

In 1839, this school law was revised. Every town with not less than ten families was required to become a school district, and provide a competent teacher; and with more than ten families, it was to be divided into two or more districts. The Inspectors should take charge of the school houses, lease and protect the school lands, and make returns of the number of scholars to the County Commissioners. Trustees in each district might be elected, and could perform for the district, the duties assigned to the Inspectors. A teacher neglecting to procure a certificate, could be fined fifty dollars—one half to go to the informer and the other half to the district in which he taught. The rate bill system of taxation was repealed, and a tax for building school houses, or to support schools, not to exceed one-fourth of one per cent, was raised by the County Commissioners on the whole county.

In 1840, a memorial to Congress was adopted, representing that the people were anxious to establish a common school system with suitable resources for its support.

At nearly every session of the Territorial Legislature, a large number of local acts were passed, authorizing districts to raise money by tax to build school houses. This became very annoying.

Important amendments were made in the school law, in 1840 and '41, restoring the office of Town Commissioners, which had been dropped in the act of 1839, and assigning to them the duties of the Inspectors; laying down more complete directions for forming school districts; making five officers in each district, Clerk, Collector, and three Trustees; restricting to male residents over twenty-one years of age the privilege of voting at district meetings, and requiring such voters to be free-holders, or house holders; changing the fine of teachers for neglecting to procure certificates from fifty dollars to forfeiture of a sum not exceeding their wages; authorizing certain amounts of money to be raised by tax in the district for building school houses; and defining specifically the duties of each school officer.

At the session of 1846, a bill to provide for the appoint-