

P8268

NEW SCHOOL LAWS

A DIGEST OF

The Most Important Laws Relating to
Education

ENACTED BY

The West Virginia Legislature

SESSION 1921

PREPARED BY

The State Department of Education
CHARLESTON, W. VA.

INTRODUCTION.

A brief synopsis of the most important school legislation of the session of 1921 is given on the following pages. It is intended to answer general inquiries and to inform persons interested as to the nature of the fine record made by the legislature as far as our school interests are concerned. Many details of the laws referred to are purposely omitted because a new edition of the school law containing the new requirements will be published at an early date. The large number of legislative measures referring to independent districts and local problems are not mentioned in this bulletin.

The State Department of Education and all persons especially interested in our schools are deeply indebted to the members and officials of both houses who worked patiently and earnestly in behalf of the many educational bills. Grateful thanks are here tendered to all who helped to make possible the passage of a large number of laws looking to the immediate betterment of all of our schools and providing unusually liberal assistance for the elementary rural schools.

Answers to any inquiries concerning the subjects discussed in this bulletin will be given cheerfully. Bulletins and leaflets showing the application of some of the more important laws will be issued from time to time.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. FORD,
Superintendent.

H. B. 81—THE SALARY LAW.

The following table indicates the *minimum salaries* that must be paid in all schools outside of incorporated towns and cities in West Virginia.

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Basic</i>	2nd yr.	3d yr.	4th yr.	5th yr.	6-10 yrs.	10 or more yrs.
Third grade	\$ 50	\$ 53					
Second grade	65	68	\$ 70	\$72.50	\$ 75	\$ 80	\$ 85
First grade	85	88	90	92.50	95	100	105
Short course	90	93	95	97.50	100	105	110
Normal course . . .	100	103	105	107.50	110	115	120
College course . . .	110	113	115	117.50	120	125	130

Districts receiving state supplemental aid must adopt the salary schedule given above.

NOTE—Basic salary is the salary paid teachers for first year's teaching.

The law does not apply to schools in independent districts, incorporated towns and cities, high schools, junior high schools, and to salaries of supervising school officers.

Higher rates of salary may be allowed to teachers of one-room schools, and for teachers who attend approved summer schools or secure Coupons of Credit.

With the exceptions referred to above the salaries throughout a district must be uniform for teachers with the same credentials and experience.

Boards of Education of districts not asking for supplemental state aid may fix higher rates of salary at their discretion, but at least as much difference in basic salaries as is indicated above for training must be allowed; and at least as much addition to the basic salary as is indicated above must be allowed for experience.

THE NEW LEVY LAW.

This was Senate Bill No. 159. The important provisions of this bill are as follows:

Elementary maintenance fund maximum levy 15 cents.

Elementary Teachers' Fund maximum levy 40 cents.

High School Teachers' Fund levy is not limited.

High School Maintenance Fund levy is not limited.

New Building and Improvement Fund levy is 20 cents but may be increased to a maximum of 40 cents by approval of the State Superintendent and the State Tax Commissioner.

The Maintenance Fund is to be used only for actual maintenance purposes. Permanent improvements, extensive repairs, painting, new furniture and apparatus are demands on the New Building and Improvement Fund.

The High School Teachers' Fund is to be used for paying the teachers in classified high schools, junior high schools and for paying high school tuition.

In the distribution of the money in the General School Fund supplemental aid to dependent districts is apportioned according to the plan which has been in operation during the past two years. The State Superintendent of Schools is given authority before distributing supplemental aid to require from districts information concerning the ratio of teachers employed to the number of children, the enforcement of the compulsory school law, and other matters that pertain to the progress of the public schools of the district.

NOTE—Because of this regulation and the complications of the new teachers' salary schedule it is probable that supplemental aid will not be distributed before December or January.

There are two new and significant provisions in the regulations for the distribution of the State School Fund. First, state aid will be allowed to each one-room and rural consolidated school which meets the requirements fixed by the State Board of Education according to the provisions of House Bill No. 23. Such schools will be known as Standard One-Room Schools and Standard Consolidated Schools.

