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School costs up as rolls go down

Total enrollment in the nation's schools and colleges will drop slightly again in the 1978-79 academic year, while total expenditures will increase by about \$11 billion, according to HEW's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

In its annual "Back-to-School" forecast, NCES indicates that some 59.8 million students will enroll this fall in formal educational programs from kindergarten through graduate school. This represents a drop of about 2.5 percent from the record high enrollment of 61.3 reached in the fall of 1975, and a decline of about 1 percent from last year's 60.3 million.

Total expenditures at all levels are expected to exceed \$155 billion in 1978-79 as compared to outlays of \$144 billion in the 1977-78 year.

Nearly 3.3 million people will be employed as classroom teachers in the coming year, while another 300,000 individuals will work as superintendents, principals, supervisors and other instructional staff members. Thus, education in the fall of 1978 will directly involve 63.4 million Americans. In a nation with a population exceeding 218 million, this means that 3 of every 10 persons will be participants in the educational process.

Different trends are apparent at the various Educational levels. The downward trend in elementary school enrollment, first noted in 1969, is again evident. The number of students enrolling in kindergarten through grade 8 will decline by about 2 percent, from 33.2 to 32.6 million students.

Enrollment in grades 9 through 12 reached a peak in 1976, experi-

enced a nominal decrease in 1977 and is expected to drop slightly again this fall.

College enrollment is expected to reach a new high this fall and probably will experience moderate annual increases through the early 1980s. Public and private colleges and universities will enroll a total of 11.6 million students, a 3 percent increase from 11.3 million in 1977.

More than 2.4 million elementary and secondary teachers will be involved in classroom instruction this fall. This represents only a slight change from last year, with minor decreases at both the elementary and secondary levels anticipated. The total instructional staff at the college level is estimated at 830,000—up 1 percent from the fall of 1977.

Other highlights of the school year include:—In the last four years, the annual number of high school graduates has remained near 3,150,000. No appreciable change is anticipated in that figure for this year's high school graduating class.

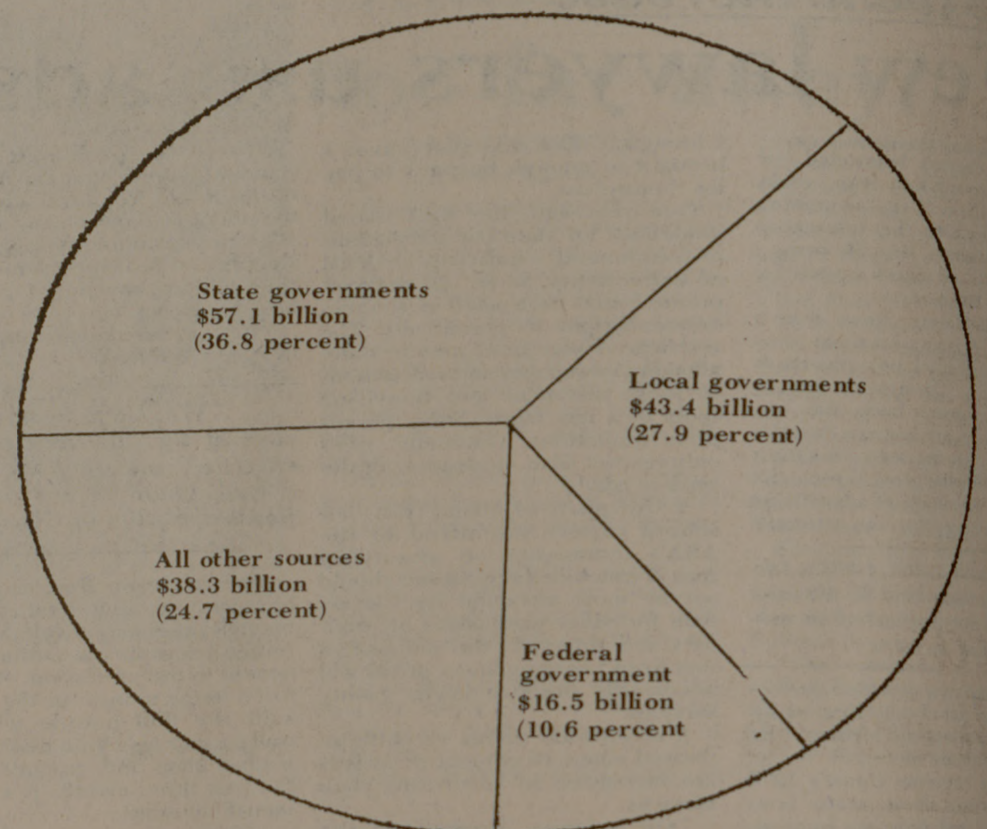
Colleges and universities will set new records in 1978-79 as bachelor degree recipients reach 1 million. In addition, higher education institutions will award 347,000 master's degrees, 37,000 doctorates, and 67,000 first-professional degrees.

Of the \$155 billion estimated expenditure in the coming year, elementary and secondary schools are expected to spend \$100 billion, while colleges and universities will spend \$55 billion. Public school and college expenditures are estimated at \$127 billion, while privately controlled institutions will spend close to \$28 billion.

Estimates based on Bureau of the Census data, show that 92 percent of 5-year-olds (usual kindergarten age); 99 percent of 6- to 13-year-olds (grades 1 through 8); 94 percent of 14- to 17-year-olds (grades 9 through 12); and 30 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds (college age) will be enrolled in school this fall.

There has been a continuing decline in the pupil-teacher ratio in public elementary and secondary schools in recent years. The ratio decreased from 23.7 in 1967 to 19.9 in the fall of 1977.

These "Back-to-School" statistics are derived from surveys, estimates and projections of the National Center for Education Statistics, a part of the Education Division of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. All figures are subject to minor revision when final data becomes available.



Total expenditures by schools from kindergarten through graduate school are expected to exceed \$155 billion in 1978, an increase of about \$11 billion over last year. Expenditures are outlined above by source. In spite of the

increased expenditure, enrollment has increased slightly from last year. (Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare)

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Move opposed at A&M

Tenure, or ten-year?

By MICHELLE SCUDDER

Top Texas A&M University administrators see only disadvantages to abolishing tenure in favor of ten-year renewable contracts. Texas House Speaker Billy Clayton has recently proposed the change and it may be introduced when the legislature convenes this spring.

"I don't know of any advantages to abolishing tenure," said Texas A&M Chancellor Jack Williams. "It would be very difficult to hold professors. Tenure is a clearly understood fact of academic life."

"Without tenure Texas would be pioneering in a field where pioneers are not to be applauded," he said.

Williams was Commissioner for Higher Education for Texas before he became president of Texas A&M in 1970. Williams also wrote the first tenure policy, which was suggested for adoption by all state universities. That policy, with modification, is in use now.

The Texas A&M Faculty-Staff Handbook defines tenure as "the assurance to an experienced faculty member who has passed a probationary period of service that he or she may expect to continue in an academic appointment unless funds are no longer available or adequate cause for dismissal is demonstrated through established procedures of due process."

Dr. Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties at Texas A&M, said eliminating the tenure system would be a disadvantage to the whole state.

"We would be the only state in the union where tenure didn't exist," he said. "We would appear anti-intellectual to outsiders without a tenure system."

Monroe said he thinks that Speaker Clayton's proposal would not guarantee more efficiency. Rather, he said, it would guarantee that Texas would be pointed to nationally as a state to be avoided by scholars.

Dr. Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M, said, "Without tenure, Texas A&M would be at a competitive disadvantage as we tried to re-



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