

Federal Aid Helps Jackson County Schools in Various Ways

O and C Tax Offset Funds Provide Big Government Share

The federal government now assists many local school districts financially, and the present Congress probably will be asked to provide more. School administrators know that more revenue will be needed to relieve local property taxes, and some believe that more funds perhaps should be furnished by the federal government. But opinions differ.

Some educators believe that more federal funds would have a tendency toward undesirable governmental control over school curriculum programs; others believe it would not; still others believe there may be too much "red tape" involved to make it worth the trouble.

Generally, federal aid to education in Jackson county totals a little more than 3 1/2 per cent of the combined general funds of the county's 11 districts, which amounted to \$7,262,932 in the 1959-60 school year. The 3 1/2 per cent, however, does not include the Jackson county court's distribution of O and C funds to offset taxes.

Amount Increases
If the O and C funds are included (and, since the monies are derived from sales of federal timber by the bureau of land management, it can be considered an indirect federal source) the amount of federal source funds is a little less than 9 1/2 per cent of the 11 districts' general fund.

The amount of federal aid to each district varies with the district's programs and the location of the district.

There are two types of federal aid: direct and indirect. Direct federal aid is provided through the school lunch fund, vocational education, public law 874, and the National Defense Education act.

Indirect Federal Aid
Indirect federal aid is provided through O and C funds, and the federal forest reserve fund.

The school lunch fund in Jackson county in the 1959-60 school year, the last full school year, totaled \$65,379.68. Distribution of this fund, which is budgeted by the department of agriculture, is dependent upon the number of lunches served.

Federal contributions to school districts in the county for vocational education totaled \$9,699.70 in 1959-60, which was distributed to Phoenix, Crater and Eagle Point High schools for their vocational agriculture programs.

Four districts in Jackson county share in funds distributed through public law 874, which provides aid for general fund purposes to districts affected by federal activities. The \$56,432.95 received for the four districts during the 1959-60 school year was distributed in this way:

Amounts Received
Phoenix received \$2,683.34, which amounted to 4/10ths of 1 per cent of the districts total expenditures that year.

Eagle Point received \$25,653, which was 4 per cent of the district's expenditures.

Prospect received \$20,071.61, which was 11 per cent of the district's expenditures.

Butte Falls received \$8,045, or 9 per cent of its school expenditures in 1959-60.

Public law 815 is similar to PL 874, but the former provides funds for new buildings and equipment. No district in the county received funds under public law 815 in the 1959-60 school year.

Participate in Act
All 11 Jackson county districts participated in the National Defense Education act, and will receive \$14,379.79. The money has not been received for the 1959-60 school year, but it is assured.

The funds, handled through the county school superintendent's office, will be distributed this way:

Phoenix: \$1,253.98 (including \$592.48 for the former Talent school district); Ashland: \$2,471.78; District 6C: \$2,277.25; Eagle Point: \$1,056.29; Rogue River: \$535.88; Applegate: \$35.45; Prospect: \$240.57; Evans Valley: \$65.05; Butte Falls: \$101.25; Pinehurst: \$17; and Medford: \$6,517.22.

In addition, District 6C and the Medford district applied for NDEA funds on a district level. District 6C is expected to receive about \$2,055.97; and Medford, about \$7,140.12.

Improve Subject Programs
The NDEA was established to help districts improve science, mathematics, modern foreign languages and counseling and guidance services. The bill is scheduled to terminate in 1952, so probably will be reauthorized by Congress.



MAYOR READS ACCOUNT - Grim-faced Mayor George Carl of Sheldon, Iowa, reads a newspaper account of the \$2 million bank embezzlement. Mrs. Burnice Geiger, 58, daughter of the president of the embezzled bank, is being held in Sioux City, Iowa, in connection with the embezzlement. (UPI Telephoto)

of value is received by each district in the county from the federal government through commodities purchased by the government and distributed to districts for school lunch programs.

Another undetermined value is the purchase of surplus equipment. For example, some districts have purchased

surplus equipment for shop programs. District personnel and students renovate the equipment, such as lathes, and save taxpayers several thousands of dollars over a few year's time.

Federal Forest Reserves
During the 1959-60 school year, a total of \$116,639.07 was distributed to the county's 11 districts from the federal forest reserves.

The federal government pays to the state 25 per cent of the receipts from national forest lands in the state to benefit public roads and schools. The state decides the allocation of money.

In Oregon, 75 per cent is distributed to the county for

roads, and 25 per cent for schools. The 25 per cent for schools is handled through the County School Fund.

The \$116,639.07 received in Jackson county in the 1959-60 school year amounted to about 2 per cent of each district's total expenditures, or \$5,224.36 per census child.

It was distributed this way:

Amounts to Districts
Phoenix, \$9,325.48; Ashland, \$17,898.65; Central Point, \$15,046.18; Eagle Point, \$7,867.89; Rogue River, \$2,972.66; Applegate, \$914.26; Prospect, \$1,760.61; Evans Valley, \$1,013.53; Butte Falls, \$1,206.83; Pinehurst, \$276.89; and Medford, \$58,356.10.

Perhaps the most important source of federal revenue, although indirect, in Jackson county is from O and C funds. Fifty per cent of the revenue from lands managed by the bureau of land management is returned to the county in which the land is located.

The payment is essentially an in-lieu-of-taxes payment, and the county court is under no compulsion to use O and C funds for school purposes.

However, in some counties, including Jackson county, the court uses O and C funds, through the County School Fund, to help offset local property taxes.

In Jackson county during the 1959-60 school year, the total contributed by the court was \$425,040. With this amount added to other federal revenue sources, 9.46 per cent of the combined general funds

of the 11 districts came from federal sources in 1959-60.

The 1959-60 O and C contribution was on a \$20-per-census child basis. This has been increased during the present school year to \$35 per census child, stipulated that it must be used as a direct tax offset—that is, the total amount to which a district is entitled deducted from the school tax levy in that district.

Property taxes, however, still carry the heaviest load in providing school districts with revenue for general operating purposes. Less than 10 per cent of the revenue (on a county-wide basis) comes from direct and indirect federal aid, and about 28 per cent comes from state sources.

Linfield College Enrollment Starts

McMinnville - Registration for the spring semester is now underway at Linfield college here. Spring semester classes will not open until Feb. 6.

Students may register at the registrar's office in Melrose hall at any time until the opening of classes. Late registrations also will be accepted during the first weeks of classes.

Among activities scheduled early in the new semester are Help Week for fraternity and sorority pledges, the 29th annual high school speech tournament, sponsored by the speech department, and Christian Emphasis Week.

Beneficiaries Should File Earnings in 1960

At this time of year, social security beneficiaries under age 72 who earned more than \$1,200 in 1960 are required to file an annual report of earnings, according to Edward B. Johnson, district manager of the Medford social security office.

The report must include all wages and self-employment earnings in 1960, and must be filed with the Social Security administration on or before April 15. The purpose of the report is to determine whether any payments may be owed to the beneficiary and to ascertain over-payments to beneficiaries. Individuals age 72 or over during the entire year of 1960 need not make this report.

All beneficiaries whose total earnings from employment or self-employment exceeded \$1,200 in 1960 and who were under age 72 during at least part of the year are required to file the annual report. Also, any beneficiary who had one or more social security checks withheld during the year because of employment, is required to file the report.

Beneficiaries needing help

in completing the report should contact their local social security district office for assistance. The social security office in Medford, located at 1005 East Main st., is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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