

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS 1709

BENTON HARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Benton Harbor, Mich., March 9, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
*House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. PERKINS: Many members of the Michigan Association of School Administrators visited Washington during the week of February 27th to learn more about federal legislation and aid and how it affects our schools in Michigan. Many personal contacts were made with our Michigan congressmen to understand their views on federal programs and for the school administrators to express their problems, concerns, and interest in federal programs.

Many of our congressmen suggested we visit the hearings your committee was conducting on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which we were able to do on Friday, March 3rd. In your comments to the Superintendent of Pittsburgh, you suggested a personal letter be addressed to you explaining the problems of Title I Projects in our district.

Therefore, we would like to list the following information about the School District of the City of Benton Harbor, Michigan and the operation of federal programs in our district.

1. Our school district covers approximately 56 square miles, total estimated population of 46,000 people, with public school enrollments of 12,000 students K-12 and 1200 parochial students.

2. Approximately 30% of our students are in a Negro minority group.

3. We are a new school district of a little over a year with the consolidation of 17 small units into one.

4. Our economically and educationally deprived students are located in 9 target schools in the district.

5. Last summer our community had nearly a week of nightly rioting in the streets.

6. Our allocation under Title I for 1965-66 was \$304,000. We had the following projects in operation last year:

(a) Employed registered nurses for the school district and supporting health programs.

(b) Employed one counselor.

(c) Conducted an extensive summer and Saturday Physical Education and Recreation Program.

(d) Employed 20 helping teachers to work in target schools.

(e) Developed the Community School Program in two target schools.

(f) Started adult high school credit classes and expanded the Adult Basic Education Program.

(g) Developed pilot junior high typing program in our junior high school.

(h) Conducted an extensive In-Service Program for teachers in our target schools.

(i) Equipped a complete dentist office and employed a dentist and dental hygienist to aid our students.

(j) Developed a series of reading programs in the target schools.

(k) Developed an Instructional Materials Center for the target schools.

(l) Provided musical instruments and a music instruction program for the students.

(m) Conducted a large educational summer school program.

7. The allocation for our district for 1966-67 is estimated at \$256,000.

8. We have had to cut many programs from last year and these cuts have handicapped the operations of our programs in our target schools.

We have many reimbursable programs in our district and feel they are important to its operation. But, it is our basic belief that only one agency should operate the program. For example, the "Headstart" project being administered by the school district and the Community Action Agency.

We truly believe that Title I funds are providing educational opportunities and advantages in our district and should not be cut back but expanded for a district, like ours, who needs to meet the problems of slums, de facto segregation, illiteracy and poverty head on.

We have provided you with a short sketch of our Title I programs and problems and will supply more detail at your request.

Thank you for your interest in the School District of the City of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT C. JOHNSON, *Superintendent.*