

Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds have made it possible for Martin County to initiate a remedial reading program in which the services of teacher aids and remedial reading teachers have been provided to implement the regular classroom activities,

Elementary school library services, lunches for indigent children, and a summer program for high school students from the low-income families with special emphasis on reading have been made possible.

Elementary library rooms and remedial reading laboratory rooms have been established in Martin County's seven consolidated elementary centers. Books, instructional supplies, and modern equipment have been provided for the use of the librarians, remedial reading teachers, and regular classroom teachers.

Some of the desirable results of the program are as follows:

1. Dropout rate has been reduced.
2. Overall increase in academic level of the students.
3. Higher percentage of attendance.
4. Improved attitude of low-income parents and children toward school.
5. Increased participation on the part of parents in community activities as well as educational activities.
6. Improvement in health and nutrition with elimination of many physical handicaps such as eye defects, hearing defects, and nutritional deficiencies. Dental problems have been reduced by providing a mobile dental clinic for children from low-income families.
7. Additional training for specialized personnel in supervision, remedial reading, and library science.

Plans are underway for the development of an improved program in mathematics, science, art, music, and physical fitness.

The programs provided by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act should be continued because of the valuable services being rendered to children from low-income families and increased potential for the construction of new buildings.

I recommend that provision be made in the law whereby the poorer districts with heavier concentration of poverty could be permitted to secure grants and low-interest long-term loans in order for them to provide the buildings necessary to carry out a successful educational program. Most of the school districts in Eastern Kentucky have antiquated high schools with inadequate heating, lighting, laboratories, libraries, and other facilities necessary for a program to meet the needs of the students. Without some form of construction aid the school districts can not meet the increased building needs.

All Federal aid money should be channeled through State departments of education and prorated to the districts on the basis of need, taking into consideration local effort, in accordance with a well-developed educational plan approved by the State department of education and the U.S. Office of Education.

There is considerable confusion and discontent concerning the operation of Headstart programs under the direction of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and under the present setup OEO, through community action, is dominating the Headstart programs on the basis that Headstart is not an educational activity, that it is an antipoverty