

TEACHERS' SALARIES

For additional information:
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Washington's weakening position in the area of teachers' salaries, as reflected in recent reports, should be of major concern to every citizen in the state, the president of the Washington Education Association said in Seattle Monday.

"National statistics show that we have dropped three places during the past year, in a comparison among the states," said WEA President Carl Fynboe, Clover Park high school administrator. "Washington now is tied with Nevada for tenth place, and indications are that it soon will be much lower."

Widely circulated reports that Washington was in fifth place in average salary paid teachers were incorrect, Fynboe said. Washington ranked seventh last year, he said, although preliminary estimates had placed this state fifth.

The 1958-59 average salary for all instructional staff members in Washington is \$5350. Nevada's average is the same.

"This kind of salary is not high enough to attract and keep superior teachers," Fynboe warned.

"Higher salaries offered by industry and by school systems in other states are resulting in the loss of many of our best teachers. Unless this trend is reversed, it soon will mean lower quality education for our children."

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Fynboe, speaking at a meeting of WEA leaders, predicted that "the exodus of highly trained Washington teachers to California is not over."

California, with an average teacher salary of \$6250, is in third place among the states. New York pays an average of \$6300 and Alaska \$6500.

Two important factors makes Washington's position even more serious, Fynboe said:

"Teachers in this state are required to have more college training," he pointed out. "It also is significant that the cost of living is nearly the highest in the nation."

When these points are considered, he said, Washington is worse off than states ranking as low as twentieth. Florida, in seventeenth place, has an average salary of only \$280 per year less than Washington's, he reported.

Other states paying higher average salaries, in addition to California, New York and Alaska, are: Delaware, \$5900; New Jersey, \$5650; Connecticut, \$5600; Maryland, \$5490; Arizona, \$5404, and Michigan, \$5400.

The data were compiled by the National Education Association from reports of state superintendents.

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