

Oregon Public Schools Third Best in Nation

Salem—UPI—Oregon public schools are third best in the nation, according to a report on elementary education in Oregon that will be presented to the State Board of Education here next Wednesday.

The ranking is contained in a research report of the National Education Association. Research included 20 educational factors.

The report says that in 1959-60, Oregon had 1,041 elementary schools in 544 school districts. To staff them, 9,644 teachers were assigned to general classroom teaching in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

In addition schools employed 904 principals, 134 superintendents and 53 supervisors plus 36 county school superintendents.

Of the 1,041 schools, only four—three in Columbia county and one in Marion county—were nonstandard, according to state regulations.

State support is withheld from nonstandard schools. Some "Conditional"

Some 339 of the standard schools were rated "conditionally standard," meaning they have submitted improvement plans to correct deficiencies. Another 64 were rated "standard with advice," meaning they may not meet all requirements but the requirements were passed after the school came into existence and the changes are not feasible.

Of the 247,862 Oregon elementary school children in the last school year, 89.3 per cent studied under a teacher who taught only one grade.

The average grade school last year employed slightly more than 10 teachers—an increase of two teachers per school since 1956.

The report said districts in Oregon have school years of varying lengths. First class districts tend to have a longer school year.

The 1959-60 year varied from 170 to 190 days.

"As a whole," the report said, "teachers' preparation and training are better than commonly believed to be."

Coordination in Public, Private Medicine Needed

Portland—UPI—Greater coordination is needed between public and private medicine in order to provide better health services in Oregon, the annual State Health Officers' Conference was told Wednesday.

The greatest need for cooperation lies in the field of controlling communicable diseases, said Dr. W. A. Goss, chairman of the public health committee of the Oregon State Medical Society.

Seven fields listed where better health would be promoted through a better understanding between public and private practitioners. He said these were vital statistics, control of communicable disease, maternal and child health, chronic diseases, mental health, health education and personnel.

For example, Dr. Goss said, vital statistics are well kept by public officers, but are not used to advantage by private physicians.

Inspection Plan Told
A plan was submitted calling for county and local health departments to take responsibility for inspections of nursing and care homes.

The plan, which would turn over certain State Health Department functions to local authorities, will be submitted to the state Board of Health for approval.

Firemen Take Fire To Source of Water

Johnson City, Tenn.—When firemen couldn't get water to the fire, they took the fire to water.

A Southern Railway boxcar loaded with cotton bales caught fire far from a hydrant. It was unhitched from the train and, still burning, rolled to a fire hydrant where the blaze was extinguished.

HISTORIAN DIES

Cambridge, Mass.—UPI—Dr. Mark Anthony De Wolfe Sr., 96, prominent historian, educator and Pulitzer Prize winning biographer, died Tuesday night. Howe received the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1924 for his work "Barrett Wendell and His Letters."

GUSHER

Kilgore, Tex.—UPI—The East Texas Oil Field, only 30 years old, has produced enough oil to supply a barrel for every person in the world. The rich field has yielded 3.5 billion barrels so far and has an estimated reserve of more than 2 billion barrels.

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