

STANDARDS
SPECIAL CLASSES
FOR
DEFECTIVES



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ST. PAUL, MINN.
SEPTEMBER, 1931

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ST. PAUL, MINN.

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ALL CLASSES FOR DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

Application

On or before the first day of August of each year, an application shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education for the establishment of such class or classes as the school board may desire to maintain the following year. The blank form for such application may be secured from the office of the Commissioner of Education.

Admission of Pupils

No child shall be admitted to any special class until he has been examined by a licensed physician and until a record of such examination has been filed in the office of the local school. Where remediable physical defects are found, appropriate treatment should be provided and a record of such treatment filed in the local school. A duplicate of these medical records should be furnished to the teacher in whose class the pupil is enrolled.

Qualification and Certification of Teachers

"An Elementary School Special Certificate, which shall qualify any holder thereof to teach defective children in any elementary school, may be issued by the State Board of Education, in its discretion, to any qualified elementary teacher, upon satisfactory showing to such Board that the applicant is possessed of such other qualifications for such teaching as the State Board of Education may, from time to time, prescribe." (Chapter 388, Section 5d, Session Laws, 1929)

1. Qualification

A teacher of one of the five groups of defective children mentioned herein shall have these qualifications:

- a. The status of a qualified elementary teacher
- b. A minimum of two years of experience in teaching
- c. Twenty hours (based on a university quarter) of well-balanced special training, evidenced in courses selected from appropriate fields of technique of teaching, practice teaching, psychology, tests, vocational guidance, social welfare, and other appropriate subjects

Note: Graduates of the College of Education at the University of Minnesota who have prepared for the teaching of mentally subnormal children may be qualified without the specified teaching experience.

2. Issuance of Certificate

An Elementary School Special Certificate enabling the holder to teach one of the five groups of defective children mentioned herein may be issued for two years. It is provided, also, that such certificate may be issued to any teacher whose qualifications are equivalent, in the judgment of the Commissioner of Education, to those herein required and adapted to the teaching specified.

Note: For the teaching of defective children in high school classes, a corresponding certificate may be substituted for the elementary.

3. Renewal

A Special Certificate to teach defective children may be renewed for a period not to exceed five years when the holder shall present evidence of suc-

cessful teaching in special classes for such children in the public schools of the state for at least twelve months following the date of issue. When the holder of a five-year certificate shall present evidence of five years of successful teaching of such classes in the public schools of the state, a permanent certificate of the same kind may be granted. (See Chapter 388, Section 9, Session Laws 1929.)

4. Fee

The fee for each certificate or its renewal is one dollar. A fee of five dollars is required for a permanent certificate. (See Chapter 388, Section 10, Session Laws 1929.)

Records and Reports

Accurate records on attendance and other matters regarding pupils shall be kept and reported to the Commissioner of Education as he may direct.

Rooms

All rooms assigned to special classes for defectives shall conform to standards indicated in the bulletin, "Laws and Rules Governing School Buildings and Sites," issued by the Department of Education.

State Aid

"Under such rules as the State Board of Education may establish, the state shall pay annually to any school district for the education of defective children the following amounts:

1. For deaf children, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each such child, who is enrolled in a day school and who is a resident of a district maintaining such school, and four hundred dollars (\$400) for each child who is a non-resident of the district maintaining such school and whose resident district does not maintain such school; the additional one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) to be paid for board and room of such non-resident child.
2. For blind children, three hundred dollars for each such child.
3. For subnormal children, one hundred dollars for each such child.
4. For children with defective speech, not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars for each teacher engaged exclusively in this work.
5. For crippled children, two hundred fifty dollars for each such child." (Section 3031, G. S. 1923)

All state aids for special classes for defectives are limited by the following provisions from Chapter 396, Sections 1 and 4, Session Laws 1927:

"From and after the passage of this act there shall be distributed and paid to the various school districts of the state entitled to receive special state aid under the provisions of any existing law or laws, each year, except as otherwise provided in section 2 hereof, 90 per centum of the amounts which they would be entitled to receive as special state aid under said law or laws, to be determined and paid as therein provided, which amounts shall be received in full payment and discharge of all obligation of the state to pay special state aid for such year.

