A Survey of London County White Schools
To Indicate the Completed Reorganization
or Consolidation

Early consolidation of schools in Londow County took place at Hillsboro where the balen and Edge thook place at Hillsboro where the balen and Friend Hill the schools were closed about 1970. Where the Cherry Brose school was closed the district 1970. time, and The pupils were taken to school in horse drawn wagons. At about the same time horse drawn rehicles, privately ouned and oferated, new used at Hamilton and Pincellille to transfort high school pupils to Lincoln. Fruther, at this period plans for closing many of the countries one - room schools and transfortation of pupils to central hoints in horse drawn rehicles/were discussed by school officials. In the early stages of the use of motor relicles for pupil transfortation the uniform practice of trying to adapt trucks designed for ordinary. hauling hurfoses did not much improve the Conditions prevailing during the use of horse drawn magons! Comparatively these trucks were unseft; the could insanitary, uncomfortable and expensive because they could carry only a very small load. and discurrent day to the conditions in the carry stages of consolidation, It is not surprising in ming the about and the great up to for the

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A Survey of Loudown County The consolidation of elementing schools can be justified only on the ground that little parilities can be funded for the pelood hubils. While it is sometimes claimed that money is said it has never that there is an actual reduction as costs of the municipal cost is the number of the costs of of the cost This that of a reduction the mumber ensolidation of 33 one-room and 34 hops and the way were a total of 33 one-room and 34 hops and total of 33 one-room and 34 hops and total of was the selection of a total of the selection of th element tracks. The every daily attendance was 1.3276, an the year 1938-39 the situation Wise as fellows:

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in number of teachers has been made possible by consolidation but surely reduction of teaching force is a direct outcome

of consolidation. The real reason for consolodation of elementary solvers fore and two. rooms is the positively known and established fact of better offortunities for Any the children concerned. For years teachers have pought pritions in larger schools and many a one- room school in Londow county has been taught by a teacher who could seem horly other being position, The work has been looking other being fraition, as a lone some difficult tacks leaving upon as a lone some difficult. the teacher dissatisfied with her own mork. It is generally accepted that a teacher mith one or two gredes can do more effection when there are 5 to 7 grides in her charge. The possibilities of music, art, and much other work that anniched the shild's life are much quater the in thee larger unit. The possibilities of improved plugarcal enthitions through the installation of water paritary systems and furnace boot are important factors in considering the size of the unit. Again janitor service tends to become better as the unit moreases in sige.

from the point of view of the enrollment from year to year and two-norm schools have been the may vary 50 per cent within a few years. The present sufsientendent, for example, has seen q two room schools reduced to one-room schools some of which were later restored to two room school places he has seen 10 one-room schools closed for lack of legal attendance, and even now me have a one- room pehool caving for an enrollment of 57 as an example of a problem It is believed that conditions prevailing in Londown multiplies many times! County are favorable to the closing at ant early date of the 3 two room schools and Flore room scholer The Junny Ridge Achord is unfavorably located for consoledation. Let us examine the case for our hugh poholo. Within the last few years educators and the public have shown in dications of being condition that thoroughly aroused to the saturation that high politices were being gened to a college prefaratory system. Atthant profusegard for the fact that less than one-thinkforth

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# Central High Failed to Fit Him for Life's Demands, Graduate Writes in Condemning School Curriculum

A graduate's indictment of District schools for failing to equip him for a place in the world of practicality was cited yesterday as a guide to proposed revision in the public school curriculum.

Dr. Chester W. Holmes, assistant | Meeting Needs an Objective superintendent of schools and leader in the drive for revising the educational program, quoted the letter from a Central High graduate at meetings of the Teachers Institute of Washington in the Dunbar High School and McKinley High School.

Dr. Holmes presented the former student's criticism while outlining the need for reconstructing the curriculum and describing present plans of school officials for an investigation into the District's public education program.

