

North Carolina's Rank Among States In Public Education Varies According To Item

How does North Carolina rank in public education?

This question is one that is asked more than it is answered. The answer depends upon what items are used in comparing this State with other states. On some items North Carolina ranks high; whereas on others, average; and on still others, near the bottom. A composite or average of the ranks on the various items may be made, yet this system of ranking the states on public education has its drawback in that the method of calculating or assembling the figures concerning the various items vary within the several states.

Discounting all unfavorable factors in ranking and assuming that such variables are common to all states, the relative standing of North Carolina among the states as determined by the "rank method" is 25. Using all items this State's rank on the basis of an average of ranks is 26.5. But by omitting such items being not comparable to other states or duplicates of other items, the rank of North Carolina becomes 31. Omitting other items the rank of the State drops to 36. Thus it is seen that a state's rank on public education depends entirely upon the items and the method of ranking used.

It is better, therefore, to compare the states with each other on one particular item, even though a comparison of this kind may not be altogether accurate. Let it be said that the ranks are relative, or indicative of approximation, especially since the figures have been collected and edited by one collecting agency, the U. S. Office of Education.

Teachers' Salaries
Average salaries paid public school teachers is one index of the qualitative aspect of the instructional program. The average salary paid North Carolina teachers in 1949-50 was \$2,688. The State's rank in this respect was 30th, with the range from California's \$4,268 (rank 1) to Mississippi's \$1,416 (rank 48). Average for the United States was \$3,010.

ADA Per Teacher
North Carolina ranked 45th among the states in average number of pupils (29) in average daily attendance per teacher. Range among the states in this respect was 14.7 in South Dakota to 30.2 in Mississippi. Average for the nation was 24.4.

State Funds
This state ranked third, being exceeded by New Mexico and Delaware, in the per cent of State funds used for current expense purposes. Range among the states was from 88.0 per cent in New Mexico to only 3.2 per

cent in Nebraska. North Carolina provided 78.6 per cent of current expense from State sources.

Per Pupil Expense
North Carolina spent less than half per pupil than did New York which headed the states in this respect at \$295.02 annually per pupil in average daily attendance. This State with an average expenditure of \$140.82 ranked 41st in this respect. Mississippi was lowest with a per pupil expenditure of \$79.69. Average for the nation was \$208.83.

Per Cent Enrolled
The State ranked relatively high at 19th place in the per cent of the population 5-17 years of age enrolled in school. The nation's average was 81.6 per cent, whereas this State's average was 84.9 per cent. Highest percentage was made in Wyoming 95.2 and lowest was made in New Hampshire, 70.6 per cent.

Per Cent ADA
North Carolina ranked better than the average in per cent of pupils enrolled in average daily attendance at 16th place with a percentage of 90.2. The nation's average was 88.7 per cent. Lowest was in New Mexico, 81.8 per cent; and highest in Nevada, 99.9 per cent.

Cost Per Pupil Transported
North Carolina's average cost per pupil transported was lowest among the states at \$15.08 a year. Highest cost per pupil for transportation was in South Dakota at \$169.15. Average for the nation in this respect was \$30.88.

Per Capita Cost
Based on population North Carolina spent \$37.08 per capita and thereby ranked 28th in this respect. For the nation as a whole the average per capita expenditure was \$38.36, the range among the states being from \$6.20 in Oregon to \$18.68 in Mississippi.

