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We Must Give Southern Children Longer School Terms

WE MUST give the boys and girls of the rural South longer school terms—and we must do this no matter what it costs in time, effort or money. Not only is it true that in no other section of the United States are the people doing so little for their boys and girls as we are doing, not only is it true that probably no country in Christendom except Russia is doing so little for its boys and girls as we in the South are doing, but the shameful fact is that when the writer was in Japan, we found even that so-called heathen country aroused to the importance of education and giving its country boys and girls twice as long a term as we are giving ours—and with compulsory attendance.

Simply to stir us up and shame us into action, we print herewith the table prepared by the Russell Sage Foundation showing the number of days schooling received by the average child in each state in 1910. We of the South have made gratifying progress since then, to be sure, but yet all too little. Your boys and girls, kind reader, your boys and girls here in North Carolina who were getting only 51 days average in 1910, South Carolina's with 50 days, Virginia's with 58, and Georgia's with 62—these boys and girls of ours must face the competition of boys and girls from Massachusetts who were getting 131 days average, from Ohio who were getting 113, from Illinois who were getting 108, and from Washington who were getting 107, and so on down the line. Are you willing simply in order to save a few pennies to send *your* boys and girls out into life less well equipped than their competitors?

Nor can we lay the flattering unction to our souls that in proportion to our means we of the South are doing as well as people of the other states are doing. We are not. That's the pleasing, fatal lie with which politicians and mossbacks have fooled us all these years. Here are the official figures showing what each state in America spends yearly for schools *in proportion to each \$100 of wealth in that state* and you can see whether North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Florida are nearest the top or nearest the foot of the list:

State	Average Days of Schooling
1. MASSACHUSETTS	131
2. CONNECTICUT	128
3. NEW YORK	117
4. RHODE ISLAND	116
5. VERMONT	115
6. OHIO	113
7. MICHIGAN	109
8. ILLINOIS	108
9. MAINE	107
10. WASHINGTON	107
11. NEW JERSEY	107
12. IOWA	106
13. N. HAMPSHIRE	104
14. CALIFORNIA	103
15. MONTANA	99
16. PENNSYLVANIA	99
17. UTAH	99
18. KANSAS	97
19. NEBRASKA	95
20. INDIANA	95
21. WISCONSIN	91
22. COLORADO	89
23. OREGON	88
24. MINNESOTA	88
25. MISSOURI	82
26. WYOMING	81
27. N. DAKOTA	80
28. S. DAKOTA	79
29. MARYLAND	79
30. DELAWARE	78
31. IDAHO	78
32. W. VIRGINIA	72
33. TENNESSEE	72
34. ARIZONA	70
35. FLORIDA	68
36. OKLAHOMA	65
37. NEVADA	63
38. GEORGIA	62
39. MISSISSIPPI	58
40. VIRGINIA	58
41. KENTUCKY	57
42. TEXAS	56
43. ARKANSAS	52
44. N. CAROLINA	51
45. S. CAROLINA	50
46. LOUISIANA	49
47. ALABAMA	47
48. N. MEXICO	46

AVERAGE DAYS OF SCHOOLING PER CHILD OF SCHOOL AGE IN EACH STATE IN 1910

This table, based on the average length of school term and the average attendance, shows the number of days schooling actually received by the average child of school age in each state in the last census year. Each dot equals one day.

1. Oklahoma	75 cents
2. Washington	72 cents
3. Utah	51 cents
4. Idaho	49 cents
5. Oregon	45 cents
6. North Dakota	44 cents
7. South Dakota	44 cents
8. New Jersey	43 cents
9. Vermont	40 cents
10. Indiana	39 cents
11. West Virginia	37 cents
12. Kansas	36 cents
13. Ohio	35 cents
14. Michigan	35 cents
15. Massachusetts	34 cents
16. California	33 cents
17. Tennessee	33 cents
18. Texas	33 cents
19. FLORIDA	33 cents
20. Colorado	32 cents
21. Maine	32 cents
22. Kentucky	32 cents
23. Connecticut	31 cents
24. Louisiana	31 cents
25. Wisconsin	31 cents
26. Mississippi	31 cents
27. Minnesota	30 cents
28. Illinois	29 cents
29. GEORGIA	29 cents

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30. Arkansas	29 cents
31. Nebraska	29 cents
32. Missouri	29 cents
33. New York	29 cents
34. New Hampshire	28 cents
35. VIRGINIA	28 cents
36. NORTH CAROLINA	28 cents
37. Montana	28 cents
38. Pennsylvania	27 cents
39. Arizona	27 cents
40. Rhode Island	27 cents
41. SOUTH CAROLINA	27 cents
42. Iowa	25 cents
43. Delaware	23 cents
44. Nevada	23 cents
45. Alabama	21 cents
46. Maryland	21 cents
47. Wyoming	20 cents
48. New Mexico	19 cents

Whatever other neighborhoods may or may not do, why not decide right now that boys and girls in your neighborhood shall have a better chance no matter whether this means local tax, consolidation of districts, or transportation of pupils?