### Efficient Progress Is Aim

While warning against "sugar coating" education, Dr. Holmes said" a primary aim of curricular revision is to make the student's transition from grade to grade, and from one school level to another, "easy and pleasant, with no waste motion in picking up the threads of the program in the new situation."

Besides an investigation by five committees of teachers and school officials now being started, Dr. Holmes said that plans are being studied for exchanging teachers between the elementary, junior high and high school levels for periods of a semester or a year, and also for establishing a department of guidance in the public schools.

Dr. Holmes advised the teachers he proposed revisions would require them to keep their minds open, receptive and actually eninusiastic about attacking a definite-

greater use of teaching aids such as films and radio, more attention to student guidance, increased use of cumulative records, and establishment of standards for promotion.

He said "College preparation ought to be but one phase of highschool instruction and a comparatively small one at that.

future needs of the students . . ."

letter from a former Central High a whit." School student, written six years after graduation:

ter graduation: thought his sch "I want to know," the letter said have included: why you and your teachers did not bell and teach me about life and about family relationships, child

clude changed classroom techniques, the hard, critically practical world into which you sent me . . . Why did you have to spend so much time on dry, uninteresting subjectmatter and so little on genuine life problems?"

The writer told how he had gone to college for a year, left school in the depression, married, landed on relief, and finally:

### He Outlined a Course

"I am a husband and a father, "Perhaps the greatest single con- working my way blindly from a tribution which our high schools high school intellectual to a recan make to this program of re-spectable, self-supporting voting construction of the curriculum is citizen of the community. In this the setting up of more courses transition I am beginning to get which will meet the present and an upper hand on the lower rung of the ladder of life for which As illustration, he quoted the your education never prepared me

> The writer outlined what he thought his school training should

a political demagogue from man, how to grow a garden paint a house, how to ge how to be vigorous and how to be interesting to oth to be popular, how to be how to resist high pressur manship, how to buy econ and intelligently, and the d buying on the installment p Schools Aware of Facts

Dr. Holmes told the teach the new philosophy of e which his committee has d as a guide to curricular showed that the schools ar of the urgent needs outline letter.

"The difficulty comes in lating such a philosophy

tion," he said. "The end is not even in s with five large committees make the opening attack, a other committees yet to be ed, the beginning is alread

Holmes declared. "We have a golden opp to do a splendid piece o to do surgery in joining o lating the present loose j that a solid, substantial, de program of studies will resu on sound principles of learn can make this program v

want and no

## Pupils to Start 11-Day Holiday

pupils will abandon the "three R's" for three cheers December 21 and start an 11-day vacation. The annual Yule holiday will begin with the closing bell Thursday and last until January 2.

On December 22, 13,000 Parochial school students will conclude classes until January 3. Private schools throughout the city began closing Wednesday. All students will be dismissed by today.

The coming week will see a wholesale exodus of college students. Georgetown closes today unv challenging problem, Specific til January 3; the University of reforms under study, he said, in Maryland holiday begins tomorrow

Washington's 93,000 public school | until January 2; Catholic University dismisses classes December 21 until January 4, and American University's vacation starts December 20, ending January 3.

# Ship Movements

At New York Arrived Yesterday

American Merchant, from Havre. Arrive Today

No arrivals scheduled. Arrive Tomorrow

Oslofjord, from Oslo. Sailing Today Ragnhildsholm, for Gothenburg,

Sailing Tomorrow Boschdyk, for Rotterdam. If the fufth sulering high school were entered in turn entering college fall lugh schools were almost entirely devoted to perfaction for college. There exists in the land today a mark of endogration demanding that high schools ware of endogration demanding that high schools funds from a letter perface for high a graduate of a washington city high written by a graduate of a washington city high schools and published in the washington Post Salone, and published in the washington Post.

See fruited matter.

