

SCHOOL SYSTEMS WORSE HIT BY UNFAIR FUND ALLOCATIONS THAN LOCAL ONES

Extreme Variations in School Appropriations for 1967-68 Reviewed

Unit	Enrollment	State Funds	Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Per Pupil
Entire State	1,115,296	\$381,064,103.00(\$337.74)	\$72,735,789.02(\$65.21)	\$85,249,523.81(\$ 76.44)	\$465.39
HIGH AND LOW FROM STATE FUNDS					
Glen Alpine	1,530	454,156.40(\$296.83)	68,806.43(\$ 45.63)	78,282.83(\$ 51.17)	\$420.32
Cherokee	1,196	457,250.61(\$382.31)	151,515.79(\$126.69)	68,185.42(\$ 55.34)	\$564.34
HIGH AND LOW FROM FEDERAL FUNDS					
Graham	1,481	529,794.67(\$357.73)	227,719.30(\$153.76)	37,049.70(\$ 25.01)	\$536.50
Elm City	1,431	454,226.68(\$317.42)	40,068.93(\$ 28.00)	70,742.73(\$ 49.44)	\$394.86
HIGH AND LOW FROM LOCAL FUNDS					
Hendersonville	1,689	600,220.64(\$355.37)	116,158.46(\$ 68.77)	329,377.32(\$195.01)	\$619.15
Swain	1,762	653,221.14(\$370.73)	178,257.23(\$101.17)	25,575.16(\$ 14.51)	\$486.41
HIGH AND LOW TOTAL SPENT					
Hendersonville	1,689	600,220.64(\$355.37)	116,158.46(\$ 68.77)	329,377.32(\$195.01)	\$619.15
Iredell	8,912	2,862,697.73(\$321.22)	170,628.03(\$ 19.15)	292,856.56(\$ 32.86)	\$373.23
LOCAL SYSTEMS					
Lenoir County	7,805	2,782,811.43(\$356.54)	805,457.40(\$103.20)	628,474.35(\$ 80.27)	\$540.01
Kinston	5,926	1,868,005.05(\$315.22)	385,717.83(\$ 65.09)	691,254.24(\$116.65)	\$496.96
Jones	2,941	1,017,548.90(\$345.99)	346,730.24(\$117.89)	94,495.50(\$ 32.13)	\$496.01

Figures in parentheses are expenditures per pupil

by Jack Rider
Not wishing to cause local people to develop a total persecution complex it is perhaps wise to let those interested know that there are school districts in North Carolina that are hit worse blows than the local ones when it comes to the inequitable allocations of public school funds by state school officials.

The tabulation included with this article show those that fared the best and the worst in the 1967-68 school year insofar as allocations of state, fed-

eral and local funds were concerned; keeping in mind, of course, that those same state school officials have a very big hand in the allocation of federal funds as well as state funds.

Perhaps concerned about their collective scalps the state school board looked with highest favor on the indians of Cherokee County, where \$382.31 was sent for each pupil from state funds, and paradoxically enough although there are more "little indians" in school at Glen Alpine in Burke County they got the tiniest crumb of state funds

that year . . . just \$296.83 per pupil.

Which indicates a spread of 29 per cent between these two small school systems insofar as state money was concerned.

When it came to federal funds, however, the picture was even worse. Graham County eat highest on the federal education hog with an allocation of \$153.76 for each of its 1,481 students and the almost identically sized Elm City school system got the dirty end of the federal education stick with only \$28 allocated for each of its 1,431 students.

Percentage wise that is a spread of 448 per cent!

When it came to dipping into the local tax till for school funds Swain Countians got by cheapest with just a meager \$14.51 cent expenditure of home grown dollars for its 1,762 students.

The Hendersonville system's supporters suffered most severely. They plunked down \$195.01 for each of their 1,689 students, which also earned them the honor of having the highest expenditure per pupil of any of the state's school systems. Which high figure was a resounding \$619.15 per student. No other district was close.

Rich Iredell didn't lavish too much of its wealth on public schools and wound up spending the least per pupil of any system in the state: Just \$373.23.

From the percentage point of view the affluent (at least before) taxpayers of Hendersonville were shelling out at a rate 1243 per cent higher than their mountain cousins over in the Great State of Swain; yet when the extra allocations of state and federal funds arrived in

Fair Swain the gap between the two systems shrunk greatly.

