

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The numbers of public schools open at the end of 1928 was 2,598, three less than in the previous year. In the following table the schools are classified according to their grade, and the yearly average attendance and the number of children per teacher are shown.

Grade of School, and Range of Average Attendance.	Number of Schools.*	Total Average Attendance.†			Average Number of Children per Adult Teacher in Primary Department.‡
		Primary Department.	Secondary Department.	Total.	
0 (1-8)	253	1,515	..	1,515	6
I (9-20)	787	11,370	..	11,370	14
II (21-35)	514	13,780	..	13,780	25
III _A (36-50)	297	13,284	..	13,284	23
III _B (51-80)	254	15,817	37	15,854	30
III _C (81-120)	133	12,867	160	13,027	32
IV _A (121-160)	61	8,381	194	8,575	35
IV _B (161-200)	32	5,551	279	5,830	
IV _C (201-240)	39	8,886	716	9,602	
V _A (241-280)	26	6,908	413	7,321	41
V _B (281-320)	19	5,811	158	5,969	
V _C (321-360)	31	10,532	473	11,005	
VI _A (361-400)	19	7,045	244	7,289	44
VI _B (401-440)	27	11,497	398	11,895	
VI _C (441-480)	12	5,564	127	5,691	
VII _A (481-520)	16	7,851	78	7,929	43
VII _B (521-560)	14	7,438	122	7,560	
VII _C (561-600)	18	10,315	86	10,401	
VII _D (601-640)	16	9,871	241	10,112	43
VII _E (641-680)	11	7,241	..	7,241	
VII _F (681-720)	9	6,288	..	6,288	
VII _G (721-760)	3	2,228	..	2,228	43
VII _H (761-800)	4	2,972	..	2,972	
VII _I (801-840)	2	1,539	..	1,539	
VII _J (841-880)	..	..	..	..	..
VII _K (881-920)	1	860	..	860	
VII _L (921-960)	..	..	..	..	
Totals, 1928	2,598	195,411	3,726	199,137	32
Totals, 1927	2,601	192,284	3,457	195,741	32
Difference	-3	+3,127	+269	+3,396	..

* Half-time, main, and side schools are counted as separate schools.

† The average attendance shown under this heading is the average attendance for the year ended 30th September, 1928, computed and adjusted in accordance with the regulations governing the staffing of schools. The unadjusted total average attendance for the year ended 31st December, 1928, was—primary departments, 193,420, and secondary departments, 3,763.

‡ Head teachers are counted as class-teachers up to and including Grade V schools that are not district high schools

From the foregoing table it will be seen that 1,554 schools, or more than half the total number, each had an average attendance of less than thirty-six pupils. These schools are sole-teacher schools, and the total average attendance at such schools in 1928 was 26,665. Eliminating from the above table the details in respect to sole-teacher schools, the position regarding the remaining schools may be summarized as follows :—

	Total Average Attendance. (Primary.)	Average Number of Children per Adult Teacher.
Grades III-VII (two or more teachers)	168,746	37
Grades V-VII (six or more teachers)	103,960	43
All schools (Grades 0-VII)	195,411	32