By Changes from wither me are trying hard in Soudoun County to meet they brind of Challenge, found in this letter come very serious handicap has been the larger number of high saludo which by their number and smaller Inrollment have thranted us in many directions in the dedolopment of a mill-rounded our culium suited to the rastly different needs of the individual pupils. We must remember that a college prefaratory Course is essential if we are to containe to have langere, doctors, engineers, philosoflers, etc. Other courses must be added to care for those who complete their education at the hope palal level. The needs of each pupil must be ansidered and met. In the small high school there exists an extremely difficult problem, to which us solution except high school consolidation has yet been We have reduced the number of high pehrolo from 12 to.
6. most of this has been done within the last few advanced. years. In four of these 6 high schools me now offer courses in home economies, agriculture industrial arts, and typing, shortband, and accounting. These courses has seemed to meet definite needs and to receive general approval. The pupils in the other two schools, Round Will and ashburn, are other two schools, Round Will and ashburn, are deprived of the benefits of all of these Courses except agriculture. In more of the schools except agriculture. In more of the schools is griffenest as the egriffment auturely a dequate. This equipment is the egriffment and the sface is grite expensive on a purity and other sface is grite expensive in cases where the enrollment, and subspirately in cases where the enrollment, and subspirately the widnished classes are small.

Sibrary facilities in our high pelishes must be in friend to meet min insum state requirements in 1940-41. There will need to be more to acher- his brarian/service and more betrary space to acher- his brarian/service and more betrary space is muddat most selves.

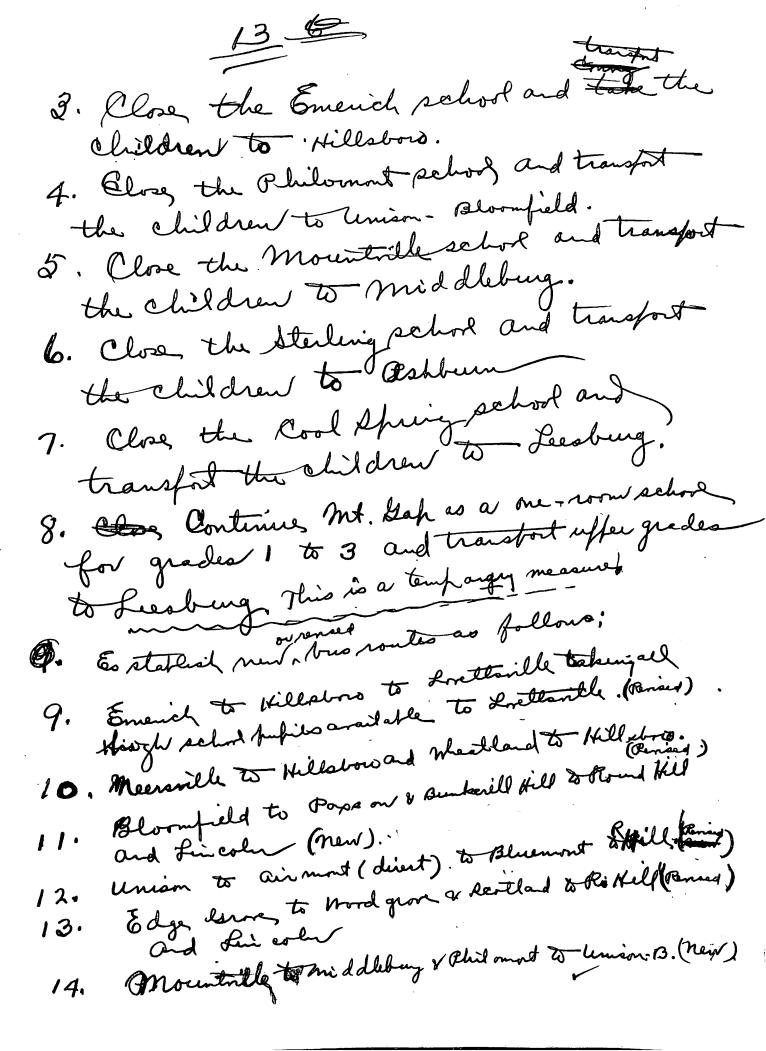
At present the work of 4 teachers is on a more than more than ne sching their actions acting than fact time basis, This is less retiring at one school borning each teacher on full time at one schools borning each teacher on full time at one schools

