



Missouri School Districts Collection (S0044)

Collection Number: S0044

Collection Title: Missouri School Districts Collection

Dates: 1877-1980

Creator: State Historical Society of Missouri

Abstract: The Missouri School Districts Collection is an artificial collection combining small acquisitions pertaining to various school districts in St. Louis and outstate Missouri.

Collection Size: 1.4 cubic feet
(42 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Missouri School Districts Collection* (S0044); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: See the accession folder for donor information.

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock, August 8, 2022

Notes:

Several items in this series, including folder 42, "State Schools for Mentally Retarded Children," contain outdated language referring to children with intellectual disabilities. The term "mentally retarded" is no longer considered acceptable language. The American Psychological Association's Style and Grammar Guidelines recommends using "person-first" language

centering on the individual rather than their disability. For example, acceptable terms include “person with a disability” or “disabled person” instead of mentally retarded. However, archivists have maintained the original title for folder 42 to preserve its historical context.

Historical Note:

Beginning in 1975, Irene Cortinavis, Associate Director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, St. Louis Research Center, contacted local K-12 school administrators to collect materials documenting the history of St. Louis area school districts. Cortinavis primarily collected these materials for UMSL’s College of Education students. This collection ended upon Cortinavis’s retirement in 1980.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following six subseries:

Missouri State
St. Louis City
St. Louis County
Special School District
Other Schools

Scope and Content Note:**Missouri State**

This series contains a constitution and reports pertaining to public schools in the state of Missouri. An item of interest in this series is the *Provisions of the Constitution of the State of Missouri Affecting the Public School System of the State*. The document, published in 1877, outlines the state government’s role in maintaining and funding public schools and establishes provisions for establishing school districts, including the segregated schools of that era. Other materials of interest include annual reports of the Missouri State Board of Education from 1972 to 1973. The reports primarily contain statistical information about public education in Missouri, such as teacher pay, enrollment, attendance, and federal funds received by school districts. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically, dating from 1877 to 1974.

St. Louis City

Reports chronicling educational equality and statistical data documenting school population, enrollment, attendance, and financial expenditures comprise much of this series. An item of interest includes a report, *A Tale of Two Cities: A Blueprint for Equality of Educational Opportunity in the St. Louis Public Schools*. The St. Louis City Board of Education published the report in 1968, which identified problems stemming from segregated education in St. Louis City and recommended that then Governor Warren Hearnes create a Task Force for Equality of Educational Opportunity to eliminate the St. Louis City “Ghettos” by using resources provided by religious groups, labor, industry, and government. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1946 to 1969.

St. Louis County

This series consists of reports, maps, brochures, newsletters, and guidebooks regarding St. Louis County school districts. Materials of interest include *The Story of Normandy*, written by Ward E. Barnes, a former Superintendent of the Normandy School District and one of the University of Missouri-St. Louis's founders. In the book, Barnes chronicles Normandy's founding and the evolution of the Normandy School District. Other items of interest include a report commissioned by the St. Louis County Department of Planning titled *Hazelwood School District: Requirements of the Seventies*. The authors identify trends in the community's demand for commercial, residential, and industrial land and their effects on the future development of the Hazelwood School District. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1931 to 1977.

Special School District

Reports chronicling the history and programs of the Special School District of St. Louis County constitute most of this series. Founded in December 1957, the Special School District is dedicated to educating children with intellectual disabilities. An item of interest in this series is *Profile of Education in the Special School District of St. Louis County, Missouri*, which outlines the services provided by the Special School District in the 1970s, including a speech and hearing program and vocational courses. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically, dating from 1970 to 1974.

Other Schools

This series contains promotional materials and course catalogs featuring private educational institutions in the St. Louis metropolitan area, including the Central Institute for the Deaf and the Missouri School for the Blind. One of the promotional materials featured in this series is a booklet for the Missouri School for the Blind, identifying the academic and vocational programs the school offered its students in the late 1960s. Featured throughout the booklet are photographs of students engaging in classroom and physical activities. The booklet includes a short historical essay about the Missouri School for the Blind and a guide for using Braille. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1960 to 1971.

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	f. 2	<i>Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri, 1973-1974</i>
f. 3-5		St. Louis City
	f. 3	<i>Annual Report, Board of Education of the City of Saint Louis, 1974</i>
	f. 4.	<i>Annual Report of the Department of Instruction, 1969; Special Report to Planning Committee: Five-Year Plan for the St. Louis Public Schools, 1946</i>
	f. 5	<i>A Tale of Two Cities: A Blueprint for Equality of Educational Opportunity in the St. Louis Public Schools, 1968</i>
f. 6-29		St. Louis County
	f. 6-8	<i>Annual Report of the St. Louis County, Missouri, Public Schools to the County Board of Education, 1954-1977</i>

Box 2	f. 9	<i>Annual Report of the St. Louis County, Missouri, Public Schools to the County Board of Education, 1977-1980</i>
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	f. 12	Brentwood School District, 1969, no date
	f. 13	Clayton School District, 1931, 1966
	f. 14	Ferguson-Florissant School District, 1975-1977
	f. 15	Francis Howell School District, 1968, 1972
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	f. 39	Missouri School for the Deaf, 1971
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