

A Reflection of Localism in the Administration of Primary Education in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The article reviewed how, why and who is in charge of administrating schools in Nigeria. The author utilized the conceptual approach of understanding the government's method of administration in education, examined and discussed various political and historical trends affecting education. Besides this, relevant documented statistical data were used to both buttress and substantiate related school records to make the paper clearer. The paper focused on whether or not the presence of federal government spending on education in the states and local governments results in dominant control. Although the administrative control of education falls on the three tiers of government, yet the financial burden falls mostly on the federal government. Hence it can be established that whoever controls the purse has direct control over the schools. The author concluded the paper that there is need for a shift in the style of administration. This is in compliance with Nigeria's recent democratic administrative principles which should reflect democratic values. Consequently, taxpayers would have more involvement in the schools and it can also encourage the decentralization of the school system. Finally, it can help remove the financial burden borne by the federal government while the burden shifts to the local government level. This means that the payment of education, which lies on the people at the "grassroots", also grants more powers to the people.