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SIX public and parochial schools in Philadelphia are the first winners of a new program of \$10,000 grants to encourage innovative projects at the local level under a federally funded project administered by the Philadelphia public schools.

"We don't want to give orders down the line," states Samuel L. Woodard, new director of the project out of the public schools' Office of Innovative Programs. "We must encourage feedback from the field to change our thinking on the upper levels of administration."

Dr. Woodard's charge is to help others make use of effective new programs developed in the grant-winning schools.

7-4-4 Plan: Pyramid of Learning

Philadelphia's 7-4-4 plan, described as a "pyramid of learning," is now in its fourth year of development, with three lower schools, in which children are enrolled at age 4; a middle school; and an upper school.

At the Tilden Middle School, the program includes foreign languages (French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin), typing, computer mathematics, algebra, electronics, home economics, developmental reading, and arts and crafts, along with many other subjects and specialized activities.

The upper school, Bartram, features flexible subject selection, comprehensive preparation for post-high school learning, cultural enrichment experiences, and numerous vocational education offerings.

Teacher Gains in Philadelphia

The new contract between teachers and board in Philadelphia provides that:

Announcements during class time, except for emergencies, shall be restricted to certain periods.

If repairs are to be made to a classroom, the teacher shall be given 15 days notice, except in case of emergency.

Marks given by a teacher shall not be changed without written notice to the teacher.

At least two weeks notice shall be given for any faculty meeting held after school.

Each year the board shall provide each teacher with an accounting of accumulated sick and personal leave days.

Class size shall be reduced to maximums of 37 in 1968-69 and 35 in 1969-70, with actual goals of 35 and 33 respectively.

Counseling in South Carolina

In 1958, South Carolina employed 13 full-time counselors; this year the number will exceed 290.

At summer conferences held at Myrtle Beach last June, 150 elementary principals heard reports from pilot schools with counseling programs. Six new elementary pilot programs are in operation this year.

Growth of METCO

This year more than 800 black students from Boston are attending school in the 20 or more suburban communities participating in the program of the Metropolitan Council

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for Educational Opportunity (METCO). Two years ago, during the first year, 220 pupils were placed in seven districts.

Flexible Unit Organization in Lexington

The "Flexible Unit" plan now in operation in Bridge Elementary School, Lexington, Massachusetts, provides for three heterogeneous 200-pupil units, each comprising grades 1-6 and staffed by six to eight teachers, with the units functioning as separate entities. Each team is responsible for "coordinating, planning, carrying out, and evaluating all or a significant part of the instruction." (From report by Lester E. Goodridge, Principal, in *Dialogue*, newsletter of the school system; Volume 1, Number 1.)

New Division of Educational Research

A Division of Research, Planning, and Evaluation has recently been set up in the New Jersey Department of Education. The services of the new division will include providing data on educational practices to local districts, operating demonstration centers and learning institutes, and assisting districts in "packaging funds received from federal, state, and local sources and from foundations to produce maximum use."

Projects in San Diego County

Among projects of particular interest in the San Diego, California, County schools this year is one entitled "Innovative Solutions to Drug Misuse by Teen and Subteen

Cultures." Special attention is going to the orienting of drug-abuse instructional materials to all levels of the elementary curriculum.

Another project, "Environment to Encourage Creativity in Learning," centers in Cuyamaca School, where topics of a week-long workshop for teachers before school opened, included "Development of Productive-Divergent Thinking" and "Developing Skills in Verbal and Nonverbal Communication."

Racism in Instructional Materials

The topic for the twentieth annual human relations workshop of the Detroit public schools, held in October, was "Racism in Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials." Key study questions were "What is racist curriculum material?" and "How do we deal with racist attitudes perpetuated by learning materials?"

Challenge in Detroit

"Each classroom and school must become a laboratory for assessment, research, and improvement. Each school and staff member must personally and collectively become involved in an action program within school and community in a visible and effective crusade for educational improvement. We must by words and deeds transmit to parents and students our personal anxiety for the educational future of each student. The people need not merely our professional know-how and skill but also evidence and reassurance that we are accountable and that we do

care." (From statement of Superintendent Norman Drachler to employees of the Detroit Board of Education, September 3, 1968, via television and radio.)

New Curriculum Study Center

The College of Education of The Ohio State University has established a new Curriculum Study Center, to be staffed at the outset by senior faculty of the Department of Curriculum, under the direction of Paul R. Klohr. Focus will go to the "study of general curriculum in terms of designing the curriculum, implementing it through instruction and supervision, and evaluating the curriculum." Additional staff will be invited to join the Center for limited periods of time to undertake specific tasks in curriculum theory building.

Equal Educational Opportunity Office

New Jersey also has a new Equal Educational Opportunity Office that will assist local districts in solving desegregation problems and develop proposals aimed at assuring equal education for all youth.

Children Who Smoke

Eight percent of the fifth graders of Indianapolis regard themselves as smokers, it was revealed by a survey made last year of 50,000 students, 11 to 18, in the school district. Of this group of smoking fifth graders, one in six smokes every day (1.2 percent of all fifth graders). "Causal factors" that have been identified thus far in analysis of the data indicate that peer

group influence appears to account for a third of the inferred influence. Of all those in the 50,000 who smoke or have smoked, 91 percent agree that smoking is bad for the lungs, 63 percent that it is bad for the heart.

The relationship of intelligence to smoking is one aspect of the survey that is still being studied. (Reported in *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*, September 1968; Indiana State Department of Public Instruction, Room 229, State House, Indianapolis 46204.)

