

III. MOBILITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN OKLAHOMA, 1917-1930¹

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For a number of years the Oklahoma Educational Directory has been published annually by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. It lists the names of superintendents and high school principals of schools where as many as four teachers are employed.

Using these directories and comparing the names listed in successive years, it is possible to discover which superintendents and principals each year serve for the first time as administrators in the various communities in the state. In other words, such a procedure answers the question: How many public school administrators in Oklahoma each year find themselves in new locations? Whenever a principal was promoted to a superintendency in the same community, he was not regarded as making a change, even though his work as a superintendent would not be identical with his previous work as high school principal.

Such a procedure gives at least a rough estimate of the amount of mobility which is occurring among public school administrators in Oklahoma. These figures for the past fourteen years, 1917-1930, give us the following table:

TABLE I.—Oklahoma School Administrators Serving Communities
Other Than Those Served the Preceding Year.

Year	Superintendents and principals	Superintendents and principals who changed locations	Percent changed
1917	580	343	59
1918	205*	101	49
1919	203*	100	49
1920	736	408	55
1921	895	483	53
1922	1020	552	54
1923	956	518	54
1924	971	403	41
1925	983	460	46
1926	983	420	42
1927	1052	418	39
1928	1098	437	39
1929	1154	460	39
1930	1183	398	33

*The small number is due to the directory for these years including names of superintendents only.

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It is encouraging to note that during the past fourteen years, 1917 to 1930, the amount of mobility has steadily decreased from fifty-nine percent to thirty-three percent. It is further encouraging to note that the present year (1930-31) finds fewer administrators in new locations than any previous year.