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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to gather data and test the hypothesis that the number of constant dollars expended for educational supervision by Louisiana public school systems increased during the decade from 1963 to 1974. To facilitate comparison of expenditures from different years, all financial data are expressed in terms of "constant dollars" computed on the base year 1967. Analysis of the data show that the number of supervisors increased 139.9 percent from 1963 to 1974, compared to a 6.8 percent increase in the number of students, a 30.5 percent increase in teachers, and a .1 percent increase in principals. In terms of constant dollars, expenditures for educational supervision increased approximately 700 percent, while total expenditures per student increased 131 percent and average teachers' salaries rose approximately 9 percent. The data also indicate a recent downward trend in total educational expenditures; in constant dollars, expenditures per student declined from a peak of \$644 in 1971-72 to \$616 in 1973-74. (Author/JG)

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CURRENT AND CONSTANT DOLLAR EXPENDITURES
ON EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION IN LOUISIANA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING 1963-74

by
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INTRODUCTION

The authors of this paper hypothesized that the public school systems of Louisiana have increased the constant dollars (adjusted purchasing power) devoted to educational supervision during the decade of 1963-74. The purpose of this study was to gather data to test that hypothesis.

Because our country has suffered an inflationary trend during the past decade, estimation of the development of an activity such as supervision, in terms of funds expended, is very difficult. Therefore, in order to facilitate the estimation of the "real" increase, if any, made in the expenditure of funds for supervision of instruction, selected data relating to funds expended in various years were converted to a base year (1967) in order to make the current dollars from different years comparable in actual purchasing power (constant dollars). Ratios between the number of supervisors and the number of teachers, principals, and students were developed. Also, because teachers are supervisors of instruction, the ratio of teachers to students was computed. (One should note, however, that counselors are included in the teacher total.)

THE DATA

Some inferences and general statements may be made from the data displayed below and in Tables 1, 2, and 3. The percent of increase during 1963-74 in the numbers of students, teachers, and principals has been small in comparison to the increase in the number of supervisors. The data on the following page were based on figures from Table 2.

Classification	Number in 1963-1964	Number in 1973-1974	Actual Increase In Number	% of Increase
Students	778,290	831,480	53,190	6.8
Teachers	31,251	40,797	9,546	30.5
Principals	1,424	1,438	14	0.1
Supervisors	228	547	319	139.9

While the ratio of students to teachers dropped only 4.52 (18%) between 1964-65 (24.9) and 1973-74 (20.38), the ratio of teachers to supervisors dropped 62.5 from 137.1 to 74.6 (45%). The ratio of teachers to principals increased from 21.9 to 28.37 (30%). The ratio of principals to supervisors dropped from 6.25 to 2.63 (57.9%). The ratio of students to supervisors dropped 1894 from 3414 to 1520 (55.5%). The ratio of students to principals increased 31 from 547 to 578 (5.6%). Comparatively, between 1964-65 and 1973-74, the following changes in numbers took place. The figures were based on data from Table 1. Evidence for the necessity of converting the current dollars of the various years to a common base of 1967 constant dollars can be found in comparing the \$6,525,895 increase (1148%) in total current dollars for supervisory expenditures from 1963 (\$568,461) to 1974 (\$7,094,356) with the \$4,208,541 increase (699.8%) in constant dollars (Table 3) from \$601,432 to \$4,809,973.

To determine whether the data concerning the development of supervision were similar to or markedly different from other related factors in public education, other selected education statistics were included in this study. The number of supervisors increased by approxi-

mately 140%, and the number of teachers per supervisor decreased by 45.6%.

The data for the following changes during 1963-74 were drawn from Table 3. The per student expenditure on supervisory salaries in current dollars increased \$7.80 (1068.5%) \$0.73 to \$8.53, while the increase of \$5.01 (649%) in constant dollars was from \$0.772 to \$5.783. The total educational expenditure per child rose \$515.67 (131%) in current dollars from 393.56 to 909.23; the \$200.07 (48%) increase in constant dollars was from 416.39 to 616.46. The average of teachers' salaries increased \$3,775 (70%) in current dollars from 5,390 to 9,165, but the \$510 (8.9%) increase in constant dollars was from 5,703 to 6,213. The average teacher earned more in terms of actual purchasing power in 1968 (\$6,757 in current dollars and \$6,488 in real purchasing power in base dollars) than he or she did in 1974 (\$9,165 in current and \$6,213 in base dollars). Thus, in terms of the purchasing power of base year 1967 dollars, teachers have received during the ten-year period of 1964-74 an increase in current dollars of \$3,775 but an actual increase in purchasing power of only \$510 -- an increase of less than one per cent per year. (Although the data are not yet available to evaluate the effect of the recent pay raise, the authors estimate that the teachers' average salary in Louisiana in 1975-76 approximates that of the base year of 1966-1967 [\$6387 current and \$6387 constant dollars], a standstill situation in terms of actual increase in purchasing power over a span of eight years.)