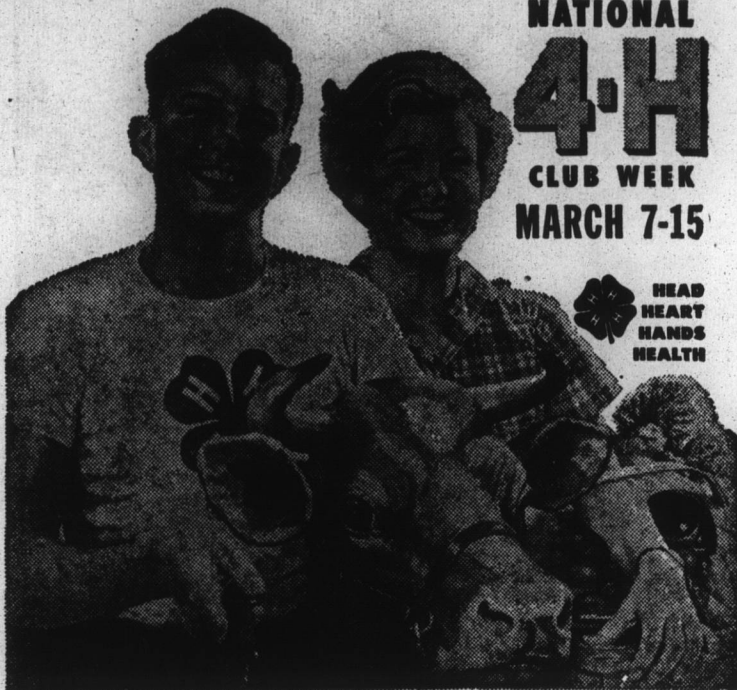
Value of Property
Value of school property per pupil enrolled ranged from \$790 in New York to \$137 in Mississippi. North Carolina's average for this item on the same basis was \$261, and the State ranked 41st among all states. Average for the nation was \$454.

Summary
As stated, these various figures are indicative of the situation with respect to public education as measured by these various items. They show both weaknesses and strengths. They also indicate where improvements should be made in order to increase the effectiveness of the public schools.

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138 Receive Old Age Aid During February

One hundred thirty-eight persons in Chowan County received old age assistance during February, according to the report of Mrs. J. H. McMullan, superintendent of the Chowan Welfare Department. The amount distributed was \$3,568. In the same period 11 aid to dependent children cases received \$375, six aid to permanently and totally disabled cases \$180 and 13 aid to blind cases \$471. Five general assistance cases amounted to \$87 and other financial assistance included 10 cases hospitalized in the county, \$463; three cases hospitalized outside the county, \$115.10, and one medical case, \$25.

Service cases included one adult paroled under supervision, one person receiving veterans rehabilitation in cooperation with the Department of Welfare, 10 persons receiving free eye examination through the N. C.

LADIES! LOOK YOUNG AND LOVELY

The secret of looking young and lovely lies in the food you eat, says Gayelord Hauser, noted diet expert. Try his recipes and menus for a full week's diet, designed to change bad eating habits to good ones. Illustrated feature in the March 22nd issue of.

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State Commission for the blind, four child labor certificates issued and 11 children receiving individual service.

ON WAITING LIST

W. N. Spruill, division engineer of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, has notified the Chowan County Commissioners that the request for the State to take over Green Road in the Third Township will be

considered when other paving projects are selected for Chowan County. The road in question leads from River Road to N. C. 32.

No matter what theory of the origin of government you adopt, if you follow it out to its legitimate conclusions it will bring you face to face with the moral law. —H. J. Van Dyke.

CONVENIENT SHOPPING

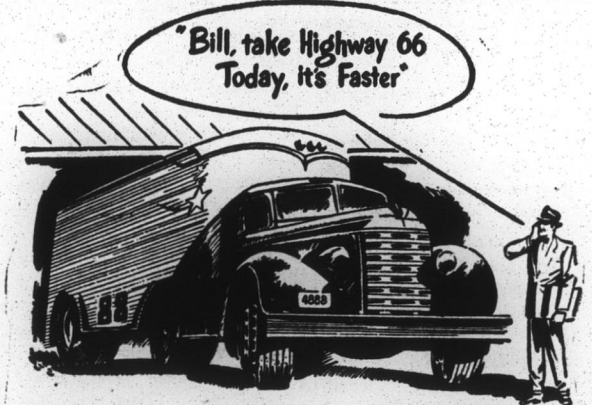
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