Fitchburg State University
Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library
University Archives and Special Collections

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: U.A., R.G. 01.01
Collection title: City of Fitchburg records
Dates: 1896-1976
Size: 1 box (0.4 linear feet)

Creator/Collector: City of Fitchburg
Acquisition info.: Acquired from creator.
Accruals: No accruals are expected.
Custodial history: Material accrued by creator.

Language(s): Collection is in English.
Repository: Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, Fitchburg State University
Processed by: Lydia Gravell, 2013
Conservation notes: Not applicable.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access restrictions Collection is open for research.
Physical access restrict. None.
Technical access restrict. None.

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred citation [item identification], Documents from the City of Fitchburg, U.A. R.G. 01.01, Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.
Related collections

- UA RG 01.02: Massachusetts Department of Education records
- UA RG 01.03: Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees records
- S.C. F74.F5F42: Annual Reports of the City of Fitchburg, 1873-1962 (including School Committee reports)

Separated material

None.

Published descriptions

http://library.fitchburgstate.edu/Archon/?p=collections/controlcard&id=13

Location of originals

Not applicable.

Location of copies

Not applicable.

Publication note

Not applicable.

Subject headings

- Fitchburg (Mass.)
- Fitchburg Normal School (1894-1932)
- Fitchburg State College--History
- contracts. aat
- correspondence. aat
- handbooks. aat
- pamphlets. aat
- reports. aat

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The city of Fitchburg petitioned in 1893 for the opening of a state funded Normal School in their city to help train teachers for the public school system. Fitchburg experienced a population doubling between the years of 1870 and 1890, leading to increased school attendance and a higher demand for trained teachers. Joseph Edgerly, superintendent of Fitchburg schools, led the petition with help from prominent Fitchburg officials like Mayor Arthur Lowe. The argument focused on creating “training schools” out of the newly constructed public high school in Fitchburg that would give teaching students practical experience with their education. Additionally, though students would attend other Normal Schools in the state, graduates would immediately be employed in the surrounding areas. With a shortage of educators in the Fitchburg area, locating the Normal School in Fitchburg would assist with providing schools in the region with well-qualified teachers. Edgerly, Lowe, and their supporters were successful in prompting Boston legislators to pass a bill in 1894 that would create not only the Fitchburg Normal School, but also Normal Schools in North Adams, Lowell, and Hyannis.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection focuses on the city’s interaction with the Fitchburg Normal School and the State Teacher’s College at Fitchburg. There are incomplete school reports from 1896-1912 that document the changes in public schools of Fitchburg. The collection also includes copies of the contracts between the city and the college concerning training schools and practical experience for student teachers. In addition, there are memorandums sent from the Superintendent to Principals of all public schools during the years of 1948 to 1951; this folder also includes a rule book from 1950 and handbook on advice for parents of school age children from 1949.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

SERIES 1: School Reports, 1896-1912
This series contains school reports of the institution from 1896 to 1912. There are three folders of bound reports, the earliest of which are in delicate condition but usable. There are also bound reports in the special collections catalog for reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Reports, 1896-1902</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Reports, 1904-1907</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Reports, 1908-1912</td>
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SERIES 2: Partnership Contracts, 1896-1976
This series contains contracts between the institution and the city of Fitchburg that document the role of public city schools in the education of student teachers.

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<tr>
<td>Partnership Contracts, 1896-1976</td>
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<td>4</td>
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SERIES 3: Handbooks and Correspondence, 1948-1951
This series contains correspondence between the Superintendent of schools and the Principals of public schools of Fitchburg. There is also a handbook for parents about proper ways to nurture their children to be good students and a rulebook.

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Handbooks and Correspondence, 1948-1951