

BRITISH GUIANA.

REGULATIONS
MADE UNDER
THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE,
(Chapter 91).

UNDER SECTION 53 OF THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE, THE
FOLLOWING REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY
THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL:—

Short title.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Secondary Schools Regulations, 1957.

Interpretation.

2. (1) In these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires—

“Board of Governors” means a Board of Governors of a Government-aided secondary school constituted in accordance with regulation 17;

“the Committee” means the Education Committee;

“the Director” means the Director of Education;

“school” means a secondary school being either a Government secondary school or a Government-aided secondary school;

“teacher” includes everyone who forms part of the educational staff of a school.

(2) Any duty or power relating to visits of inspection imposed or conferred by these Regulations on the Director may be performed or exercised, as the case may be, by any person or persons duly authorised by him for that purpose.

3. The Director shall prepare and maintain a list (hereinafter called “the Aided Schools List”) of all schools other than Government Schools in respect of which applications for grants-in-aid have been received and which are eligible for grants-in-aid under these Regulations.

Application
to be placed
on Aided
Schools List.

4. (1) Application for a school to be placed on the Aided Schools List shall be made in writing to the Director by the person or authority for the time being responsible for the control and management of the school, and shall contain such particulars as may be required by the Director.

(2) On application being made for the school to be placed on the Aided Schools List, the school shall be liable to inspection by the Director.

(3) Such inspection shall have regard to the general conditions prevailing at the school, the suitability of education provided by the school, and the relation of the school to other schools available for the area.

(4) If the school satisfies the conditions prescribed in these Regulations, the Director shall place the school on the Aided Schools List.

(5) The Director may remove from the Aided Schools List any school which in his opinion no longer satisfies the conditions prescribed in these Regulations:

Provided that there shall be a right of appeal to the Governor in Council from any decision of the Director that a school should not be placed on the Aided Schools List or should be removed from

the said List, and the decision of the Governor in Council on any such appeal shall be final.

(6) The Aided Schools List as amended from time to time shall be submitted to the Education Committee who shall as often as they think fit consider the List and recommend to the Governor in Council on a priority basis the aid to be given to the approved schools out of such funds as may be available for the purpose.

(7) The Governor in Council shall prescribe the aid, if any, to be given to a school on the Aided Schools List out of funds provided by the Legislative Council for that purpose.

5. In order to qualify for grants-in-aid a school shall offer to each of its pupils a progressive course of general education as defined in these Regulations (with the requisite organisation, curriculum, teaching staff and equipment) of a kind and an extent suitable for pupils between the ages of 11 and 19 years. This course should be of at least four years duration leading to the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) or its equivalent, and wherever possible should include an additional two-year course leading to the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) or its equivalent. Any provision made for pupils below the age of 11 years shall similarly be appropriate and in proper relation to the work in the main section of the school:

General qualifications for grants-in-aid,

Provided, however, that no grant shall be payable in respect of provision made in any school for pupils below the age of 11 years.

6. No grant-in-aid shall be payable to any school conducted for private profit, but such a school may nevertheless be placed on the Aided-Schools List if the Director is satisfied that there is in preparation a scheme under which such school will cease to be conducted for private profit upon receipt of any grant under these Regulations.

School not to be conducted for private profit.

7. (1) Every school shall have adequate accommodation for the number of pupils enrolled, with minimum classroom floor space of 12 square feet per pupil.

Premises.

(2) The school premises shall at all times be kept in a sanitary condition, shall be convenient for teaching purposes and shall be provided with adequate equipment and appliances for the curriculum approved in accordance with these Regulations.

(3) No grant shall be payable to any school unless the Director is satisfied that the Board of Governors have reasonable security to tenure of the school premises.

8. A school shall not be placed or retained on the Aided Schools List unless it has at least 100 pupils between the ages of 11 and 19 years undergoing an approved course of secondary education.

Minimum enrolment.

9. (1) Every school shall meet regularly during not less than 36 weeks in the course of each year, the school hours, dates of vacations and occasional holidays being notified to the Director. Periods of closure on the advice of the medical or sanitary authorities or for other unavoidable cause shall be notified to the Director and shall be deemed for the purpose of these Regulations to be periods during which the school met.

Duration of school year.

(2) For the purpose of school work and of calculating average attendance and other statistics and returns required under

these Regulations the school year shall, except in special cases and with the approval of the Director, begin on the 1st September, and end on the 31st August.

Curriculum.

10. (1) The curriculum (with time analysis) of every school shall be submitted to the Director for approval. It shall provide for due continuity of instruction in each of the subjects taken and for an adequate amount of time being given to each subject.

(2) The curriculum shall provide instruction in English Language and English Literature, at least one language other than English, mathematics, geography and history.

(3) The curriculum shall make such provision for physical education, manual instruction, science, art and music as the Director may accept as adequate, having regard to the circumstances of the school.

Practical Instruction.

11. In schools for girls, or in co-educational schools in respect of girls, the curriculum shall, wherever possible, include provision for theoretical and practical instruction in home economics and an approved course in this subject may in such cases be substituted wholly or in part for science and for mathematics other than arithmetic.

Language.

12. By permission of the Director, languages other than English may be omitted from the curriculum of any school provided that the Director is satisfied that the instruction in English includes an adequate course in language and literature, and that practical instruction is being given in science, manual training or home economics.

Special courses.

13. Special groups of pupils in any school may, with the approval of the Director, follow a curriculum different from the curriculum approved for the rest of the school.

