SCHOOL SUPTS. OUTLINE NEEDS

LA. EDUCATION

Following a meeting of the Executive committee of the Louisiana School Superintendents Association at Alex- andria, H. L. Bourgeois, president, released the following statement:

"The members of this group desire that a comprehensive educational program, endorsed by all officials and groups in the state interested in the welfare of the public schools, be presented to the legislature when it convenes in May. The time is very limited in which to prepare such a program, and it is, therefore, essential that a start be made at this particular time.

"This group gives tentative approval to the educational program which follows, and which is submitted at this time and released for state-wide publicity to secure the reaction of interested persons and groups to the program and to secure their suggestions as to changes, amendments, etc.

"Each local school system of the state is faced with the necessity of: (1) Increasing salaries of employees because of increased living costs and adjusting salaries in each of its employee classifications to eliminate salary differences due solely to race; (2) Providing transportation facilities for all public-school children where needed; (3) Completing by 1949-1950 the transition from an eleven-grade to a twelve-grade system; and, (4) Purchasing school sites, constructing and equipping additional buildings, renovating and repairing many existing buildings and replacing worn-out equipment.

"These needs are urgent and immediate planning and action are needed to satisfy them.

"It is common knowledge that increases in salaries of school-board employees have not kept pace with living costs and that school-board employees are suffering under such a condition. The inadequacies of present salary schedules have resulted in a critical shortage of well-trained teachers and in numerous instances of inefficient classroom instruction.

"It is necessary to bring to the attention of all public-school officials and all other groups and persons interested in the welfare of the public-school system the situation now existing with respect to Negro education. Especially is the public invited to consider seriously the implications of the lawsuits with respect to this matter that have been filed. A realistic approach to the problem demands that a sensible and reasonable plan, which should be satisfactory to both races, be adopted before chaotic conditions, especially with reference to finances, confront local school systems.

"The legislature has approved a twelve-grade system, and the public schools are now in a period of transition from the eleven-grade system to the new twelve-grade system. Revenues to offset additional costs involved must be located."