

Educational Legislation in Region VI

ASCD REGION VI includes Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. The following are some changes in legislation enacted during the past sessions of the legislatures in these states:

STATE AID. Equalization was stressed in all legislation. Minnesota led the group with an appropriation of \$48,000,000 with a maximum of \$110 per child per year. Sixty-five percent of all amounts were to be used for teachers' salaries. Wisconsin appropriated \$16,500,000 for the current year. Iowa's amount was \$14,000,000 in two of the general funds. North Dakota will allow a total of \$2,242,000 for general aids. Grants in several states were made for special educational programs.

RETIREMENT. Wisconsin increased the amounts that may be deposited with the fund in any one year from \$500 to \$1,000. Minnesota's maximum remains at \$100. Iowa has a matching percentage of 2% for the teacher and the same for the local board of education. This will increase to 3% each in 1950 and the maximum amount not to exceed \$3,000. Educators in North Dakota may retire at age fifty-five. The percentage range will be from 4% with a \$50 maximum to 6% with a \$180 maximum.

ATTENDANCE. North Dakota made institutional attendance compulsory for extremely handicapped children. Wisconsin has raised compulsory attendance age to sixteen unless a child has graduated from high school. Graduates from the eighth grade must attend either vocational or high schools.

Children may not enter the first grade in Wisconsin unless they will be six years old by December 1st of that school year. State aid is withheld for under-age children. North Dakota children must be six years old by December 31 in order to enter the first grade. Iowa children may enter kindergarten if their birthdays fall on or before November 15.

TUITION. The maximum in South Dakota is \$25 per month per pupil. Iowa has a maximum of \$16.22 per child in the elementary grades and \$29 for high school pupils. Wisconsin permits the municipalities to pay \$6 per week per pupil as a maximum.

TRANSPORTATION. All states in the region changed transportation regulations. Minnesota raised the maximum to \$47.50 per child per year. Iowa has a range from \$16 to \$30, and allows boards to purchase buses. In Wisconsin children living two miles or more from school must be transported, with a maximum appropriation of \$26 per child per year. North Dakota developed a scale on a rate-per-day basis. Children living two miles from the nearest building may receive transportation support at 15 cents per day per child. This graduates to 60 cents per day per child for six miles. Provision is also made for increased support for transportation beyond six miles. South Dakota granted permission for boards of education to purchase and operate buses.

Some further changes in educational legislation in Region VI are:

- Iowa provided a minimum of five-day sick-leave benefits for the first year.
- Wisconsin will be able to use school buses for extra-curricular activities.
- Wisconsin established a minimum salary from \$2,400 in the smallest communities to \$4,000 in the largest communities for rural supervising teachers.
- County superintendents in Wisconsin will receive a minimum salary of \$3,000, but must hold an M.A. degree by 1952. In North Dakota their salaries will be based on population of counties.
- Wisconsin redefined truancy.
- South Dakota has lengthened the minimum school term to nine months instead of eight.—*Leslie W. Johnson, Supt. of Schools, Superior, Wisconsin.*

Copyright © 1949 by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. All rights reserved.