

OUTLOOK

A report from the Council for American Private Education, Washington, D.C.

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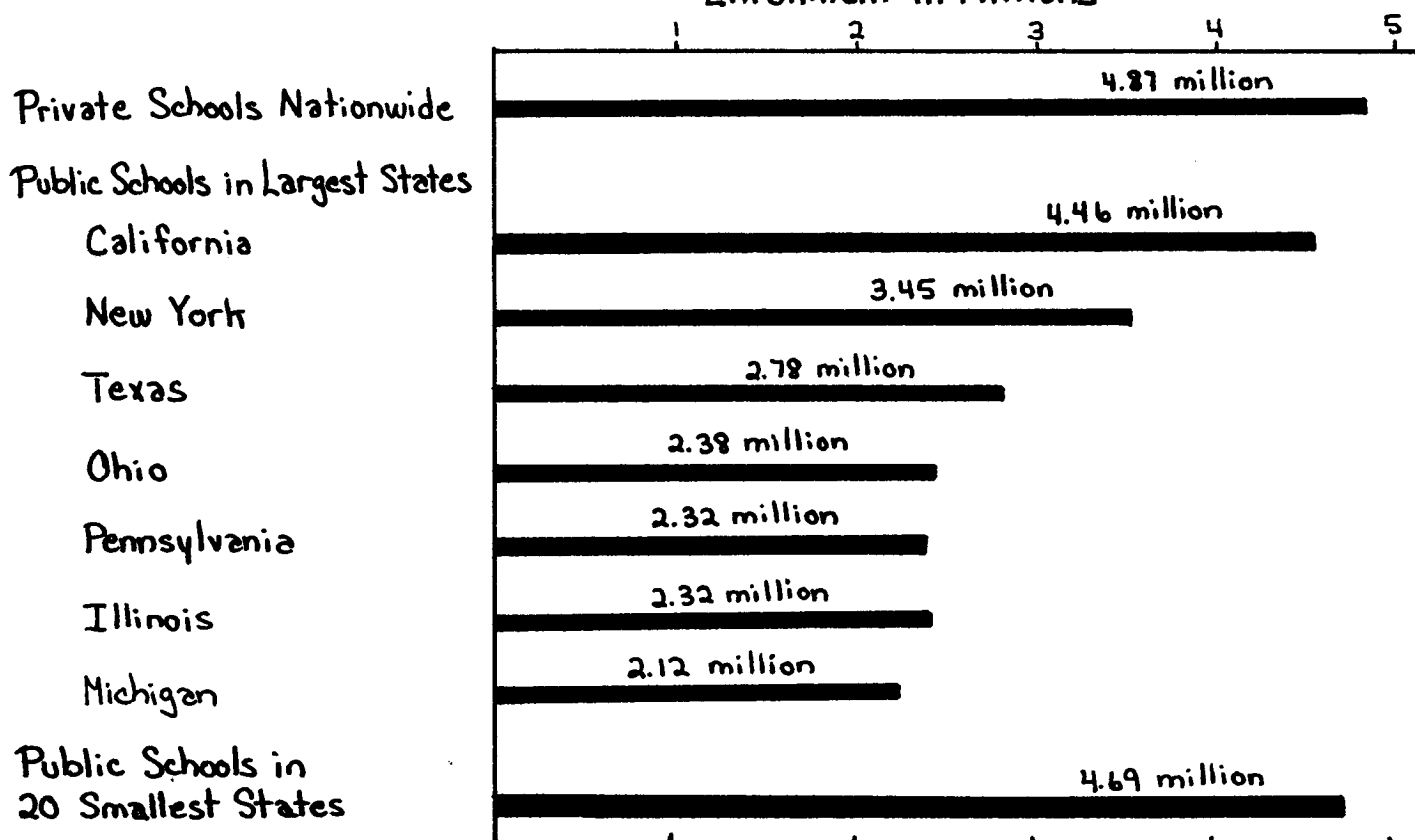
PRIVATE SCHOOLS ENROLL
ONE-TENTH OF NATION'S
PUPILS, NEW DATA SHOWS

Private schools educate almost one tenth of America's 50.5 million elementary and secondary school children, according to the most current figures available from the federal government. Nationally, private schools enrolled more students in fall, 1973, than did the public schools of any single state. In fact, the national enrollment of private schools surpassed the aggregate public school enrollment of the nation's 20 smallest states.

