

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Richmond 16

SUPTS. MEMO. NO. 2644

May 25, 1951

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Dowell J. Howard, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Revision of Visiting Teacher Qualifications

A committee, consisting of visiting teachers, college representatives, and State Department of Education members, was formed last fall for the purpose of suggesting some changes in visiting teacher qualifications that would solve several problems resulting from the existing requirements.

The proposals of this committee were reviewed by several superintendents, and after careful study, the State Board of Education in regular meeting on May 24, 1951, revised the qualifications as follows:

"The following qualifications will become effective for all new visiting teachers beginning with the school session 1954-55. They shall not be retroactive to those visiting teachers who are fully approved under regulations existing prior to that date. Visiting teachers serving on temporary approval and those entering visiting teacher work before the session 1954-55 may qualify for full approval under these qualifications or those existing prior to that date.

Personal Characteristics

The candidate must be in good health and must possess personal qualities needed in order to command respect and exercise leadership.

Training

1. The candidate shall hold the Collegiate Professional Certificate.
2. The candidate shall have had on the graduate level a minimum of twelve semester hours in at least three of the following areas:
  - a. Psychiatric Principles - This should include consideration of the principles of mental hygiene and motivation of human behavior.
  - b. Community Organizations - This should deal with a knowledge of and ability to work with community agencies in promoting the adjustment of children.
  - c. Child Welfare in Virginia - This should give a thorough knowledge and understanding of the social and legal provisions for children in Virginia.
  - d. Guidance - This should deal with the techniques of counseling, interviewing, and case work. It should also help in the use of clinical services including the interpretation of reports and tests.
  - e. Family Life - This should help in an understanding of the social, economic and cultural changes in American family life and the role of the family in the development of personality.
  - f. Medical Information - This should consider the field of medicine as related to social adaptation, especially with relation to children's diseases and the more usual forms of adult illnesses.

Experience

The candidate shall have had at least three years of successful teaching experience or two years of successful teaching experience and one year of successful experience in social work."

( PRESENT VISITING TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ON REVERSE SIDE )

## PRESENT VISITING TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

"Qualifications required for all visiting teachers:

1. The candidate must be in good health and must possess personal qualities needed in order to command respect and exercise leadership.
2. The candidate must present evidence of appropriate professional study in the fields of both education and social work to be determined by the Division of Elementary Education.
3. The candidate shall hold the highest form of Virginia teacher's certificate. (Now the Collegiate Professional.)

Qualifications required for full approval:

1. The candidate shall have had at least twelve semester hours of appropriate training in social work at a recognized school of social work or one year of successful experience in social work.
2. The candidate shall have had at least three years of successful teaching experience or two years of successful teaching experience and one year of successful experience in social work.

Qualifications required for temporary approval:

1. The candidate shall have had at least three years of successful teaching experience.
2. The candidate shall secure at least twelve semester hours of appropriate training in social work from a recognized school of social work within four years after first employment as visiting teacher."

It will be noted that the primary change in qualifications is made in the twelve semester hour requirement, which candidates previously have had to meet in a recognized school of social work. The modification of this requirement will enable persons to qualify for full approval through courses available in other institutions of higher learning. It is believed that this change will greatly encourage candidates to continue their training on the graduate level and, at the same time, meet qualifications desired for visiting teacher work.

DYP:GB