So let us say every high school pufil must have a large elective program V studies from which, he might choose under the guidance of this farents and teachers, he might choose work which is best puted to him. It is the function of the school to do for children these things they most need and that mill not be done some other may, In Kondown County there should be provided methant further dasfay a comprehensive course of study avoilable to every for putil in every school and this course should be appropriately agnal in all schools so that the school authorities can not be thought to be guilty of an uniqual distribution of school funda for special benefit to abildren in certain areas. The school broad and sufficient in relation.

their about of fatrons on tenders in relation Under episting conditions as to area, roads. to this furthern. present location of byle schools, present building and equipment facilities it peams in advisable and rineconomical, over a long range Typeans for Londow to have most than the build the this is a more conservation console dation program than bould be.

\$12 27 is therefore recommended that the Round Hill and ashbumphocholo be discontinued at the earliest possible date so that these children who are now, defrired of the present comprehensive grogiam may have its advantages while they are yet in school. Some readjustments of bus routes and changes from one salvort to another seem necessary in order to adjust seem available listoness of a of busses, enrellments, etc. It is recommended that the school board take the following definite action. Some of this will be subject to action by the board of supervisors in affirming board or prosiding the necessary funds. 1. Close the high perhaps defantment at Round Hill and comment the pupils to Rincolns

2. Close the high school defantment at ashburn and transfort the pupils to Reesburg.



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# A SURVEY OF LOUDOUN COUNTY WHITE SCHOOLS TO INDICATE THE COMPLETED REORGANIZATION OR CONSOLIDATION

Early consolidation of schools in Loudoun County took place at Hillsboro where the Salem and Edge Grove schools were closed and at Round Hill where the Cherry Grove school was closed, both about 1911. The pupils were taken to school in horse-drawn wagons. At about the same time horse-drawn vehicles, privately owned and operated, were used at Hamilton and Purcellville to transport high school pupils to Lincoln. Further, at this period plans for closing many of the county's one-room schools and transportation of pupils to central points in horse drawn vehicles were discussed by school officials.

In the early stages of the use of motor vehicles for pupil transportation the uniform practice of trying to adapt trucks designed for ordinary haul purposes did not much improve the conditions prevailing during the use of horse-drawn wagons. Comparatively these trucks were unsafe, insanitary, uncomfortable and expensive because they could carry only a very small load.

Road conditions in the early stages of consolidation, and discussion thereof, were bad.

As a direct outcome of the energy and devotion to the cause of W. G. Edmondson, Division Superintendent of Schools from 1909 to 1917, the state-wide campaign for high schools to be made available to all pupils in Virginia bore abundant fruit in Loudoun County, Because there were so many towns in the county and because our people were really much interested in better school my facilities for their children or the same facilities at points so located that their children could attend school from home daily, there resulted the erection of high school buildings partly or entirely financed by private contributions at a number of points.

So at the beginning of the service of the present Superintendent in 1917 there were 12 high schools enrolling a total of 391 pupils.

1.

The early experience with transportation which certainly were not satisfactory, the early discussion of similar arrangements at many points and the early location of so large a number of high schools at natural community centers, have made it a very difficult task for the school authorities to overcome the vary natural pride of local communities in their own institution. So the reorganization of the schools of Loudoun County although on a conservative and slowly evolving basis has been a painful process.

But why close one-room and two-room schools and haul children to larger schools? Why close high school departments?

We cannot reason that consolidation is an economy measure. There may be isolated cases where money is saved. It is possible however, to operate a county system with less teachers where small schools are brought into larger centers. It may be of interest to examine relative conditions that will give us a picture of what has happened in respect to costs of transportation and teachers' salaries over a term of years.