CONCLUSIONS

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The data indicating an increase in constant dollars of 700% in expenditure of funds on educational supervision in Louisiana public school systems support the authors' hypothesis that the amount of funds expended on supervision of instruction has increased within the decade of 1963-74. The trend for 1963-74 has been toward a disproportionately greater increase of 140% in the number of supervisors and 700% in constant dollars as compared to numbers and expenditures for other personnel. There has been a concomitant reduction in the ratio of supervisors to teachers and principals.

Among the other items of possible interest is the fact that, although teachers are the ultimate supervisors of instruction in the education of children, the importance of teachers has not received the level of recognition monetarily received by the supervisors.

However, the authors have some concerns about the fact that the data indicate the possibility of the beginning of a downward trend in terms of constant dollars devoted to education in Louisiana; the financial efforts in the various categories in Table 3 reached an apex in 1970-1972.

Table 1
RATIOS OF PERSONNEL*

	School Years									
	1964-1965	1965-1966	1966-1967	1967-1968	1968-1969	1969-1970	1970-1971	1971-1972	1972-1973	1973-1974
Students to Teachers	24.9	24.34	23.57	22.90	22.24	21.88	21.49	20.97	21.03	20.38
Teachers to Supervisors	137.1	125.8	117.0	111.1	105.1	95.5	81.5	80.1	76.8	74.6
Teachers to Principals	21.9	22.8	23.7	24.7	26.3	27.0	27.6	28.1	27.93	28.37
Principals to Supervisors	6.25	5.52	4.94	4.50	3.99	3.53	2.94	2.85	2.75	2.63
Students to Supervisors	3414	3062	2758	2543	2337	2091	1750	1680	1615	1520
Students to Principals	547	554	558	565	585	592	593	589	587	578

*Computed from data in the 116th through the 125th Annual Reports of the Superintendent; Louisiana State Department of Education.

Table 2

SELECTED DATA RELATING TO TRENDS IN EDUCATION: 1964-74 *

Numbers of:	School Years										
	1964-1965	1965-1966	1966-1967	1967-1968	1968-1969	1969-1970	1970-1971	1971-1972	1972-1973	1973-1974	
Students	778290	793173	811033	831750	857767	842583	836710	836484	841490	831480	
Teachers	31251	32590	34406	36320	38570	38503	38938	39884	40009	40797	
Principals	1424	1431	1454	1472	1466	1424	1410	1419	1432	1438	
Supervisors	228	259	294	327	367	403	478	498	521	547	

*These data were extracted from the 116th through the 125th Annual Reports of the Superintendent, Louisiana State Department of Education.

Table 3
CURRENT AND CONSTANT (1967) DOLLAR EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS FOR EDUCATION IN LOUISIANA: 1964-1974

Expenditures *	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Supervision										
Total:	\$568461	\$2936967	\$439864	\$3893063	\$4504417	\$4527904	\$6504636	\$6560354	\$6736779	\$7094356
(1967 \$)	(601432)	(3022108)	(3439864)	(3737340)	(4103524)	(3893977)	(5359820)	(5235162)	(5066058)	(4809973)
Expenditures Per Student on Supervisory salary:	\$.73	\$ 3.70	\$ 4.24	\$ 4.68	\$ 5.25	\$ 5.37	\$ 7.77	\$ 7.84	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.53
(1967 \$)	(\$.772)	(\$ 3.807)	(\$ 4.24)	(\$ 4.493)	(\$ 4.782)	(\$ 4.618)	(\$ 6.402)	(\$ 6.256)	(\$ 6.016)	(\$ 5.783)
Total Funds Spent per Student:	\$393.56	\$437.78	\$507.54	\$549.03	\$569.36	\$607.10	\$737.90	\$806.80	\$843.79	\$909.23
(1967 \$)	(\$416.99)	(\$450.47)	(\$507.54)	(\$527.06)	(\$518.67)	(\$522.11)	(\$608.03)	(\$643.83)	(\$634.53)	(\$616.46)
Teacher's Average Salaries:	\$5390	\$5788	\$6387	\$6757	\$6877	\$7028	\$8306	\$8766	\$8836	\$9165
(1967 \$)	(\$5703)	(\$5956)	(\$6387)	(\$6488)	(\$6265)	(\$6044)	(\$6844)	(\$6995)	(\$6645)	(\$6213)
Consumer Price Index ** (1967 = \$1.00)	1.058	1.029	1.000	.960	.911	.860	.824	.798	.752	.678

*These data were extracted from the Annual 116th through the 125th Reports of the Superintendent, Louisiana State Department of Education.
**Handbook of Labor Statistics, 1974, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.