The comparison below was compiled by the Council for American Private Education. Source for public school figures is Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Fall, 1973 (74-155), newly released by the National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Office of Education. Source for the private school figure is a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare release (E 50) of Sept. 8, 1974.

Elementary and Secondary School Enrollments Private Schools Nationwide Compared to Public Schools by States

Enrollment in Millions



PENNSYLVANIA'S ASSISTANCE
TO PRIVATE SCHOOL PUPILS
DUE BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Pennsylvania's provisions for auxiliary services and loans of textbooks and other materials to children in private schools are being challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court has agreed to hear what may be a landmark case in public assistance to private schools. Pennsylvania, which drafted the law carefully to provide auxiliary services and loans of textbooks, instructional materials, and "self-policing" instructional equipment, has put \$100 million into the programs since mid-1972. Challengers including the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People lost at the U.S. District Court level in March and have won a hearing before the Supreme Court.

An amicus curiae brief filed by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) in mid-December supports the Pennsylvania approach for services to private school pupils. CAPE also asks the high court to settle finally the guidelines for determining what type of public assistance to private schools is constitutional. The brief urges the Supreme Court to "clarify the guidelines to bring them into . . . harmony with the historical purpose of the First Amendment, the traditional practical implementation of that amendment, parental and student rights in education, and academic pluralism in American education."

CAPE PRESIDENT SPEAKS
ON TV, RADIO ACROSS U.S.

Dr. Al H. Senske, President of CAPE, discusses private elementary and secondary education across the country in live and taped television and radio interviews. He says talk show hosts ask about the types and constitutionality of federal and state aid programs which benefit private school students, the future of private schools, enrollment patterns, and "segregation havens." As Council President, Dr. Senske represents nine national member groups whose schools do not discriminate racially in admissions. He has appeared on television and radio shows in the Midwest, West, and Hawaii since mid-October; interviews are scheduled this spring in Chicago, Detroit, and Washington, D.C. Arrangements are made through the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, for which Dr. Senske works as Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Schools.

REGULATION-DRAWING AT OE
INVOLVES REPRESENTATIVES
OF PRIVATE SCHOOL SECTOR

In designing regulations for new programs and procedures under 1974 law, the U.S. Office of Education (OE) is involving the private school sector. Representatives of CAPE and its member groups have offered suggestions generally and proposed specific definitions and procedures for regulations. Their aims are to ease administration of the Education Amendments of 1974 and assure equitable participation of private school students, professionals, and parents in OE-funded programs for elementary and secondary schools.

Sessions with OE program officials in December dealt with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I (For the Educationally Deprived), ESEA Title VII (Bilingual Education), and Title IV of the 1974 law, Parts B and C (consolidated programs for state management). Private school educators have also been invited to participate in early stages of drawing regulations for the Special Projects Act, the discretionary programs of the U.S. Commissioner of Education. Commissioner Terrel H. Bell has noted CAPE's "particular interests" in the regulations and guidelines for the Special Projects programs.

Regulations are drawn to provide procedures for assuring that Congressional purposes as expressed in laws will be achieved. OE regulations must be published in proposed form in the Federal Register, along with announcements for public hearings and extended times for submission of written public comments. After revisions, regulations are printed in the Register; they become final a specified time later unless Congress orders modifications.

STRAITENED NIE INVOLVES
NATIONAL EDUCATION GROUPS
IN 'CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE'

The National Institute of Education (NIE), research arm for federal education, is encouraging dialogue with outside organizations, including the private school community. Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, recently called for "a continuous dialogue with external groups at all levels" of HEW. His policy parallels that of NIE's advisory council, the National Council for Educational Research, and a commitment by Dr. Virginia Trotter, Assistant Secretary for Education, to set up procedures which make private education a working partner in national education undertakings.

Representatives of major segments of American education—private and public, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary, administrators, teachers, and researchers—met recently with NIE's Acting Director, Emerson Elliott. Mr. Elliott outlined NIE's focus for long and short-term research in six major areas: organization and management for change; dissemination and resources; education and work; finance and productivity; basic skills; and educational equity.

Held to \$70 million for fiscal 1975, officials stress NIE does more than approve grants. For public and private education, NIE provides informational data banks, technical research advice, research specialists for conferences, a newsletter, and specific project publications. In return, groups such as CAPE may serve NIE by providing readers, evaluators, researchers, data sources for investigations, and demonstration model sites.

