

Losing Your Local School

“The persistent challenge of consolidation is traced to two primary factors. First and foremost was the absence of legislation mandating consolidation and second was public opinion against consolidation. Just as small towns fight against the loss of their schools today, most communities ignored attempts at consolidation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The rural school was often the center of the community, used for social and political gatherings as well as the education of local children. Communities fought to protect their freedom from government intervention. They feared the consequences of losing control of their local district, of domination by populous districts, high taxes, and long transportation for small children.”

--Ghazal Abbas Husain, “Consolidation of School Districts in Kansas” (PhD dissertation, University of Kansas, 1966), 40.