The second important provision gives state aid to districts that increase the school levy by an election for the purpose of increasing teachers' salaries and employing district superintendents. The state pays to the district an amount equal to the amount raised by such additional levy. The state fund cannot be used in this way for an increase of teachers'

salaries that is more than 10% above the minimum, and cannot be used for an extension of the term beyond the minimum. District supervisors' salaries are supplemented in this way to a limit of one hundred and fifty dollars per month for as many months as they may be employed.

NOTE—The Budget Bill carries an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to supplement the general school fund in order to meet the increased demands for state aid.

MISCELLANEOUS LAWS.

Vote on School Levy.

S. B. 31. This law provides for a vote on school levies in 1922 and makes it unnecessary to vote again for school levies except upon the petition of forty per cent of the voters of any district. It does away with the necessity of voting "For school levy" every four years.

Qualifications of District Supervisors.

S. B. 292. The new law provides for the granting of a provisional license for district supervision good for one year to experienced first grade teachers who take as much as six weeks professional work in an approved summer school each year. It also provides for the issuance of a license to teachers holding life certificates. The former requirements for the regular supervisor's certificate are retained.

High School Dormitories.

H. B. 20. This law provides that boards of education of county high schools may lay a levy not to exceed eight cents on the hundred dollars valuation for building, purchasing or renting a building for dormitory purposes. It also provides that district boards of education may build, purchase or rent a building for dormitory purposes out of the new building fund.

Aid for Standard Schools.

H. B. 23. This law provides for state aid to standardized one-room and consolidated rural schools. One-room schools meeting first-class requirements will receive \$120 state aid annually, and those meeting second class requirements will receive \$100 state aid each year. The amount to be paid to standardized consolidated schools is determined by the number of pupils. It is provided, however, that not more than eight hundred dollars state aid will be given to any first class standardized consolidated school nor more than six hundred dollars for any second class standardized consolidated school. The requirements for standardization are being prepared by the State Board of Education and will be available upon request.

Normal Training High Schools.

H. B. 24. This law provides for ten additional Normal Training high schools (20 in all) and raises the amount of state aid for Normal

Training High Schools from \$400 to \$1000 annually. The State Board of Education will designate these normal training high schools.

Adoption of Text-Books.

H. B. 25. The affirmative vote of five members of the State Board of Education is required in making any change in text-books. The law provides for five years adoption and limits the number of subjects in which books can be changed to 30%.

Holidays.

H. B. 29. This bill provides that July Fourth, Thanksgiving, Christmas and any day on which a general election falls may be considered as holidays and counted as days taught.

Dental Clinics.

H. B. 45. This law authorizes boards of education to provide dental clinics and pay for the same out of the maintenance building fund of the district.

Joint High Schools.

H. B. 71. This law provides for the establishment of joint district high schools by boards of education of contiguous districts or contiguous districts and independent districts in the same or adjoining counties.

Salaries of Secretaries of Boards of Education.

H. B. 82. This law provides salaries of secretaries of boards of education as follows:

In districts having fewer than fifteen schools, forty dollars; in districts having as many as fifteen but fewer than twenty-five schools, seventy-five dollars; in districts having as many as twenty-five schools but fewer than fifty schools, one hundred dollars; in districts having fifty schools or more they shall receive one hundred twenty-five dollars and in addition two dollars for each school over fifty. Districts having more than one hundred and twenty-five schools, however, may pay not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars.

Change in Names of West Virginia Trade School and Keyser Preparatory School.

H. B. 112. This law changes the name of the West Virginia Trade School to the New River State School and the name of the Keyser Preparatory School.

tory School to Potomac State School and authorizes the State Board of Education to make out the course of study for these two schools.

Qualifications of County Superintendent of Schools.

H. B. 145. Only such persons shall be eligible to hold the office of county superintendent as shall, at the time of their election or appointment possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(1) A life certificate with nine weeks' training in school administration and supervision.

(2) A supervisor's certificate.