FEDERAL LUNCH PROGRAM
REACHES 87,000 SCHOOLS,
SEEKS TO ENLIST OTHERS

Children in Catholic, Lutheran, and other private schools in Chicago eat lunch from foil-wrapped trays popped from ovens like those on airplanes. Students in Pittsburgh's Catholic schools are served lunches prepared and frozen commercially, then warmed at their schools. And in Philadelphia, pre-packaged lunches are delivered to parochial schools in midday runs by private companies' milk trucks.

Central kitchens, commercial preparation, school freezers, and fast ovens are among many time and cost-saving ideas in use at 87,000 of the nation's public and private schools which operate lunch programs with help from Washington. In 5,000 additional schools, lunch programs run without federal aid. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service hopes to expand its programs of subsidized lunches, breakfasts, and milk to include more of America's 110,000 schools. David Overbagh, a program official in Washington, says 5 million children in 18,000 schools have no food service at all.

National groups in education, community service, and school nutrition have been enlisted to promote the federal school lunch and related programs. In Grand Rapids last fall, representatives of the American Legion, Jaycees, National Congress of PTAs, Women's Auxiliary of the American Medical Association, the American School Food Service Association, CAPE, and others suggested ways to expand the food service programs in public and private elementary and secondary schools.

Recently, Overbagh said subsidized lunches are served in public and private schools that range from large systems to single schools. In Forest Hills, N.Y., 80 percent of pupils in a Hebrew school buy Kosher-prepared lunches under the federal program. Private schools also cooperate among themselves and with public schools to hold down lunch costs, says Overbagh. Chicago Catholic kitchens prepare meals for Lutheran and other Protestant schools. St. Michael's, an Episcopal school in Southern California, buys lunches made at a public elementary school nearby. Overbagh notes, "As enrollments decline, public schools may have extra capacity to prepare lunches for private schools. We are trying to encourage this as beneficial to both public and private schools."

Under the subsidy programs, federal reimbursements are made to schools through state education departments; or, in 18 states, repayments to private schools are made through regional Food and Nutrition Service offices. To qualify for the lunch, breakfast, or milk program, schools must not discriminate racially, must provide servings that meet federal standards, and, in the first two programs, must offer free lunch or breakfast to needy students who meet federal criteria. Reimbursement rates are revised twice a year for lunches and breakfasts and annually for milk. Rates vary within states.

By spring reimbursements for lunches will average 11.75 cents for all servings; subsidies for free lunches will average 64.25 cents, up to 79.25 cents maximum. Schools also may qualify for reimbursements up to 69.25 cents for reduced-price lunches for moderately needy students. For the federal breakfast program, subsidies will average 9.25 cents for basic servings, 32.5 cents for free breakfasts, and 26.75 cents for reduced-price breakfasts. The milk subsidy program—easiest to start, according to Overbagh—will provide 5 cents repayment for a half pint served at snack time; required free milk for needy students is reimbursed at cost from the dairy for a half pint in schools with food services and for two half pints in schools without food services.

Public or private schools drawing pupils from low-income areas may qualify, Overbagh says, for Agriculture funds for "equipment for storage, preparation, transportation, and serving of food." This "non-food assistance" program provides up to 75 percent federal help for schools which have no equipment or inadequate equipment for food services.

Schools can "break even" in their food programs with federal assistance, testifies the superintendent of Pittsburgh's Catholic schools. John Cicco says \$3,000 worth of equipment—oven, freezer, and refrigerator bought with federal help—permit three people in a school to feed "200 kids in 12 minutes." Of the lunch program, Cicco says, "If you don't participate, every child who is eligible is getting cheated."

PRIVATE SCHOOL HANDBOOK
REPRINTED FOR WIDER USE

Public and private education officials are distributing a new handbook for private school administrators now in its second printing by OE. Dwight Crum, OE Director of Nonpublic Educational Services, says officials in state education agencies and national and regional offices of OE consider the CAPE-produced manual a tool for wide use. Sigurd Ode, assistant to Minnesota's education commissioner, wrote that the handbook is "a boon" not only to nonpublic educators but also those in state and local education agencies. Copies from the second printing are available through Crum, free but on a limited basis; he advises that education agencies have permission to duplicate the handbook "in whole or in part." The document, called "Handbook for Private School Administrators: For Effective Participation in Federal Education Programs Administered by the U.S. Office of Education," will be printed this spring by the Government Printing Office; then copies will be available at cost.

OUTLOOK is published monthly (September through June) by the Council for American Private Education. Council members: The American Lutheran Church • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Board of Parish Education • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • National Union of Christian Schools • U.S. Catholic Conference.

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