

Summary of Essex Superintendent report:

Essex.—The statistical tables show an increase of four hundred and nine children on the census rolls, and two hundred and four in attendance. The schools have averaged a little more than ten months in the time they have been open. There were one more male, and thirteen more female, teachers, at about the same salaries as during the previous year. The school property is reported at \$1,362,700—an increase of \$49,000. The districts have voted \$22,000 more than in 1880. Five districts voted no tax; four of these receive \$350 from the State, the other had a balance on hand of several hundred dollars.

The new law improves the school finances of this county very perceptibly. After apportioning \$350 to seven districts (there were twelve \$300 districts a year ago), there remains \$4.63 per child for the rest of the county. Last year it was \$3.40 per child. Notwithstanding this increase, the districts (with but the four exceptions before noted) have freely voted taxes for teachers' salaries, as well as incidental expenses.

Of the thirty-six districts, eighteen have graded schools, and employ one hundred and one teachers. The remaining eighteen are ungraded, and employ twenty-one teachers.

The subject of industrial or technical education has received attention in several parts of the county—particularly in Montclair, where the matter has been referred to a committee of the trustees and citizens of the town, who are carefully inquiring how it can be introduced into their schools.

There are now no 'very poor' school-houses in the county. Five are reported 'poor'—a few years ago they were called 'medium,' and since then have been kept in tolerable repair; but so many others like them, or poorer, have been replaced with 'good,' or 'very good' ones, that these are now in the lowest rank. The citizens of two of these districts will soon build new ones.