

## COMPARATIVE SCORES OF SCHOOLS HAVING EIGHT AND NINE MONTH TERMS

Paper presented by JOHN F. BENDER, University of Oklahoma, Norman  
Abstracted by F. A. BIEDEL

### ABSTRACT

The retention of children in the schools has increased steadily in the last 150 years. In 1800 the average schooling was 80 days; today it is closer to 1800 days. Among causes are increased length of term. Schools of less than nine months are rare. Compulsory attendance laws, passed and largely enforced; extension of legal "leaving" age; holding power of present American high school are potent factors.

Increased schooling has entailed corresponding expense. Is this commensurate with the achievement?

Data on the problem of "relation of length of term to amount of learning" were collected in 49 rural schools of Cleveland county. Standard tests were employed. 26 schools had 8-month, and 14 had between 8 and 9 months; 9 had 9 month terms.

7095 scores were determined; these were studied by subjects and by grades.

The 9-month schools were 5.71 (absolute) points or 13.85 per cent higher than the schools of shorter term. Length of term is not claimed as determinative. The influence of *degree* of attendance, the influence of retardation, standards of scholarship, etc., are among other significant factors, not here investigated.

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