Alteration in curriculum.

14. Where it is proposed that permanent alterations should be made in the approved curriculum of any school, such alterations shall be submitted to the Director for approval, but an approved curriculum need not be resubmitted to the Director so long as no substantial alteration in it is desired by the Board of Governors or required by the Director.

Teaching staff and size of classes.

15. (1) The teaching staff of every school shall be adequate in number and sufficiently qualified to provide proper instruction in each subject of the approved curriculum.

(2) The Board of Governors of every school shall notify the Director of all appointments to the teaching staff and of the qualifications and teaching experience of the persons appointed.

(3) The size of any class in a school shall not exceed 35 except with the approval of the Director.

Religious observances and instructions.

16. (1) It shall not be required that a pupil shall attend or abstain from attending any Sunday school or any place of religious worship or that he shall, or shall not, attend any religious observance whatever.

(2) Religious observances may be held in any school but in such cases should ordinarily be held at the beginning or end of the school sessions, and the time of any religious instruction shall be specified in the time table. For the purpose of such observances and instructions the pupils may be taken to a neighbouring church.

(3) Any pupil may, at the request of his parent or guardian, be withdrawn from any such religious observance or instruction without forfeiting any of the other benefits of the school.

(4) Religious instruction, if given, shall not be provided from any grant-in-aid under these Regulations.

17. (1) The control and management of every school not being a Government school, shall be vested in a Board of Governors. Control and management.

(2) The Board of Governors shall consist of not less than five and not more than nine members, of whom not more than two shall be appointed by the Governor:

Provided that the Board of Governors shall not be required to be constituted or, if constituted, to comprise any member appointed by the Governor until such time as the Governor in Council has approved of the payment of a grant in respect of the school.

(3) The Board of Governors shall act in accordance with Rules prescribed for it and approved by the Governor after consultation with the Education Committee. Such Rules shall, as regards the responsibility for general control, prescribe the constitution and define the functions of the Board of Governors, and as regards the responsibility for management of the school, define the functions of the Board of Governors and of the Principal.

(4) A copy of such Rules shall be deposited with the Director and shall not be varied or departed from in any important respect without previous notification to the Director.

(5) The Board of Governors shall appoint a person to act as its correspondent with the Director.

(6) A meeting of the Board of Governors shall be held at least once in every term, and shall normally be held when the school is inspected. The accounts and any other documents relating to the control and management of the school shall be produced when required by the Director.

19. (1) Every school shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection and examination by the Director. The school premises and surroundings shall also be subject to inspection by the Director of Medical Services or any member of the Medical Department authorised by him for that purpose. Inspection.

(2) When a grant is paid out of public funds in respect of or towards the assistance of the education of pupils at an institution or any branch thereof, all branches of educational work carried on in or by that institution shall be subject to inspection and examination by the Director.

20. Every school shall be generally organised and conducted in a manner which the Director considers efficient. Organisation.

21. (1) Any statistical returns and estimates relating to any school called for by the Director shall be furnished promptly by the Board of Governors. Returns.

(2) An audited statement of income and expenditure for each school year in such form as may be required by the Director and made up to the 31st day of August shall be furnished by every Board of Governors in respect of schools under their control and management not later than the 30th day of September in each year. No such statement shall be published without the consent of the Board of Governors concerned.

Schools open to all pupils.

22. (1) Every school shall be open to pupils of all denominations and races.

(2) Every school shall accept as a pupil the holder of any scholarship or foundation administered by the Education Department who applies for admission and who is recommended for admission by the Director.

Free or reduced fee places.

23. In addition to the places reserved for scholarship or foundation holders, each school may, at the discretion of the Board of Governors, grant a number of free or reduced fee places, the number of such places to be approved by the Director.

Registers.

24. Records of the admission and attendance of all pupils shall be kept in registers approved by the Director. All such registers shall be open to inspection by the Director or any officer authorised by him.

Payment of grants.

25. (1) Grants for practical instruction, and special grants shall be payable by the Accountant General on the application of the correspondent of the Board of Governors certified by the Director.

(2) Salaries grants shall be payable monthly by the Accountant General on the application of the correspondent of the Board of Governors certified by the Director.

(3) The payment of all grants is dependent on the amount voted annually for that purpose by the Legislative Council and nothing in these Regulations shall be regarded as constituting a right to any such grant.

(4) The Director may at any time suspend the issue of grants to any school which in his opinion has ceased to be efficient or to fulfil any other of the conditions prescribed by these Regulations for the issue of grants from public funds. Before doing so, he shall send to the Board of Governors a statement showing in what respect the school has fallen below the standard required and such statement shall be laid before the Education Committee at the first opportunity.

(5) The Board of Governors of any school whose grant has been suspended by the Director under the foregoing paragraph may appeal in writing to the Governor in Council from such suspension and the decision of the Governor in Council shall be final.

Repeal Cap. 91

26. The Regulations for Aided Secondary Schools are hereby revoked.

Made in Council this 24th day of July, 1957.

IVOR O. SMITH,
Clerk to the Executive Council.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport).

These Regulations made under the Education Ordinance provide for the repeal of the Regulations for Aided Secondary Schools made in 1929 and for the substitution of new provisions governing the organisation and conduct of Government and Government-aided secondary schools and prescribing conditions under which grants may be paid to non-Government secondary schools. The Regulations implement the recommendations of the Legislative Council Sessional Paper on Secondary Education, No. 9 of 1957.