



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
State Advisory Commission on School Reorganization
An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency: Minnesota. State Advisory Commission on School Reorganization.
Series Title: Records.
Dates: 1946-1971 (bulk 1947-1954).
Quantity: 2.6 cu. ft. (2 boxes and 1 partial box).
Location: See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Files of the State Advisory Commission on School Reorganization [Laws 1947 c421]. They include agenda packets and minutes (1947-1970), reports to the Legislature (1949-1971), subject files (1946-1954, 1961), and publications (1947-1962).

The subject files include correspondence, travel schedules, questionnaires, reports, petitions, and financial statistics, and cover such topics as supervisor activities, county survey committees, "Schoolhouse in the Red" (a film), organized opposition to the reorganization plan, proposed legislation, radio programs, and reorganization information.

The publications include several versions of a manual for county school survey committees and supplementary bulletins, and informative circulars and reports about reorganization and its implementation.

RELATED MATERIALS

See also the Education Department. Reports of county school survey committees (cataloged separately).

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Educational law and legislation—Minnesota.
Radio in education—Minnesota.
Schools—Centralization—Minnesota.
Surveying.

Organizations:

Minnesota. Dept. of Education.

Titles:

Schoolhouse in the red (Motion picture).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota. State Advisory Commission on School Reorganization. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
105.D.13.5B	1	Agenda packets, July 1947 - June 1958. 49 volumes and 4 folders. Minutes, June 1958-1970. 2 folders.

Location	Box	
105.D.13.5B	1	<p>Report of the Commission to the Legislature, 1949-1971. 12 volumes. Published biennially in January.</p> <p>1949, 1951, 1953. 3 volumes in 1 folder. 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963. 5 volumes in 1 folder. 1965. 1 volume. 1967. 1 volume. 1969. 1 volume. 1971. 1 volume.</p> <p>Subject files:</p> <p>Articles on various phases of school district reorganization, 1947. Attendance: Rural school statistical study, 1947. Budgets: Personnel, etc., 1948-1951. Commission members' correspondence, 1947-1949. 2 folders.</p>
105.D.13.6F	2	<p>Consolidation procedures resolution, 1947. Consultants' correspondence, 1947-1954. 4 folders. The consultants were the supervisors of the survey: B. N. Hendrickson, W. E. Hanson, Eugene Meyer, P. J. Broen, and R. H. Larson.</p> <p>Consultants' travel schedules, July 1947 - June 1950. 2 folders. Correspondence: General, 1950-1954. The majority is with out-of-state correspondents; also requests for forms and articles and questionnaires from other states.</p> <p>Correspondence: Legislators, 1948-1951. Concerning legislation and funding.</p> <p>Correspondence: Out-of-State, 1946-1949. Deals with other states' programs.</p> <p><i>County Superintendency in Minnesota</i>, 1948. Article by Clifford P. Archer, University of Minnesota, and Norman Wollitz, Maple Plain, Minnesota.</p> <p>County Survey Committees December 30, 1947 Questionnaire, 1947-1948, 1961. Filled out during January 1948; information on each county committee's personnel, members, meetings, budget, etc. Also some correspondence on changes and additions; lists of counties, members, and secretaries; and a 1948 directory and 1961 update.</p> <p>County Survey Committees State Conference, October 5, 1948. Sponsored by the Commission and the State School Board Association, held in St. Paul; contains program and responses of delegates.</p>

Location	Box	
105.D.13.6F	2	<p>County Survey Committees' tentative and final reports and receipt record, 1948-1949.</p> <p>Film: <i>Schoolhouse in the Red</i>, 1949-1951. Requests, schedules, and statistics on showings.</p> <p>Financial arrangements in the counties for the conduct of the survey and report on statistics, 1948. Also individual county forms.</p> <p>Friends, 1950-1951. Friends of Minnesota Schools; mainly about a meeting in Frazee concerning reorganization and the Friends' opposition to it.</p> <p>Leaflet: School Survey and Reorganization Program, 1949. Typescript.</p> <p>Legislation: Proposed, 1951 session. To amend statutes pertaining to school reorganization.</p> <p>Memoranda, 1947-1951. 2 folders. Mainly between Director of Rural Schools T. C. Engum and Assistant Commissioner T. J. Berning.</p> <p>Petitions to the Governor, 1949. Preprinted petitions from Mower County residents and voters of individual school districts opposed to the reorganization plan, and a copy of the February 14, 1949 response from the Commission.</p> <p>Proposed bulletin (publicity), 1950. Covering trends affecting education, school district reorganization in other states, progress of school district reorganization in Minnesota, the educational program, publicity, election reorganization, school board election, and consolidation and dissolution procedures.</p> <p>Questionnaire, 1953-1954. 4 folders. Lists name of school, district number, county, and school board membership.</p> <p>Questions: State School Board Annual Convention, February 12, 1949. Written on small pieces of paper, identified by name and district number.</p> <p>Radio programs, 1947-1948. Two series, one in April 1948 by the Kandiyohi County School Survey Committee; the other a 1947-1948 Minnesota Farm Bureau program.</p>

Location	Box	
105.D.13.6F	2	<p>Regional meetings/conferences of county survey committees, 1947-1951. 5 folders.</p> <p>Notices, statistics, and requests of the committees for a regional meeting in their area.</p> <p>Report: Meeting of school board members discussing survey for reorganization of school districts, 1947.</p> <p>Questionnaire sent to each county; tallies total school board members and votes for or against reorganization.</p>
105.D.13.7B	3	<p>Requests for materials regarding school district reorganization, 1947-1955. 4 folders.</p> <p>Mainly for <i>Manual for County School Survey Committees</i> and mimeo supplement, from newspapers for news releases, and for maps.</p> <p>Requisition for assistance at school district reorganization meetings, 1947.</p> <p>Forms (by county, with date of meeting, town, and building), correspondence, and statistics.</p> <p>School officers' meetings, 1949.</p> <p>For 21 counties without school survey committees.</p> <p>Sociology: Joint Committee on Rural, 1953-1954.</p> <p>Study of a few selected consolidated and reorganized school districts; by a joint committee of the National Sociological Society and the National Education Association's Department of Rural Education.</p> <p>Statistics/costs, 1950.</p> <p>Number of pupils, teachers, and school districts and maintenance and transportation costs per pupil before and after reorganization.</p> <p>Suggested procedures for new school boards of reorganized school districts, 1950.</p> <p>Tax rates, average, common districts, undated.</p> <p>Tax rates, distribution in Minnesota Public School Districts, 1930-1947.</p> <p>U. S. Office of Education correspondence, 1952-1955.</p> <p>Majority focuses on the May 1955 School District Reorganization Conference in Chicago.</p>

Location	Box	
105.D.13.7B	3	<p>Publications:</p> <p><i>Manual for County School Survey Committee, 1947-1960.</i> 3 volumes in 1 folder. 1947; 1949 revision, 1960 revision.</p> <p>Supplementary bulletins to manual [Code XXXII-A-1a], 1947 - [1953?]. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7.</p> <p>Informative circulars and reports [Code XXXII-B-5 thru 88], 1947-1955, 1960-1962. Schedules, reports, facts, news releases, laws, directory, survey results, conference and meeting notices.</p> <p>Miscellaneous publications and circulars, 1947-1954. 4 items. <i>Equality of Educational Opportunity -- Can It Be Attained?</i>, 1947. <i>Standards Relating to the Distribution of Aids for Transportation or Board and Lodging and for Closed School Districts</i>, 1947. <i>Strengthening Education in Minnesota</i>, 1951. <i>A Study of 1951 School Tax Rates in Minnesota Counties</i>, 1952.</p>