In the year 1928-29 which precedes most of the consolidation of schools in Loudoun County there were a total of 33 one-room teachers, 10 two-room teachers, 58 other elementary teachers and 34 high school teachers in 9 high schools or a total of 135 white teachers. The average daily attendance was 3276. In the year 1938-39 the situation was as follows: 8 one-room teachers, 8 two-room teachers, 55 other elementary teachers, and 33 high schools teachers or a total of 112. The average daily attendance was 3595. It can be seen that 23 less teachers cared for 319 more children daily.

Now in 1928-29 the amount spent for transportation was \$6007.44 and in 1938-39 it was \$23,375.90 or an increase of \$17,368.46. Some of this increase in transportation is directly changeable to provision for transportation in areas that have not been effected by closing a school

of legal average attendance. Using the 1938-39 average salaries of all white teachers as \$998.62 the 23 teachers less than in 1928-29 bring about a saving of \$22,959.06 which compares most favorably with the addition of \$17,368.46 to transportation costs.

Furthermore the addition of 10 special teachers in industrial arts, vocational agriculture, home economics, and commercial subjects has tended to increase the high school teaching force to a figure higher than in 1928-29 when very little of this work was done in our high schools.

It is not claimed that the entire reduction in number of teachers has been made possible by consolidation butsarely reduction of teaching force is a direct outcome of consolidation.

The real reasonfpr consolidation of elementary schools of one and two rooms is the positively known and established fact of better opportunities for the children concerned. For years teachers have sought positions in larger schools and many a one-room school in Loudoun County has been taught by a teacher who could secure no other kind of position. The work has been looked upon as a lonesome difficult task leaving the teacher dissatisfied with her own work. It is generally accepted that a teacher with one or two grades can do more effective work than when there are 5 to 7 grades in her charge. The possibilities of music, art, and much other work that enriches the child's life are much greater in the larger unit. The possibilities of improved physical conditions through the installation of water sanitary systems and furnace heat are important factors in considering the size of the unit. Again janitor service tends to become better as the unit increases in size.

From the point of view of changing enrollment from year to year the one and two-room schools have been the bane of school administrators in Loudoun County. Although our total County school

population changes very little that in a particular small school by may vary 50 per cent within a few years. The present Superintendent, for example, has been 9 two-room schools reduced to one-room schools some of which were later restored to two-room school status. Also he has seen 10 one-room schools closed for lack of legal attendance, and even now we have a one-room school caring for an enrollment of 57 as an example of a problem heretofore multiplied many times.

It is believed that conditions prevailing in Loudoun County are favorable to the closing at an early date of the 3 two-room schools and 4 of the 5 one-room schools. The Sunny Ridge school is unfavorably located for consolidation.

Let us examine the case for our high schools. Within the last few years educators and the public have shown indications of being thoroughly aroused to the condition that high schools were being geared to a college preparatory system. Without regard for the fact that less than one-fourth of the pupils entering high school were in turn entering college all high schools were almost entirely devoted to preparation for college. There exists in the land today a wave of indignation demanding that high schools prepare for life. I quote below from a letter written by a graduate of a Washington City high school 6 years after graduation and published in the Washington Post on December 15, 1939.

"I want to know", the letter said, "Why you and your teachers did not sell and teach me about life and the hard, cfrtically practical world into which you sent me --- Why & did you have to spend so much time on dry, uninteresting subject-matter and so little on genuine life prolems?" AThe writer told how he had gone to college for a year, left school in the depression, married, landed on relief, and finally: "I am a husband, and a father, working my way blindly from a high school intellectual to a respectable, self-supporting, voting citizen of the community. In this transition

I am beginning to get an upper hand on the lower rung of the ladder of life for which your education never prepared me a whit".

