

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: HOW MANY ARE NEEDED?

During the school year 1952-53, the Michigan public school system consisted of 4,532 organized school districts which educated 1,175,030 children from kindergarten through high school. The type and number of districts, and the number of pupils educated in each classification are portrayed in the tabulation.

BUT . . .

Why, in 1952-53, did Michigan maintain 4,532* school districts when 90 per cent of the children received their education in 17 per cent of the districts?

Was it necessary to have this large number of districts when all the children would eventually receive their high school education in 560 districts operating high schools?

Is it sensible to maintain 4,532 school districts when from 1950-51 to 1952-53, enrollments in larger districts have increased 108,615 as the smaller districts showed a decline of 2,406 pupils?

(Over)

* Currently there are 4,010 school districts. The reduction stems primarily from the annexing of closed primary districts.

ENROLLMENTS IN MICHIGAN
SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY TYPE OF DISTRICT
1952-53

Type of District	Number of Districts	Per Cent of Total	Number of Pupils Educated*	Per Cent of Total
Large City School Districts (over 10,000 population)	50	1.10	573,591	48.82
Small City School Districts (1,000 to 10,000 population)	123	2.71	140,457	11.95
Large Districts outside of Corporate Limits	134	2.96	91,261	7.77
Consolidated Rural Schools	449	9.91	255,107	21.71

Rural School Districts (under 1,000 population with with 6 or more teachers)	52	1.15	18,808	1.60
Rural School Districts (under 1,000 population with less than 6 teachers)	2,852	62.93	95,806	8.15
Districts Sending Their Children to Other Schools (closed districts)	872	19.24	- 0 -	- 0 -
TOTAL FOR ALL DISTRICTS	4,532	100.00	1,175,030	100.00

* Average Daily Membership

Source: 'An analysis of the Receipts and Expenditures for the Michigan Public Schools for 1952-53' Bulletin No. 1011, Revised, Department of Public Instruction.