

respects, placed itself like the district school under the control of the State authority. Attention was called to this fact by Superintendent Barry in 1856, and reports from the Boards of Education of these cities and villages are now required to be made yearly to the Superintendents of the counties in which they are situated. The first attempt at the formation of this independent system was made at Kenosha as early as 1845. Among other features it was provided that three Superintendents should be elected "to examine into the condition of the school at least once in every three months; to determine the qualifications of the teachers employed; to direct the arrangement and classification of the scholars in the several departments of study; to prescribe text books, and to have a general supervision over the government and discipline of the school." Up to this time no such powers had been conferred upon any other school officer in the Territory, but since 1849 they have been granted in many instances to the Superintendents of city schools. They have been found necessary to the proper grading and classification of these schools. In most places the work of examining and assigning to their classes the scholars has been transferred from the Superintendents to the Principals of the schools, on the ground that the latter were better prepared to execute it. Shortly after the system of graded schools at Kenosha was established, one person was designated as the Superintendent of the place, and Mr. John B. Jilson filled this office for a long time. Racine, Milwaukee, Beloit, Janesville, Madison, Sheboygan and Waukesha soon followed the example of Kenosha.

Since the organization of the Department of Public Instruction, eight citizens have been elected to the office of State Superintendent. The first was Hon. Eleazer Root, of Waukesha, who was nominated by the State Central Committee of both the Whig and Democratic parties, and was chosen without opposition. His first term was one year in length. He was re-elected, his second term being two years long. During his administration, besides issuing a publication of the school laws, with notes and instructions, and accompanied with suit-