The writer ourlined what he thought his school training should have included: "I wish I have been taught more about family relationships, child care, getting along with people, interpreting the news, news writing, paying off a smell mortgage, house-hold mechanics, politics, local government, the chemistry of food, carpentry, how to budget and live within the budget, the value of insurance, how to figure interest when borrowing money and paying it back in installments, how to enjoy operat over the radio, how to detect shoddy goods, how to distinguish a political demagogue from a statesman, how to grow a garden, how to paint a house, how to get a job, how to be vigorous, and healthy, how to be interesting to others, how to be popular, how to be thrifty, how to resist high pressure salesmanship, how to buy economically and intelligently, and thedanger of buying on the installment plan."

by changes from within we are trying hard in Loudoun County to meet the kind of challenge found in this letter. One very serious handicap has been the larger number of high schools which by their number and small enrollment have thwarted us in many directions in the development of a well-rounded curriculum suited to the vastly different needs of the individual pupils. We must remember that q college preparatory course is essential if we are to continue to have lawyers, doctors, engineers, philosophers, etc. Other courses must be added to care for those who complete their education at the high school level. The needs of each pupil must be considered and met. In the small high school there exists an extremely difficult problem to which no solution except high school consolidation has yet been advanced.

We have reduced the number of high schools from 12 to 6. Most of this has been done within the last few years. In four of these 6 high schools we now offer courses in home economics, agriculture, industrial arts, typing, shorthand and accounting. These courses have seemed to meet definite needs and to receive general approval. The pupils in the other two schools, Round Hill and Ashburn, are deprived of the benefits of all these courses except agriculture. In none of the schools is the equipment entirely adequate. This equipment is quite expensive on a per capita basis and the space is quite expensive in cases where the enrollment, and consequently the individual classes, are small.

Library facilities in our high schools must be improved to meet minimum state requirements in 1940-41. There will need to be more teacher-librarian service and more library space is needed at most schools. At present the work of 4 teachers is on a part-time basis, more than one school being served. This is less satisfactory than having each teacher on full time at one school.

So let us say every high school pupils mastr have a large elective program of studies from which, under the guidance of his parents and teachers, he might choose work which is best suited to him. It is the function of the school to do for children those things they most need and that will not be done some other way.

In Loudoun County there should be provided without further delay a comprehensive course of study available to every pupil in every school and this course should be approximately equal in all schools so that the school authorities can not be thought to be guilty of an/equal distribution of schools funds for special benefit to children in certain areas. The school board and superintendent must think shead of patrons or pupils in relation to this problem.

Under existing conditions as to area, roads, present location of high schools, present building and equipment facilities it seems inadvisable and uneconomical over a long range of years for Loudoun to have more than 4 high schools. This is a more conservative condolidation program than would be suggested by most virginia school administrators.

It is therefore recommended that the Round Hill and Ashburn high schools be discontinued at the earliest possible date so that these children who are now deprived of the present comprehensive program may have its advantages while they are yet in school.

Some readjustments of bus routes and changes from one school to another seem necessary in order to adjust available space, distances to school schedules of busses, enrollments, etc.

It is recommended that the school board take the following definite action. Some of this will be subject to action by the board ofsupervisors in approving loans or providing the necessary funds.

- 1. Close the high school department at Round Hill and transport the pupils to Lincoln.
- 2. Close the high school department at Ashburn and transport the pupils to Leesburg.
- 3. Close the htmmxxxxxxxxx Emerick school and transport the children to Hillsboro
- 4. Close Philomont school and transport the children to Unison-Bloomfield.
- 5. Close the Mountville school and transport the children to Middleburg.
- 5a. Close the Taylorstown school and transport the children to Lovettsville.
- 6. Close the Sterling school and transport the children to Ashburn.
- 7. Close the Cool Spring school and transport the children to Leesburg.
- 8. Continue Mt. Gap as a one-room school for grades 1 to 3 and transport upper grades to Leesburg. This is a temporary measure.

