

**High Schools—Schools—School Districts—Joint Districts—
Normal Training.**

Only one high school in each county may participate in normal training appropriations.

A joint district high school situated in a county having another high school participating in normal training appropriations cannot participate in the normal training appropriations even though part of the joint district is in another county which has no high school which participates in such appropriations.

Miss May Trumper,
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Helena, Montana.

February 3, 1925.

My dear Miss Trumper:

You have submitted to this office the question whether a normal training department can be established in a high school in a joint

district where the county in which the high school is situated already has a normal training department but the other county in which the joint district has a part of its territory has no normal training school established in any of its high schools.

Section 1310a, R. C. M., 1921, provides as follows:

“There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twelve thousand dollars for the year ending March 1st, 1918, and there is hereby appropriated the sum of sixteen thousand dollars for the year ending March 1st, 1919, the same to be paid by the state treasurer, under the direction of the state superintendent of public instruction to accredited high schools for establishing normal training courses in such high schools. *Such payment to be made to only one high school in each county*, the same to be designated by the state superintendent of public instruction. In designating such school, the state superintendent shall select the high school having the largest enrollment and the best equipment in the county.”

The question which you have presented involves the determination of whether a joint district, that is, a school district having a part of its territory in one county and a part in another county, where its high school building is in that county in which another high school has already provided normal training courses, is a high school in the other county in which it has no building but has part of its territory for the purpose of providing normal training courses; that is, can a joint school district maintaining a high school be considered a high school in both the county in which it is located and the county in which it is not located but in which it has some of its territory? I am inclined to doubt this for the reason that in case it is so considered then it would be eligible as a normal training school for two counties instead of one county, for if the high school can be considered a high school in the county in which it has territory, but in which the school is not located, it certainly can be considered a high school in the county in which it has not only territory but in which the high school itself is located. I do not believe that the statute so contemplated.

It is, therefore, my opinion that a joint school district having a high school building in a county which is already supplied with a high school furnishing normal training is not a high school in the county in which it has territory but which county has no high school at present giving normal training courses.

Very truly yours,

L. A. FOOT,

Attorney General.