Demonstration and Testing Kitchen

The Little Rock, Arkansas, public schools have provided for a demonstration and testing kitchen in their new central cafeteria warehouse. The kitchen is used in planning and testing foods and menus and also serves as a site for meetings and in-service programs of cafeteria managers.

Family Camping Clinic

Among the offerings announced by the Madison, Wisconsin, public school adult recreation program is a family camping clinic to be conducted next May on "equipment, outdoor cooking, camp sites, places to go."

Recreation for Mentally Handicapped Adults

Madison also offers two social recreation clubs for mentally handicapped adults that meet each week on a year-round basis, with table games, music and dancing, cards, crafts, and gymnasium games

included in the weekly program. Special events, such as picnics, parties, and trips, are sponsored by the clubs as well.

Saturday Play Centers

A diversified Saturday recreation program for children is offered by the Madison schools at 25 elementary schools from November through March.

Negro Culture Series for Teachers

Nine Saturday sessions for teachers on Negro culture and history are being provided this semester by the Toledo, Ohio, public schools.

A Thousand Parent Aides Sought

The Toledo elementary schools are soliciting the enrollment of 1,000 volunteer parent aides to "help in any and all non-instructional aspects of school business" this year. The program already employs 106 paid parent aides who work with first-grade teachers.

Mathematics Pilot Program

Six elementary mathematics programs have been selected for piloting this year by the committee charged with reviewing new textbooks in the Sioux City, Iowa, public schools. At the end of the school year, the committee will decide upon a plan of adoption.

Special Education Band Honored

The Music Makers, a brass band made up of 60

members from the special education classes in Sioux City, largely from the older group of children, played for the opening session of the Iowa State PTA last fall.

Differentiated Staffing in Florida

The Division of Curriculum and Staffing of the Florida State Department of Education is presently engaged in a feasibility study of what is being called "differentiated staffing." Following task analyses, such titles as these for new kinds of professionals in the teaching field are being considered: teaching curriculum specialist; teaching research associate; senior teacher; staff teacher; teacher intern; teacher aide; teacher clerk; and educational technician.

A booklet on the subject has been issued by Joseph Crenshaw, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction (Tallahassee 32304).

Teachers Meet with Superintendent

A "Teachers' Roundtable" is scheduled monthly by the superintendent of the Fayette County, Kentucky, schools (Lexington).

Teacher Education the First Need

An advisory committee to the Missouri Commissioner of Education has recommended that a bibliography of "priority" readings for teachers and a program of in-service education be developed in response to implementation of a resolution passed by the house of the state legislature urging the de-

velopment of a continuing educational program on the history and contributions of the American Negro.

Decentralization in St. Louis

The department of secondary education in the St. Louis, Missouri, public schools has been abolished this year. High schools thus are added to the decentralized district organization already in effect for elementary schools. Assistant superintendents in each of the six districts will direct and coordinate the instructional programs from kindergarten through grade 12.

Reorganization of Central Services

The central supportive services of the St. Louis schools are provided through the divisions of curriculum, evaluation and research, and pupil welfare, plus consultant and supervisory services in art, music, foreign languages, science, and physical education. The new division of evaluation and research incorporates and continues the federal relations department but will be in charge of all experimental programs, those funded by the board of education as well as those by the federal government. In addition the division will conduct evaluation of all school programs.

Expansion of Work-Study Program

Eventually 35 percent of high school students in St. Louis will be involved in an expanded work-study program

inaugurated this year. An example of expansion is the adoption of one downtown high school by officials of the Bell Telephone Company with provision of experience for girls as telephone operators, boys as workers in the plant to develop skills in electronics.

\$15 Million for Compensation

The \$15 million being expended on federally funded compensatory projects in Los Angeles this year will center on language arts, prekindergarten, and intensive education activities in the elementary schools and on reading, counseling, and special guidance classes in the secondary schools.

High Tide for Reading Specialists

The Los Angeles board of education will receive nearly \$2 million this year to finance the hiring of 225 teacher specialists to strengthen elementary school reading programs under the state's Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act.

Too Noisy To Teach

The Westchester Elementary School in Los Angeles was closed in mid-September because of noise from jets using International Airport's north runway. Pupils were reassigned to two neighboring schools.

Bussing in Los Angeles

Some 500 elementary and junior high school pupils in Los Angeles are being transported this year from 13 over-

crowded minority area schools to 12 predominantly white schools with vacant classroom space.

Open Door for Nondistrict Candidates

Under a new personnel policy this year, nondistrict candidates may take examinations for administrative positions with the Los Angeles city schools. Nondistrict candidates for principalship must have had at least five years' experience as principal elsewhere.

In-Service Courses in San Diego

Nearly 50 percent of the teachers in the San Diego, California, city schools took advantage of the in-service classes offered last year. The first semester offerings for this year, 67 in all, include courses that carry these titles: "The Black American in U.S. History," "School and Curriculum Organization: Nongrading and Team Teaching," "Workshop in Evaluation of Newer Instructional Media (Non-Book)," "Workshop in Developing Oral Language Skill in Young Children," "SRA Mathematics Seminar for Primary Teachers," "Workshop in Using the Multi-Dimensional Approach to Reading in Grades One and Two," "Reservoir Literature for Secondary Teachers (Sources of Literary Allusions)," "Recent Developments in Cellular and Molecular Biology," "Totalitarianism and the Open Society: Confrontation or Convergence," and "Reptiles of the World (A Zoo Class)." □

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