

BACKGROUND OF HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS TEACHERS
IN A GROUP OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In past years the undergraduate preparation of high school physics teachers has been a topic of discussion and research.¹ A few experimental programs have been developed.²

This study intends to examine the undergraduate and graduate background of high school teachers of physics and compare this to current recommendations of background preparation of high school teachers. This study will also examine the preparation of teachers in high school physics curriculum projects.

Background of the Group

The study was limited to a group of Catholic schools located across the United States. The group of schools chosen is administered and staffed to varying degrees by members of the same religious order. The primary goal of the religious order is the Christian education of youth.

There are many religious orders in the United States having similar goals in education. Each order administers and staffs a group of schools. Each group of schools has a basic philosophy of education reflecting the philosophical background of the religious order.

The study has singled out one such group of schools. The particular group of schools has not been studied with respect to the background training of the physics teachers. Not all of the teachers of

the group are members of the religious order administering the group of schools.

The group of schools selected is administered and staffed by a religious order of which the author was a member for a time. During that time, and since leaving, the author has been interested in the preparation and background of physics teachers in this group of schools. The study of this group of schools should reflect similar characteristics of the physics teachers in schools administered by other religious orders.

The main objective of the study is to compare the background training of the physics teachers in the schools administered by this religious order to the current recommendations of background training for physics teachers.

The author has not named the religious order or the schools of the survey at the request of the teachers surveyed.

The study was undertaken to determine the background training of physics teachers in these schools administered by the religious order. The results will be given to the schools to aid in the ongoing education of the teachers. The results will also be a guideline for similar schools administered by a religious order. All the schools surveyed are in the United States.

There are twenty-nine schools. Of these schools ten are in the Northeast; all are located in metropolitan areas. Another ten are in the Midwest with three in metropolitan areas. Three are in the South, two being in metropolitan areas. The remaining six are located in metropolitan areas of California.