

STATISTICS SHOW ENROLLMENT IN NINTH GRADE 30,000 GREATER THAN 21 YEARS AGO

Enrollment in the ninth grade, now the first year of the four-year high school course, has increased from a total of 35,573 in 1931-32 to 65,624 in 1952-53, or more than 30,000 during this 21-year period. The trend has not been constant during these years, but since 1944-45 in the case of white pupils and 1942-43 in the case of Negroes, an upward tendency is observed.

Enrollment of white children increased from 30,271 in 1931-32 to 47,991 in 1952-53, an increase of 17,720 during the 21-year period or 58.5 per cent increase. Average yearly increase was 844. The increase has been almost constant except for World War II years when there were fewer ninth grade students than preceding years.

Ninth grade enrollment for the Negro schools increased from 5,302 in 1931-32 to 17,633 in 1952, an increase of 12,331 for the entire period considered. This represented a 232.6 per cent increase, or an average yearly increase of 587.

Membership, those students on the roll on the last day of school, likewise increased for both races over the 21-year period. The trend paralleled that of enrollment, and the percentage of increase was approximately the same as that of enrollment in the case of white students and slightly less for Negroes.

The number of drop-outs, those students who left school once they enrolled, increased during the 21 years as would be expected for a larger enrollment.

In the case of white students, however, the percentage of drop-outs varies—from 8.1 per cent of the total enrolled in 1937-38 to 12.9 per cent in 1942-43. In 1952-53 this percentage was 9.1 per cent, one per cent less than the preceding year, and approximately the same as for 1931-32.

In the case of Negro students, the percentage of drop-outs varies to some extent, but in recent years this percentage has been greater than was true prior to 1946-47. The range for the 21 years is from 6.1 per cent in 1938-39 to 12.0 in 1947-48. In 1951-52 and 1952-53 there was an identical percentage, 10.1, of drop-outs for this race.

The number of promotions, too, has increased over the years for both races as would be expected with increased enrollments in this grade. Con-

versely non-promotions have decreased. In the case of whites the percentage of promotions increased from 81.9 in 1931-32 to 91.5 in 1952-53. Recent years show better than 90 per cent promotions for the grade. Corresponding decreases during the years were made in the percentage of non-promotions.

For Negroes, the number and percentage of promotions have also increased since 1931-32. The percentage varied from 76.6 in 1931-32 to 87.0 in 1949-50. For the past five years it has been between 86 and 87 per cent. Non-promotions, on the other hand, have tended to decrease to where the percentage is now between 13 and 14.

Records for this group of figures begin with the year 1936-37. Average daily membership and average daily attendance are greater now than that year. Average daily absences are greater also, both in number and percentages for both races.

In the case of white students the percentage was less than five per cent during early years. During recent years this percentage has been around six per cent, a little less or a little more.

In the case of Negroes, the percentage of average daily absences for this grade was about six per cent, but for recent years this percentage has increased to 7-9 per cent.

Augustus W. Bunch Dies Early Thursday

Augustus Wilbur Bunch, 72, died Thursday morning at 4 o'clock at his home in the Holley's Wharf section following a short illness. A native of Chowan County, he was a retired farmer, and a son of the late Isaiah Bunch and Joanne Forehand Bunch.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Artie Dail Bunch; four sons, Julian Bunch of South Norfolk, Leroy, Ervin and Wilbur Bunch, all of Edenton; two

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daughters, Mrs. Dewey P. McLeod of Suffolk, and Mrs. Edison H. Hobbs of Portsmouth; one sister, Mrs. C. P. Bunch of Tyner and one grandson. Funeral services were held at the Center Hill Baptist Church Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The pastor, the Rev. L. C. Chandler, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Lee A. Phillips, pastor of the Warwick Baptist Church. Interment was in the family cemetery. Pallbearers were Milton Evans, Marvin Evans, Earl Smith, Abah Gresham, Dorcovan Dail and Braxton Dail.

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