If every school district in the state had been allocated state funds at the same rate as Cherokee
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Two Jones Arrests

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reported the following arrest during the past week. Galvin Dudley of Maysville was charged with being publicly drunk and Milton Connor of route 6 Kinston was charged with driving under the influence.

J. T. Taylor Sues

REA Co-op For Use of His Land

J. T. Taylor is suing the Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation.

Taylor wants double the value of trees cut or destroyed on his property when the Corporation installed a power line on his property without his permission. Taylor asks for removal of power line and poles and sum of \$800 plus costs.

Four Hurt Saturday In Jones Accident

Four young Jones Countians escaped with minor injuries in a single car accident near Phillips Crossroads Saturday night at about 11:30.

The driver of the car, Patrick Faulkner of Dover route 2, was most badly hurt of the four, but Robert, Mona and Joe Stille of Trenton route 2 suffered injuries for which they were treated and released at Lenoir Memorial Hospital.

Faulkner's car was classified a total loss by Patrolman C. W. Oakley. He was kept in the hospital until Tuesday for treatment of numerous minor injuries and observation.

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Two Die from Car-Crash Into Drive-in Theater on NC 11 on Saturday Night

Lenoir County's 13th and 14th traffic deaths of 1969 resulted from a high speed crash of a single car into the Brightleaf Drive-in Theater just north of Kinston at 11:15 Saturday night.

Highway Patrolman Earl Smith says the car driven by 22 year-old James Lee Simmons of

617 Oak Street first hit the right shoulder of the highway as he drove southwardly, then crossed the median strip and across the northbound traffic lanes before crashing into the theater building.

Smith said the car travelled out of control for 726 feet.

Simmons was killed instantly and the car's only other passenger 20 year-old Loretta Koence of 211 East South Street, died in Lenoir Memorial Hospital at about 9:20 Sunday night.

Damage to the theater building was estimated at \$3,000 and the 1966 Buick driven by Simmons was classified a total loss.

Car in Which Two Were Killed Saturday Night on NC 11



This is the damaged remains of a 1966 Buick in which James Lee Simmons of 617 Oak Street and Loretta Koence of 211 East South Street were killed Saturday night when the car crashed into the Brightleaf

Drive-in Theater and in which Loretta Koence of 211 East South Street suffered injuries from which she died at 9:20 Sunday night. Photo by Police Captain Walter Thomas.

The Great State of North Carolina Suing The Small County of Jones

By Jack Rider

This week in Jones County Superior Court what is very likely to develop into a David-and-Goliath law suit began working its way to the higher courts when it was filed in the office of Jones county Court Clerk Rogers Pollock.

In this litigation the Great State of North Carolina is bringing suit against The Tiny County of Jones, seeking to force the Jones County Board of Commissioners to levy taxes it does not wish to levy and to appropriate funds for projects that the board of commissioners does not want for Jones County.

It is the classic issue of whether local government can survive in the bureaucratic jungle that now makes service as a local official a thankless nightmare.

The suit stems from the refusal of Jones County's Board of Commissioners to fund a welfare project called "work incentive program." Jones was one of 10 North Carolina counties favored with this unwanted kind of program by the computers in the Health, Education and Welfare Department in Washington, D.C. The Jones County part of this boondoggle was \$8100.

The suit further seeks to force the Jones County Board of Commissioners to appropriate the full \$21,357 which the state welfare department has ordered as the county's part of a medical assistance program. The Jones Board put up \$16,557 of this re-

quest but has refused repeatedly to increase it to the figure demanded by Raleigh bureaucrats.

Among the higher flights of legal rhetoric included in the complaint are: "failure to perform acts and duties required by law constitutes unlawful and unwarranted denial of rights and abuse of authority." This overlooks the basic constitutional right that boards of county commissioners are alone charged with levying and collecting taxes for the purpose of operating county services.

Jones County authorities say the legislature and the state welfare department have no legal right to force any board of county commissioners to levy taxes against the will of that board, and most especially when only 10 of 100 counties are being forced into these sociological experiments.

The welfare dept. lawyer in Raleigh let all of his legal training fly out his ears when he wrote into the complaint: "It is the mandatory duty of the Commissioners of Jones County to appropriate, make available to the plaintiff and to levy sufficient taxes to produce and make available funds. Jones County's refusal placed the entire state in non-conformity with the requirements of the federal social security act. If the funds are not made available all public assistance programs in North Car-

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