

PROPOSED SERVICE REGION FOR DALLAS/FT. WORTH AREA SCHOOL

The establishment of a state school in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area will help to relieve the acute pressures on the state school waiting list from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Currently applications from Dallas and Tarrant Counties account for approximately twenty-five percent of the total state school applicants.

Dallas and Tarrant Counties are presently served by the Denton State School which has a capacity of 1700 beds, which accounts for approximately thirteen percent of the available bed space in Texas State Schools. The total number of Dallas and Tarrant County residents in all state schools is 2008 or approximately 15% of all state school residents.

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The Denton State School Service Region is presently composed of thirty North and North Central Texas Counties (See Table 1). The total number of state school residents from these thirty counties is 3128 or approximately 24% of all state school residents.

The need for bed space in addition to what can be provided by the Denton State School has already made itself manifest. Table I illustrates the acute nature of the problem. It is estimated that three percent of the general population will be mentally retarded. Assuming that the three percent figure is applicable to the current Denton State School Service Region, there are an estimated 86,506 retardates in the region. Nationwide figures indicate that four percent of the retarded will require institutionalization at some point

in their lives. Again assuming that national figures are applicable to the region, it is estimated that approximately 3459 retardates will require institutionalization at some time in their lives. From this region there are already 3128 residents in all state schools, with a projected deficit of 331 beds. The projected population increases in this service region further complicating the already acute shortage of beds. It is conceivable that by the end of the first two phases of construction, assuming that the construction proceeds in the same pattern as the Brenham State School, there will continue to be a deficit of two to three hundred beds.

The proposed new service region for the Dallas/Fort Worth area school would be composed of thirteen North Central Texas Counties taken from the Denton, Abilene, and Mexia Service Regions. (See Table II). Because of the tremendous demands for state school placements from Dallas and Tarrant Counties, these counties will be served by the Denton and Dallas/Fort Worth area schools, thereby increasing the number of beds available to Dallas and Tarrant County residents. The proposed new service region would contain an estimated 69,305 retardates, of which an estimated 2,772 would eventually require institutionalization. These figures, it should be pointed out, are based on current population figures and not upon projected population increases. With the Denton State School serving as the primary back-up source for the Dallas/Fort Worth area school, it would be

necessary to construct a facility that would initially accommodate 800 and increase to a population of approximately 1700. There are currently 240 applicants for admission to a state school in the proposed new service region. The current rate of new applications submitted each month from this region is about 15 per month, with about 10 coming from Dallas and Tarrant Counties.

 2/3 Dallas Ft. Worth