

Historical Development of Educational Administration

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(A concise, organized overview for quick study)

1. Foundations (19th century)

Period	Key Developments	Influential Figures / Documents
Early 1800s	• Education largely local, run by churches or private tutors. • Minimal state involvement.	Horace Mann (U.S. “Father of Public Education”)
Mid 1800s	• First public school systems created (Massachusetts, Prussia). • Introduction of compulsory schooling laws. • Emergence of school boards and superintendents to coordinate growing systems.	Prussian model ? “Königliche Schulbehörde” (Royal School Authority)
Late 1800s	• Emphasis on standard curricula and teacher certification.	John Dewey (progressive education ideas)

Takeaway: The 19th century shifted education from fragmented, community-based provision to organized, state-supported public systems, requiring formal administrative structures.

2. The Progressive Era (1900-1930)

Aspect	Description
Professionalization	Creation of graduate programs in education administration (e.g., Columbia University, 1916).
Administrative Roles	Superintendent becomes central leader; school boards gain policy-making power.
Policy Focus	Child labor laws, compulsory attendance, and the “evidence-based” curriculum.

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Aspect

Description

Key Publications

- *The Administrative Principles* (Luther D. Jones, 1906; later influence).
- *The School Administrator* (John W. Gardner, 1936).

Impact: Administration began to be seen as a distinct profession, with specialized training and a focus on efficiency, standardization, and democratic oversight.

3. Post-World War II Expansion (1945-1965)

Trend

Details

Massive Growth

Enrolment surged (GI Bill, baby boom).

Federal Involvement

- 1944 *GI Bill* (higher ed financing).
- 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ? desegregation mandates.

Administrative Structures

Creation of state departments of education; regional education agencies.

Leadership Models

Shift toward “managerial” style—budgeting, personnel, facilities.

Research & Theory

Emergence of “organizational theory” applied to schools (e.g., Weberian bureaucracy).

Result: Administrators had to manage larger, more diverse systems while complying with new civil rights and federal funding requirements.

4. The Reform & Accountability Era (1965-1990)

Milestone

Effect on Administration

1965 *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*

Introduced federal funding tied to “program objectives” ? need for data collection and reporting.

1970s-80s

Emphasis on “school effectiveness” research (e.g., *Coleman Report* 1966).

1983 *A Nation at Risk*

Prompted “standards-based” reforms; administrators tasked with curriculum alignment and test preparation.

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Milestone

Effect on Administration

Milestone	Effect on Administration
1987? <i>Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Education Reform</i> (U.S.)	Promoted decentralization, school-based management.

Emerging Tools

Management information systems (