"If the amount appropriated and the amount transferred as provided in section 3 hereof, shall be insufficient in any year to pay said special state aids as herein provided in full, the same shall be equally prorated among the school districts entitled to receive such aids, and the pro rata amounts so received shall be accepted as payment in full of all obligation of the state to pay said aids for such year."

In computing the amount of state aid, each school district shall be awarded aid, with the necessary prorating for each pupil in attendance throughout the entire year, with a pro rata amount for a shorter period. In no instance, however, shall the amount so awarded exceed that actually expended for salaries of teachers, nurses, and physical and occupational therapists; for special supervision, instruction, equipment, and material; and for the cost of mental examinations and the transportation of pupils in these classes. No aid shall be awarded on the basis of amounts expended for equipment or materials usually provided for pupils in the regular classes of the school. If the days absent for a given pupil are greater in number than the days present, then the state aid for that pupil shall not exceed one half of the amount which would be allowed for the full period of enrollment. No state aid shall be allowed for a pupil in attendance less than twenty days.

Note: Statements in the above paragraph relating to attendance will not apply when computing the state aid for correction of defective speech.

CLASSES FOR DEAF CHILDREN

Establishment

"Upon application of any special, independent or common school district, complying with the provision of this act, made to the state superintendent of education (Commissioner of Education), he may grant permission to such district to establish and maintain within its limits one or more schools for the instruction of deaf children who are residents of the state.

"Any school district which shall maintain one or more such schools, shall through its clerk or secretary report to the state superintendent of education (Commissioner of Education) annually, or oftener if he so direct, such facts relative to such school or schools as he may require." (Section 2894, G. S. 1923)

Admission

"Blind children, defective speech children, and mentally subnormal children are not to be admitted to the same class with deaf children but must each have separate classes and separate teachers." (Section 2894, G. S. 1923)

In addition to the physical examination required of all pupils in special classes, an auricular examination shall be made of each pupil in accordance with standard tests approved by the Commissioner of Education. The basis of admission may be construed to include pupils whose degree of deafness is such that they cannot profit by the usual instruction of the schools.

Enrollment

"Permission to establish such special classes may be granted to districts which have an actual attendance of not less than five deaf children, over four and not exceeding the maximum school age who may come under the provisions of this act." (Section 2894, G. S. 1923)

The maximum number of pupils per teacher employed shall not exceed ten.

Instruction and Curriculum

"The course and methods of instruction must comply with such requirements as may be outlined by the state superintendent of education (Commissioner of Education). All schools for deaf children established under this act shall be con-

ducted by the combined system which includes the oral, the aural, the manual and every method known to this profession; and the courses and methods of instruction shall be substantially equal or equivalent in efficiency to the course and methods of instruction established and employed in the state school of the deaf at Faribault, Minnesota. The state superintendent of education (Commissioner of Education) may designate any member of his staff as an inspector to visit and note the progress of the school provided for in this act." (Section 2894, G. S. 1923)

The Curriculum for Elementary Schools (Revised Edition of 1923) issued by the Department of Education may be used as a basis for materials of instruction in so far as it is appropriate and adaptable. Corresponding bulletins relative to the secondary schools issued by this Department are likewise suggested.

CLASSES FOR BLIND CHILDREN

Establishment

"Upon application made to the state commissioner of education by any special, independent or common school district, complying with the provisions of this act, said commissioner may grant permission to such district to establish and maintain within its limits one or more classes for the instruction of blind children who are residents of the state.

