

CHAPTER 17

Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary School Facilities*

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

Physical Characteristics

The predominant type of school building used for nonpublic schools is single-story (52 percent), multistory (56 percent), masonry exterior (52 percent), with steel (34 percent) or masonry framing (27 percent). Nonpublic schools can be subdivided into church related, and church related or private. Church-related schools are pretty much Roman Catholic. Roman Catholic schools are generally in the more populated areas of the Nation and the profile of characteristics described above is greatly influenced by the number of Roman Catholic schools. Some Roman Catholic, church-related schools, and private schools are located in the "preparatory" school setting of multiple building campuses on large acreage. This is evident from the large number of acres the mean as compared to the median size of site for nonpublic (See table 1.)

1.—Number of acres in the median non-public-school site by organizational level for selected periods for the United States, 1965

	Elementary	Combined	Secondary
.....	1	2	7
.....	2	5	8
.....	3	6	14
Median, all sites.....	2	4	10
Mean, all sites.....	5	26	50

Source: Based on George J. Collins, "National Inventory of School Facilities and Personnel, Spring 1962." U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education, 1964.

Services Rendered

Nonpublic schools serve the Nation in a free society by providing choices to parents in fulfilling the requirements of compulsory education outside of public education. For some, these choices may be a school where religion is taught, or the quality of education for smaller class size and a greater emphasis on individual attention, or a chance to live in a total school environment away from home. In another sense, nonpublic schools serve the State in providing schools which eliminate the necessity of providing additional public schools. Nonpublic schools serve the population from ages 3 to 19 years with nursery, kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and primary or preparatory educational programs (see table 2).

*This chapter was prepared by Dr. George J. Collins, National Center for Educational Statistics, Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with minor editing by committee staff.