

CITY SCHOOLS SHOW CONTINUED GROWTH TA IN ENROLLMENT SINCE OCTOBER OF 1922 B

All Schools Experience Regular Growth, With Total Increase of 500 Students—Elementary School Has Larger Percentage of Increase Than High School—Several Drop Out of High

Since the year 1922, the city schools have shown a steady growth with a decided increase since this time last year, according to figures submitted by Ross N. Robinson, superintendent of schools. The summary of the growth in enrollment since October 1922 follows.

Oct. 25, 1922

Elementary	1065
Jr. & Sr. high	280
Colored	84

Totalling	1429
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Sept. 28, 1923

Elementary	1143
Jr. & So. high	290
Colored	90

Totalling	1523
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Oct. 3, 1924

Elementary	1273
Jr. & Sr. high	316
Colored	105

Totalling	1694
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Oct. 2, 1925

Elementary	1455
Jr. Sr. high	361
Colored	113

Totalling	1929
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From these figures it is seen that the schools have experienced regular growth all along the line, showing a total growth of 500 pupils. The elementary schools show an increase of 36.5 per cent. Thus it is noted that the high school group is not keeping pace with the grades in percentage of increase. There is a leak along the line somewhere which every city experiences. Students often drop out after entering high school.

In discussing this situation yesterday, Superintendent Robinson set forth several reasons why the children are not kept in high school. "First", he said, "is the economic reason, where parents feel that they are not able to keep their children in school. The one thing which a parent owes to a child is a better social adjustment, and no child should be permitted to reach the age when he must provide for himself and find himself lacking in education at a point he cannot fit himself satisfactorily into his environment. He is a dissatisfied citizen and many times

incapable of providing for himself."

A second reason which Supt. Robinson assigns for failure to continue in school is lack of interest. "Parents often say that a pupil does not learn and does not want to go to school—he is not interested. Any parent who has a child who gives this reason or excuse for failure to attend school, should seriously consider his or her own interest in the education of the child. A pupil's interest in school is too often a reflection of parental interest. Pupils of the disinterested type can, up to a certain age, be compelled to attend school, but when this age has been reached we usually find them dropping out. They want to go to work. The lure of the meager sum which will provide a few extra movies, a little showier clothes, and the like, is too much for this type."

"The economic loss to a community which suffers from this state of mind among its youth is hardly calculable," Supt. Robinson continued. "The social liability which such a community passively resists shouldering, is even greater than the economic liability."

"Each year millions of dollars are spent in this country for education, and each year this country permits boys and girls to neglect to make themselves productive members of society. They drift along and become public liabilities. Years ago we realized the importance of remedying this situation, and laws were passed for the purpose of compelling parents to send their children to school. Every one realizes the fact that an uneducated adult is not a good type citizen in a democracy which depends upon enlightenment for its existence."

"Kingsport cannot afford to spend its money for the purpose of increasing the efficiency and satisfaction of its citizenship, and then have its citizens fail to increase in efficiency and satisfaction. The greatest force which can be brought to bear on this, as well as every other worthy cause, is public opinion, and the question is whether or not public opinion is strongly favorable to such a citizenship, or are we willing to drift along and let others do likewise."

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