"Any school district which shall maintain one or more such classes shall, through its clerk or secretary, report to the state commissioner of education annually, or oftener if he so direct, such facts relative to such class or classes as he may require." (Section 2895, G. S. 1923)

Admission

"For the purpose of this act, any person of sound mind, who by reason of defective sight, can not profitably or safely be educated in the public schools as other children, shall be considered blind, and after the establishment of such classes by any school district, the compulsory school law of this state shall be deemed to apply to such children under the age of sixteen years." (Section 2895, G. S. 1923)

In the event of partial blindness, a special annual examination shall be made of each child to determine the degree of loss of vision. This examination is in addition to the initial physical examination required of all pupils in special classes.

Enrollment

"Permission to establish such special classes shall be granted to aforesaid districts which have an actual attendance of not less than five blind children of school age, who may come under the provisions of this act; provided, however, that whenever the parents or guardians of eight blind children of school age in any one district shall petition the school board in writing for the establishment of such class and shall actually enroll said children in the school of the district, it shall be mandatory upon such district to establish such special class subject to the approval by the commissioner of education as required herein, and provided, further, that nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing the parents of any such children from sending their children to state school for the blind, if they so elect." (Section 2895, G. S. 1923)

The class enrollment shall be limited sufficiently to permit adequate individual instruction.

Instruction and Curriculum

"The courses, methods of instruction and supervision, the conditions under which teachers are employed and the equipment must comply with such requirements as may be prescribed by the state commissioner of education." (Section 2895, G. S. 1923)

The courses offered and the methods of instruction shall be equivalent in efficiency to those established and employed in the State School for the Blind at Faribault, Minnesota. The Curriculum for Elementary Schools (Revised Edition of 1923) issued by the Department of Education may be used as a basis for materials of instruction, in so far as it is appropriate and adaptable. Corresponding bulletins relative to the secondary schools issued by this Department are likewise suggested.

CLASSES FOR CHILDREN OF DEFECTIVE SPEECH

Establishment

"Section one (1) of this act shall, so far as applicable, provide for and apply to schools for defective speech children, except that these schools shall be under the control of the commissioner of education . . . the school district maintaining a school or schools for defective speech children under the charge of one or more teachers whose appointment and qualifications shall be approved by the commissioner of education." (Section 2896, G. S. 1923)

Enrollment

Pupils shall be enrolled in the regular classes of the school and shall meet with the special teacher in a room assigned for this instruction. The teacher shall keep daily records of the time spent with each pupil or group. The number to be instructed daily shall be determined from the character of the adjustment necessary for each pupil or group.

Admission

In addition to the physical examination required of all pupils in special classes, an examination of the pupil shall be made to ascertain the history and the particular type of speech defect. The records of these examinations will constitute the basis for admission to this special instruction.

Procedure

A preliminary survey of pupils' speech defects, particularly in the elementary school, will be necessary in the establishment of the work. Subsequently, a plan of continuous survey should be developed in order that the benefits of correction may be sustained and that new cases may be discovered at an early period. The case method is essential for classes of this type. Scientific diagnosis, specific treatment, consistent follow-up, and a progressive case history suggest the remedial procedures for each pupil. A discriminating study of each pupil's defect is implied as the basis of all treatment. The case history should reveal the extent of treatment for each pupil and the outcomes of such treatment in so far as these may be ascertained.

CLASSES FOR MENTALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN

Establishment

"Section one (1) of this act shall, so far as applicable, provide for and apply to schools for mental subnormal children, except that these schools shall be under the control of the state superintendent of education (Commissioner of Education) . . . the school district maintaining a school or schools for mental subnormal children under the charge of one or more teachers whose appointments and qualifications shall be approved by the state superintendent of education (Commissioner of Education)." (Section 2897, G. S. 1923)

"The school board may transfer mentally defective children from the regular grades to special classes." (Hilton, September, 1921)

Enrollment

"Permission to establish such special classes as may come under the provisions of sections 3 and 4 of this act, may be granted to districts which have an actual attendance of not less than five children of school age." (Section 2898, G. S. 1923)

The maximum number of pupils per teacher employed shall not exceed fifteen. Properly certified pupils from the list approved by the Commissioner of Education may be enrolled at any time to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals.

