Discussion

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Dr. Hauser has suggested some conditions under which the gradesurvival method of projecting enrollment would be appropriate and some others where the use of measures of residential growth would be appropriate. Experience with projections in a metropolitan area (Atlanta) indicates that a combination of these two methods is often desirable.

Enrollment projections are desired by local school systems for two main purposes. First are the projections for the entire system which are used to plan for personnel, future revenues required, and similar purposes. Second is the planning of specific locations for school plants. For this latter purpose, projections based on residential growth are the major means of pinpointing school needs in specific areas. These projections can be cumulated for the entire school district to get the total enrollment which can be checked against projections -- made for the entire area by the gradesurvival method. Projections made by the grade-survival method are likely to be inappropriate for small areas of a metropolitan district. Most parts

of large cities are changing rapidly in size, composition, and in other ways which make any kind of trend line subject to a wide margin of error. Therefore, grade-survival projections for areas of cities small enough to plan school location will usually be less useful than methods that relate enrollment to expected future dwelling units.

A dwelling-unit projection which ascertains the maximum number of dwelling units in an area when it is completely built up is very useful for planning specific school location. The rate at which an area is approaching its maximum school enrollment size is not as important for some kinds of school planning as the total size it is likely to reach.

When the dwelling-unit approach is combined with the grade-survival or ratioto-population methods for the entire area, projections of maximum accuracy <u>should</u> be achieved. (There is little empirical evidence to indicate the superiority of one approach over another.)