

# Need for schools, teachers spells trouble

By DONALD MALAFRONTÉ

A need for new schools and more teachers will trouble the New Jersey public school system through the 1960s.

This conclusion is accepted by all educators, even those who, as preceding articles indicated, disagree on the future of science education and student acceleration.

Here is the situation in the key areas of school construction and teacher availability:

## CONSTRUCTION

The Department of Education reports that New Jersey for the past five years has been building classrooms at a rate of 2,000 a year at a cost of \$100,000,000 a year.

This rapid rate of construction has kept the number of

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students on double sessions at a fairly constant rate, somewhere between 54,000 and 61,000 pupils each year, but it had not reduced the number.

Last year, school superintendents reported need for another 3,900 classrooms. This is only about 500 fewer than were needed in the fall of 1956.

In effect, the districts have had to keep running just to stay in the same place . . . and it appears matters will remain that way for some time.

The Department of Education predicts enrollment will continue to rise rapidly until the late 1960s and then will level off

to increase more slowly and at a steady pace.

Here are enrollment estimates in round figures:

There are now 1,150,000 students in the state's public schools. By 1965, the total will be 1,273,000; by 1970, the total will be 1,453,000; and by 1975, the total will be 1,604,000.

It appears school needs will be greatest in counties just beginning to open up, such as Ocean and Burlington, and in counties well on their way to being crowded by the post-war rush to the suburbs, such as Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset.

Essex should be in reasonably good shape during the 1960s since its suburbs are settled, generally, with limited opportunity for large-scale home building.

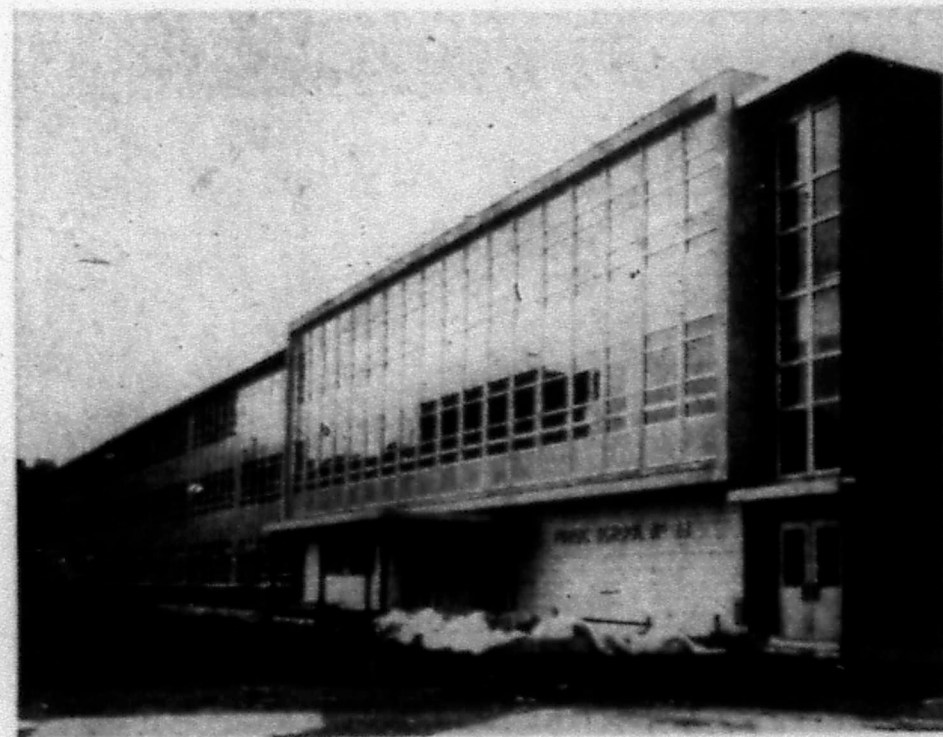
Newark is an exception. It faces big city problems uncommon to the rest of the state, problems of obsolescence and uncertain population shifts.

A number of schools now operating full blast in the city were built in the 1880s. Their replacement was recommended in school surveys as far back as 1942.

## TEACHERS

New Jersey last year employed 48,756 public school teachers. This was an increase of about 2,450 over the previous year and a total increase of 12,000 — or 32 per cent — during the last five years.

Apparently some gains are being made in the employment of qualified teachers and the



Paterson's new public school 28 stands as symbol of school construction

upgrading of those with less than standard certification, the Department of Education reports.

Since the fall of 1956, the number of teachers licensed with substandard certificates has increased by 2,000, but the annual rate of increase has declined sharply in the past two years.

In terms of teachers involved, 1,835 out of 4,980 teachers with provisional certificates last year were located in four counties: Middlesex, Bergen, Essex and Monmouth. This represents 38 per cent of the total.

Five counties accounted for the employment of 45 per cent of all teachers with provisional

certificates: Monmouth, Camden, Burlington, Gloucester and Morris.

The Department of Education anticipates that the need for teachers will parallel enrollment growth. More than 115,000 teachers will be needed to replace those who leave the profession and to compensate for growth

of schools during the period ending in 1975.

At the elementary level, demand will peak in the next few years and then stabilize at a high level. Secondary school demand will probably reach two peaks: one in the next few years, the other during the early 1970s.

As the Department of Education puts it: "It is believed that students seeking guidance concerning careers in teaching can safely be assured employment . . ."

Teachers' salaries in the state have improved, generally, to the point where many people now feel it is a good job for women but still only fair, or even less, for men.

The typical guide for a teacher with a bachelor's degree this year ranges from a starting salary of \$4,500 to a top of \$7,250. This reflects a year's increase of \$100 in the average minimum and \$250 in the average maximum.

Essex has been the traditional pay leader but it is being overtaken by both Bergen and Union.

Newark, traditionally the Essex leader, has slipped a great deal and a teachers' salary fight in the city this year appears likely.

These twin problems of school building and finding good teachers has kept the state hopping since World War II.

It now appears certain there will be no relief before the 1970s.