part of those who succeed at it. The meagre accumulation of wealth on the part of farmers, their investment considered, is probably due very largely to their lack of reading along agricultural lines.

The greater part of the books are school text-books, a fact that emphasizes the importance of the schools in the rural community. Almost all of the

families have almanacs and catalogues, but these, strictly speaking, are not books.

### How One-Half Live

Two of the families have no books, ninety-eight families have, excluding almanacs and catalogues, six hundred and seventy-seven books, or 6.8 books for each family; and including almanacs and catalogues, these families have eight hundred and eighty-five books, or nine books per family. Seventy-nine percent of the families do not have any books other than school text-books, almanacs, catalogues and the Bible. Excepting the Bible, almanacs and catalogues, forty-eight percent of the families do not possess any book of any description not even a school text-book. The reader is left to do his own moralizing.

## INSTRUCTION COST PER CHILD ENROLLED IN SCHOOL In North Carolina for the School Year 1923-24

The following table, based on State School Facts, Vol. 1, No. 18, shows the rank of the counties of North Carolina in the cost of instruction per white child enrolled in public rural schools for the school year 1923-24.

For instance, the amount spent on white rural teachers' salaries in New Hanover averaged \$39.59 per white child enrolled in rural schools. The white rural teachers of Surry cost only \$12.21 per white child enrolled in rural schools. Greensboro led the cities of the state in cost of instruction per white child enrolled, and also in cost per colored child enrolled.

State average expenditure on white teachers' salaries was \$24.07 per white child enrolled in all schools in the state. The city schools averaged \$36.42, while the rural schools averaged \$20.07 for instruction per white child enrolled. The 24 largest city schools averaged \$40.91 per white pupil enrolled, or twice the average for all rural schools.

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Rank	Counties	Instruction Cost per White Pupil Enrolled in Rural Schools	Rank	Counties	Instruction Cost per White Pupil Enrolled in Rural Schools
1	New Hanover	\$39.59	51	Lenoir	\$20.03
2	Northampton	39.35	52	Onslow	19.92
3	Hyde	34.12	53	Columbus	19.71
4	Gulford	33.62	58	Perquimans	19.71
5	Currituck	33.28	55	McDowell	19.49
6	Durham	33.19	56	Carteret	19.34
7	Halifax	30.68	57	Rowan	19.25
8	Hertford	30.34	58	Swain	19.18
9	Hoke	30.09	59	Martin	19.11
10	Cumberland	29.17	60	Anson	18.82
11	Wilson	28.97	61	Richmond	18.63
12	Edgecombe	28.07	62	Graham	18.88
13	Craven	28.00	63	Forsyth	18.29
14	Gaston	27.72	64	Caswell	17.97
15	Warren	27.67	65	Chatham	17.90
16	Scotland	27.63	66	Tyrell	17.86
17	Pamlico	27.25	67	Caldwell	17.52
18	Alamance	26.83	68	Henderson	17.48
19	Nash	26.52	69	Baufort	17.27
20	Bertie	26.35	70	David	17.20
21	Vance	26.32	71	Cleveland	17.16
22	Camden	25.41	72	Harnett	17.10
23	Rockingham	25.04	73	Iredell	17.09
24	Pasquotank	24.99	74	Lee	17.07
25	Bladen	24.83	75	Union	17.05
26	Transylvania	24.66	76	Sampson	17.01
27	Washington	24.33	77	Davidson	16.75
28	Granville	24.18	78	Burke	16.65
29	Jones	24.09	79	Lincoln	16.49
30	Pender	23.82	80	Cabarrus	16.22
31	Chowan	23.77	81	Person	15.96
32	Dare	23.49	82	Clay	15.73
33	Montgomery	23.31	83	Macon	15.68
34	Wake	23.05	84	Stanly	15.67
35	Buncombe	22.71	85	Rutherford	15.60
36	Mecklenburg	22.70	86	Brunswick	15.41
37	Gates	22.32	87	Allegany	15.28
38	Pitt	22.29	88	Stokes	15.10
39	Duplin	22.14	88	Wilkes	15.10
40	Wayne	21.96	90	Watauga	14.87
41	Polk	21.87	91	Randolph	14.49
42	Moore	21.51	92	Johnston	14.17
43	Alexander	21.43	93	Haywood	14.07
44	Orange	21.42	94	Cherokee	13.39
45	Greene	20.87	95	Yancey	13.37
46	Robeson	20.80	96	Mitchell	13.26
47	Jackson	20.72	96	Yadkin	13.26
48	Avery	20.55	98	Madison	13.17
49	Franklin	20.37	99	Ashe	13.15
50	Catawba	20.15	100	Surry	12.21

### The Twenty-Four Largest City Systems

Rank	Cities	Instruction Cost per White Pupil Enrolled in Rural Schools	Rank	Cities	Instruction Cost per White Pupil Enrolled in Rural Schools
1	Greensboro	\$56.39	13	Kinston	\$37.75
2	Durham	55.87	14	Elizabeth City	36.77
3	Winston-Salem	50.38	15	Salisbury	36.45
4	Roanoke Rapids	49.40	16	Henderson	36.12
5	Asheville	46.32	17	Charlotte	35.75
6	Goldsboro	44.52	18	Fayetteville	34.94
7	Raleigh	43.40	19	Burlington	34.69
8	Wilmington	42.74	20	Gastonia	33.07
9	Wilson	39.94	21	High Point	32.56
10	Statesville	38.15	22	Rocky Mount	31.62
11	New Bern	37.95	23	Concord	30.11
12	Hickory	37.78	24	Mooresville	26.54