

1965. No. 136

[C]

EDUCATION

Handicapped Pupils and Special Schools

REGULATIONS, DATED 21ST JUNE, 1965, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ACTS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1947 TO 1963, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

The Ministry of Education, hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry", in pursuance of the powers vested in it by Sections 29, 84, 104 and 112 of the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 1947(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Handicapped Pupils and Special Schools Amending Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st August, 1965.

2. The existing Regulations hereby amended are the Handicapped Pupils and Special Schools Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1957(b).

3. For Regulation 18, 18A and 19 of the existing Regulations there shall be substituted the following Regulations:—

"18.—(1) The school year shall be the year beginning on 1st August and ending on 31st July.

(2) A school shall be in operation for three terms in any school year; the first term shall end in December, the second in March or April and the third in June, or July.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) and paragraph (5), a school shall be in operation during the school year for at least 200 days (exclusive of Sundays) of which not more than five days may be counted in any one week from Sunday to Saturday inclusive.

(4) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 19 the dates of school holidays shall be determined by the school authorities.

(5) A school may, at the discretion of the school authorities, be closed for a number of optional holidays, not exceeding ten days in any school year, and such optional holidays may be counted as days when the school is in operation for the purposes of paragraph (3).

(6) In exceptional circumstances the Ministry may sanction a reduction in the number of days prescribed in paragraph (3)."

"19.—(1) The dates of school holidays, other than optional holidays, shall, in the case of schools not under the management of a local education authority, be subject to the approval of the local education authority for the area in which the school is situated.

(2) Not later than 31st March in any year the Principal of every such school shall furnish to the local education authority, in such form as the

(a) 1947. c. 3.

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1957, No. 153; 1959, No. 83; 1961, No. 154; 1962, No. 232; 1963, No. 49.

authority may prescribe, a statement of the dates on which it is proposed that the school will be closed in the ensuing school year including (as far as is known at that time) the dates of optional holidays:

Provided that the Principal shall furnish a statement relating to the school year beginning on 1st August, 1965, as soon as practicable after these Regulations come into operation.

- (3) (a) The local education authority's approval to proposals for holiday closings as submitted in accordance with paragraph (2) shall not be unreasonably withheld and the authority shall take into account any representations made by or on behalf of the managers of the school.
- (b) In the event of the authority being unwilling to approve the proposals for closings submitted in accordance with paragraph (2) (or any amending proposals submitted after consultation between the authority and the managers) the authority shall determine the dates of such closings and shall notify the managers of its decision.
- (c) If the managers of the school are unwilling to accept the decision of the local education authority about the dates of closing they may, within fourteen days of receipt of the notification referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph, refer the matter to the Ministry for final determination."

4. For paragraph (1) of Regulation 24 there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

"(1) Qualified teachers are persons who hold qualifications which would entitle them to recognition as qualified teachers in primary or secondary schools and, in the case of teachers of blind or deaf or partially-hearing pupils, such additional qualifications as the Ministry may approve."

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 21st day of June, 1965.

(L.S.)

G. I. Dent,
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 25th day of June, 1965.

(L.S.)

R. H. Kidd,
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The existing Regulations prescribe that in any school year a school shall be in operation for at least 187 days and that, in exceptional circumstances, the Ministry may sanction a reduction in the number of days of operation.

The Amending Regulations provide that a school shall be in operation for at least 200 days but that it may be closed for a maximum of ten days optional holidays which may be included in the 200 days of operation.

The Amending Regulations also provide for the recognition of additional qualifications for teachers of blind or deaf or partially-hearing pupils.