



New York State Archives

**New York State Education Department Bureau of School
District Organization Subject and Administrative Files B0477**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	These files document the Bureau's field activities and policy development relating to centralization and reorganization of school districts; district superintendents; legislative proposals; administration of programs specified in legislation; professional organizations; racial imbalance in elementary and secondary schools; state financial aid for education; vocational education. They also address procedures and departmental policy on the formation of central school districts, vocational education and enlarged city school districts.
Creator:	New York (State). Education Department. Bureau of School District Organization
Title:	Education Department Bureau of School District Organization subject and administrative files
Quantity:	8 cubic feet
Inclusive Date:	1923-1967
Bulk Date:	1952-1967
Series:	B0477
Sponsor:	This series' description was enhanced as part of the States' Impact on Federal Education Policy Project (SIFEPP), in April 2010. The New York Community Trust - Wallace Special Projects Fund provided funding for this project.

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Arrangement

Arranged into two subseries: 1. Subject files, 2. Administrative files

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Administrative History

The consolidation of small rural school districts into larger central school districts was first enacted into law in Chapter 55 of the Laws of 1914, which provided for the formation of "Central Rural Schools." The first rural central school district was created in 1924. In 1925, the Cole-Rice Law (Chapter 673 of the Laws of 1925) was enacted, which provided state financial aid for transportation and school construction in order to encourage rural school districts to consolidate. The pace of centralization increased in the 1930's, but the process of centralization was criticized as piecemeal by the Regents' Inquiry into the Character and Cost of Public Education in 1938. In response, the Bureau of Rural Administrative Services was created in 1943 to facilitate the process of school district centralization, and a Master Plan for School District Reorganization was created by the Joint Legislative Committee on the State Education System in 1947. The Bureau of Rural Administrative Services was renamed the Bureau of School District Organization in 1964. By 1959, the number of school districts in New York State had fallen to under 2,000, down from around 10,000 in 1925. Overall, the movement toward centralized school districts was reflective of a national trend towards greater involvement by state governments and state education agencies in the administration and funding of public schools.

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Scope and Content Note

The series contains correspondence, memoranda and reports regarding activities of the Bureau of School District Organization in the field and in policy development. Many of the records are related to district superintendents. These include newsletters from the Assistant Commissioner for Educational Administration and Supervision, explaining NYSED policies and activities to district superintendents. Also present is correspondence regarding resignation of district superintendents and its effect on possible reorganization of school districts. The subject files also include correspondence with U.S. Office of Education personnel regarding the USOE's interest in NYSED programs as a model for providing enhanced educational services to rural school districts. Other subjects dealt with in the subject files include state legislation, racial imbalance in school districts, and vocational education. Also included in the series are files documenting the administration of the Bureau of School District Organization, including annual reports, timesheets for staff, and budget requests to the Office of Business Management and Personnel.

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Related Information

Related Material

14209Series 14209, deals with the creation and oversight of Boards of Cooperative Education Services

B0473Series B0473, deals with the creation and oversight of Boards of Cooperative Education Services

B0474Series B0474, deals with the creation and oversight of Boards of Cooperative Education Services

11120Series 11120, contains reports on studies completed for the Master Plan for School District Reorganization

B0472Series B0472, deals with school district centralization

B0476Series B0476, deals with school district centralization

15672Series 15672, deals with school district centralization

11121 Series 11121, documents the supervision of district superintendents

15671Series 15671, documents the supervision of district superintendents

B0314Series B0314, documents the supervision of district superintendents

B0482Series B0482, documents the supervision of district superintendents.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Access Terms

- Educational planning

- Educational law and legislation
- Supervising
- Education
- New York (State)
- School integration--New York (State)--New York
- Vocational education
- Education
- New York (State). Education Department