

THE LISTENING POST

Teacher Education and Certification in Mississippi

THE NEW teacher education and teacher certification regulations adopted by the State Board of Education for Mississippi are attracting favorable national attention and will influence education in Mississippi very materially. The regulations are a great step forward professionally.

Teachers' Certificates

Certificates will be issued for teaching in the elementary school, the secondary school, and in the special subject fields. Elementary certificates are valid in grades 1-8; secondary, in grades 7-12; and special certificates in grades 1-12. Class A certificates in each of the three groups require a Master's Degree or its equivalent, with three years of successful teaching experience. Class B certificates in each group require a Bachelor's Degree. Class C and D certificates are issued in the elementary and secondary fields only. Class C requires three years' training, Class D two years. Permits of employment based on training of less than two years will be issued until September 1, 1952, on a yearly basis. By September 1, 1955, all beginning teachers shall present a Bachelor's Degree and meet all training requirements.

Administrators' and Supervisors' Certificates

Administrators' certificates are Class AA, A, and B. The Class AA certificate will be issued to superintendents holding the Ph.D. or Ed.D. degree in school administration with five years of successful administrative experience. Class A certificates authorize an individual to serve as superintendent or assistant superintendent of schools. They are based upon a Class A or B teacher's certificate, a Master's Degree or its equivalent in school administration, and three years' teaching experience. The class B certificate requires

a Class A or B teacher's certificate, twelve semester hours of appropriate graduate credit, and three years' teaching experience.

Supervisors' certificates are Class A and B. Each authorizes an individual to serve as a principal or supervisor. The requirements are the same as those for the administrators in the respective classes, with the exception of additional educational requirements in the field in which the individual is supervising.

Educational Requirements

Specialized education is a new requirement for the standard elementary certificate and is considered to be an outstanding feature of the new regulations. The specialized education requirement for the elementary certificate is twenty-four semester hours or thirty-six quarter hours in the fields of art, music, literature, and science for children, and six semester hours in child growth and development with emphasis on the "whole child." The specialized education requirement for the secondary and specialized certificate varies with the subject or special field. The average is thirty semester hours.

The professional training required for all standard elementary certificates is twenty-four semester hours and for all standard secondary certificates eighteen hours. The professional training for certificates in the special subject fields is the same as for the secondary certificate, with designated changes in course requirements to meet the peculiar demands of each field. Minimum professional training leading to the standard certificates must be spread over a period of two school years.

Training on the graduate level must be in courses that are acceptable toward an advanced degree.

Tenure and Renewal of Certificates

The Class AA certificate for admin-

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istrators is valid for continuous professional service. All Class A certificates are valid for ten years. Certificates in Classes AA and A become invalid if the holder is out of service for five consecutive years. Certificates in Classes C and D are valid for two years. All certificates are renewable upon completion of six semester hours or eight quarter hours of college credit. Certificates in Classes A and AA may be renewed upon presentation of other evidence of professional growth. Re-validation of Classes A and AA certificates may be had upon completion of nine semester hours of graduate credit.

When requirements have been completed for a certificate, a certificate of eligibility is issued for one year. The certificate is issued after the individual has been employed.—*Carl L. McQuagge, director, Mississippi Southern College Demonstration School, Hattiesburg.*

Group Study Procedures— A Selected Bibliography

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