Admission

Admission to these classes shall be restricted to pupils whose intelligence quotients range from 50 to 80 inclusive and whose mental age is not less than four years, as established by the official examiner and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Note: When an official examination cannot be secured in time to bring presumably eligible pupils into the class, then tentative approval may be given upon request of the superintendent of schools. Such approval may be obtained, provided the name, age (chronological and mental), intelligence quotient, grade, name of examiner, and date of examination are furnished for each pupil. An official examination of such pupils should be provided within one year. State aid will be given for pupils approved in this manner.

Procedure

1. The application for examination by the official examiner shall be made to the Commissioner of Education. The first examination should be provided during the school year preceding that of the organization of the class. The application for this examination should be made before April first.
2. Group tests should be administered to pupils in grades one to six inclusive in order to select children for the official examination. These tests may be given by the official examiner, if desired.
3. The official individual cards giving a record of the physical examination should be forwarded immediately after the official examination to the Research Director, State Board of Control, Old Capitol, St. Paul.
4. The fees for the official examination and the expenses incident thereto shall be paid by the school district.

Instruction

The instruction in these classes will be largely from the individual standpoint, based upon the capacities, interests, and needs of the pupils to the extent to which these may be ascertained. A flexible program permitting suitable instruction in terms of individual need is important under all circumstances. The Curriculum for Elementary Schools (Revised Edition of 1928) issued by the Department of Education may be used as a basis for materials of instruction in so far as it is appropriate and adaptable.

CLASSES FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Establishment and Enrollment

"Upon application made to the Commissioner of Education by any school district, complying with the provision of this Act, said commissioner may grant permission to such district to establish and maintain within its limits one or more classes for the instruction of crippled children who are residents of the state, providing there shall not be less than five crippled children of school age in each class.

"Any school district maintaining one or more such classes, shall, through its superintendent, report to the commissioner of education annually, or oftener if he so desires, such facts relative to such class or classes as he may require, and such superintendent shall render annually to the commissioner of education an itemized statement of all expenditures of said class or classes." (Section 2899, G. S. 1923)

The class enrollment shall be limited sufficiently to permit adequate individual instruction.

Admission

"For the purposes of this act, any child of school age, other than one of defective hearing, speech or sight, and who is of normal mind but is deformed in body or limb and who cannot profitably or safely be educated in the regular classes as other children, shall be considered crippled and required to attend such classes, unless excused because of infectious disease or other conditions making attendance undesirable." (Section 2899, G. S. 1923)

A physical examination, as required of all pupils in special classes, is essential for admission to these classes. Remediable defects should be given appropriate treatment, with suitable records filed in the local school office.

Qualification of Nurses

"... Nurses appointed to such schools shall be registered nurses, and shall be subject only to such additional examination as the Commissioner of Education may require, and their appointments shall be on the same basis as public school teachers." (Section 2899, G. S. 1923)

Such nurses, in qualifying, shall give evidence of previous experience with crippled children or with persons having disability of an orthopedic nature.

Qualifications of Physical and Occupational Therapists

Physical and occupational therapists when employed shall be graduates of a recognized institution in their respective fields or present evidence of equivalent training approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Rooms and Equipment

Schoolrooms provided for crippled children shall be on the ground floor and readily accessible to exits, toilets, lavatories, and drinking fountains. Suitable equipment for resting, seating, moving about, corrective gymnastics, and the like shall be provided according to necessity.

Transportation

Facilities for transportation shall be of such character as to insure the welfare of pupils to and from school.

Curriculum

The Curriculum for Elementary Schools (Revised Edition of 1928) issued by the Department of Education may be used as a basis for materials of instruction in so far as it is appropriate and adaptable. Corresponding bulletins relative to the secondary schools issued by this Department are likewise suggested. With due regard for the interests and the educational achievements of the individual, the curriculum may follow closely that of the regular classes.