(3) A diploma of graduation from a standard normal school or who, in the judgment of the State Board of Education, has completed work equivalent thereto.

(4) A first grade elementary certificate or its equivalent issued prior to the first day of July, 1922, with ten years' experience as a teacher and nine weeks' training in school administration and supervision; *provided*, that service in the United States Army or Navy in the World War shall be counted the same as teaching for double the number of years or fraction of years so served.

Clerical Help and Traveling Expenses of County Superintendents.

H. B. 178. This law provides clerical help for county superintendents by requiring county courts to pay at the rate of three dollars per school but such amount shall not exceed twelve hundred dollars for any county. The law also requires the county court to pay traveling expenses not to exceed three hundred dollars a year.

Part-Time Classes.

H. B. 289. This law provides for compulsory education between the ages of fourteen and sixteen and requires (for school year beginning July 1, 1922) boards of education in cities with a population of more than ten thousand to establish part-time schools or classes for pupils who are employed and who are not regularly enrolled in school; and, thereafter, all boards of education where as many as 50 youth between 14 and 16 are employed must maintain part-time classes. Employers are required under penalty to release employes to attend such classes at least 144 hours each school year.

A School For Mental Defectives.

H. B. 363. This law requires the State Board of Control to take over the Huntington State Hospital or to secure a site and erect a building for this purpose. The State Board of Education will direct the educational work of the institution.

Industrial Home For Negro Girls.

H. B. 53. This law provides for the purchase of a site and the erection of necessary buildings for this purpose.

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State Board of Education.

H. B. 385. This law relates to the appointment of members of the State Board of Education. The six appointees of this board appointed by the Governor shall be citizens of the State and not more than four of whom shall be from the same political party.

Study In Fire Prevention.

H. B. 335. This law directs the State Superintendent of Schools to prepare a course of study in fire prevention for use in the public, private and parochial schools of the state.

Dental Hygienists.

H. B. 485. The law provides for licensing and employing dental hygienists in the public schools.

Certificates.

H. B. 149. This bill amends sections 104 and 111 of the school law of 1919; the only revisions being as follows:

(a) Examination shall be held for the purpose of satisfying the high school and professional requirement for first grade certificates after July 1, 1922, and the State Board of Education may prescribe equivalents and substitutions for such work.

(b) Second grade temporary certificates may be granted to graduates of first class high schools; first grade temporary certificates may be granted to graduates of first class high schools who do satisfactory work in educational subjects for six weeks in approved schools: subsequent temporary first grade certificates may be granted upon attendance for six weeks in an approved school since the granting of the applicant's last temporary certificate.

(c) First grade elementary, high school, normal school, supervisors, and special certificates issued under the uniform examination system and which have been permitted to lapse may be reinstated as of June 30th following the last term of school taught on such certificates. The county superintendent's recommendation as to character, fitness for teaching and good health is required.

(d) Short course certificates may be renewed for three year periods indefinitely upon teaching two years of each three year period.

(e) The former requirements relating to preparation for applicants for first grade certificates, and the general examination law were retained.

SOME SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS.

The legislature was very liberal in making appropriations for state educational institutions, and for the State Department of Education. A few of the items of special interest are given below:

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| 1. | To supplement the General School Fund for purposes outlined in Levy Law..... | \$1,000,000.00 each year |
| | (Income from General School Fund to add to this appropriation (Estimated)..... | 800,000.00 each year |
| 2. | For Vocational Education..... | 25,000.00 each year |
| 3. | For Industrial Rehabilitation..... | 15,000.00 each year |
| 4. | For Thrift, Americanization, Physical Education, and Architecture..... | 10,000.00 each year |
| 5. | For Supervising Rural Schools..... | 6,000.00 each year |
| 6. | For Assistant High School Supervisor..... | 3,000.00 each year |
| 7. | For State Aid to High Schools..... | 179,000.00 each year |
| 8. | For State Aid to Normal-Training High Schools | 20,000.00 each year |
| 9. | For Supervising Negro Schools..... | 2,700.00 each year |