

States Receiving School Trust Land Grants under the General Land Ordinance of 1785

Lands were granted to schools according to the General Land Ordinance of 1785 that established a uniform public survey system. The federal land survey system created townships that were six miles on each side, or six square miles. The townships were subdivided into thirty-six one square mile sections of 640 acres. Initially schools received the middle section of the township numbered 16. States entering the union after 1845 were granted two sections numbered 16 and 32. Finally, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah received four sections numbered 2, 16, 32 and 36.

Noticeably missing from the western states listed here are Texas, Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska did receive a grant from the federal government and Texas entered the Union as a sovereign nation and granted itself school lands in the State Constitution. Hawaii received a grant in the Admissions Act established on “royal lands” from the prior independent monarchy. In addition to lands granted through the General Land Ordinance of 1785 all states at one time had a grant for education. See: *A History of Federal Land Grants and School Lands and Funds* under Research on this website.

States receiving one section include:

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Ohio | Louisiana | Indiana | Mississippi | Illinois |
| Alabama | Missouri | Arkansas | Michigan | Florida |

States receiving two sections include:

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Iowa | Wisconsin | California | Minnesota | Oregon | Kansas |
| Nevada | Nebraska | Colorado | Montana | Washington | North Dakota |
| Idaho | Wyoming | Oklahoma | South Dakota | | |

States receiving four sections include:

| | | |
|------------|---------|------|
| New Mexico | Arizona | Utah |
|------------|---------|------|