Establish new or revised bus routes as follows:

- 9. Emerick to Hillsboro to Lovettsville taking all high school pupils available to Lovettsville (revised).
- 10. Neersville to Hillsboro and Wheatland to Hillsboro (revised)
- 11. Bloomfield to Paxson and Bunker Hill to Round Hill and Lincoln (new)
- 12. Unison to Airmont (direct) to Bluemont to Round Hill (revised)
- 13. Edge Grove to Woodgrove and Scotland to Round Hill and Lincoln (revised)
- 14. Mountville to Middleburg and Philomont to Unison-Bloomfield (new)

- 15. Taylorstown to Lovettsville and Brunswick to Lovettsville (Mew)
- 16. Sterling to Ashburn to Leesburg (new).
- 17. Smith's Switch to Ryan to Ashburn and Leesburg (new)
- 18. Coleman's to Sterling to Leesburg (revised)
- 19. Mt. Hope to Ashburn (revised)
- 20. Carter's to Arcola to extend to Coleman's Corner (revised)
- 21. Cool Spring and Mountain Gap to Leesburg (new)

### Buildings:

- 22. Build a new 6 room unit at Leesburg.
- 23. Build a 3-room addition at Aldie
- 24. Build a 2-room addition at Lincoln
- 25. Sell Sterling, Mountville, Emerick and Philomont

The financial effects of these changes are of great importance. All of the cost of the three additions can be borrowed from the State Literary Fund and the cost of principal and interest would not effect the budget until the 2nd year when it could be reasonably hoped that so many new busses would not be required.

The following tentative figures showing loans and additional budget costs for the first and 2nd years above the present obligations are suggested.

	Loan	1st year budget	2nd year budget
Leesburg addition Aldie addition Lincoln addition 3 second hand busses(purchases) 5 new busses (purchases) 6 busses operated Totals Savings of salaries of 2 teachers	42,000 15,000 10,000 \$67,000	1,500 4,500 4,200 \$10,200 1,900	2,960 1,350 900 4,200 \$9,410 1,900
Net cost	•	\$ 8,300	\$7,510

The board must keep in mind that the Literary Loans on Lincoln and Arcola become a cost for the first time in 1940-41 for principal and interest payments. These amount to \$2,804 in 1940-41. It must also be borne in mind that the claims of the colored people for better high school facilities and transportation of high school pupils from the Willisville-Middleburg areas are very pressing.

It can be expected that there will be a substantial increase in the State school appropriation in 1940-41. While this appropriation will be made primarily for the salaries of teachers it does not seem necessary in Loudoun County's case that the full increase be applied to the salaries of teachers, especially in view of the fact that the apportionment is made to the various localities with the very express idea in mind that aid will be given indirectly to transportation.

### EFFECT OF CONSOLIDATION ON ENROLLMENT AND TEACHERS

High School				
	Enrollment	nt Data No. Teachers	Enrollment	No. Teacher
Aldie Ashburn Ashburn Leesburg Lincoln Lovettsville Round Hill Totals	143 86 206 200 68 60 763	5½ 3½ 8 8 4½ 3½ 33	159 Closed 276 225 103 Closed	7 Closed 10 9 6 Closed
Elementary School				
Aldie Arcola Ashburn	131 120 207	4 4 5	131 140 258	4 4 7
Bluemont Bluemont Cool Spring Emerick	81 19 <b>3</b> 5	3 1 2	81 Closed Closed	3 Closed Closed
Hamilton Hillsboro Leesburg	132 104 325	4 4 8	132 124 370	4 4 10
Lincoln Lovettsville Lucketts	106 211 149	3 6 4	106 238 149	3 7 5
Middleburg Mt. Gap Mountville	155 56 23	5 1 1	178 30 Closed	5 1 Closed
Philomont Purcellville Round Hill	35 196 145	2 6 4	Closed 196 160	Closed 6 5
Sterling Sunny Ridge Taylorstown	71 21 27	2 1 1	Closed 21 Closed	Closed 1 Closed
Unison-Bloomfield Waterford Totals	76 120 2545	3 4 78	111 120 2545	4 4 77