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State Department of Education Division of Instruction Circular Letter #9D

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Circular
Letter
#9D

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION
Jackson, Mississippi

September
18th
1946

TO: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS
FROM: T. N. TOUCHSTONE, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION
SUBJECT: ATTACHED TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The attached letter from Mr. Wheatley, Chief of the Rehabilitation and Training Division, will give you detailed information concerning the teacher training program for veterans in Mississippi in its final form as approved by the Veterans Administration. This information is reaching you two weeks later than was anticipated, due to the fact that the Mississippi Veterans Administration office was awaiting final authorization from the central office in Washington. I am giving you the complete letter in order to prevent any misinterpretation of the program from this office. Those interested should make a very careful study of it to clarify the program as much as possible. As the program moves forward, further information may be secured from representatives of the Veterans Administration and teacher training institutions.

May I suggest that you get your veterans enrolled at one of our Mississippi teacher training institutions as quickly as possible in order to avoid loss of subsistence. Have the veteran contact representatives of the Veterans Administration and teacher training institutions to secure the needed information for enrollment.

The program as outlined should be of material assistance in teacher training and recruitment, particularly for schools in the lower salary brackets and for undergraduate veterans. There are limitations in the program which we feel are unfair to our profession. However, if the ceiling of \$200 on subsistence plus salary is lifted at the next session of Congress more of our veterans can and will participate.

It is a source of much satisfaction that Mississippi has pioneered in the teacher training program for veterans. School officials of Mississippi should take occasion to express appreciation to service organizations, especially the American Legion, and to their representatives in Congress, for their help in getting the program approved.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
Jackson 107, Mississippi

September 17, 1946

Mr. T. N. Touchstone
Director of Education
State Department of Education
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Touchstone:

This office has received a communication from Mr. A. L. Combs, Director, Education and Training Service of Vocational Rehabilitation and Education, Central Office, which letter was prompted by your telegram of September 6th and previous communications with that office. Mr. Combs requests this office to contact you in regard to the matter of teacher training, the subject of your communication.

A study has been made of Instruction 8, dated August 27, 1946, pertaining to Title II P.L. 346, 78th Congress, as amended by Section III, P.L. 679, 79th Congress, as these instructions pertain to training veterans of World War II who are employed as teachers in the schools of this state. For your information, the following observations are made in regard to opportunities for training as teachers on the part of such veterans.

Under certain conditions, veterans of World War II, who are employed full time as teachers, may now enroll in approved college extension and similar courses and receive, in addition to their salaries, subsistence allowances based upon the full time school load, or portion thereof, as provided by the Servicemen's Adjustment Act of 1944.

P.L. 679, 79th Congress, passed on August 8th, removed the restrictions developed by Administrative Decision 603 based on P.L. 346 which prohibited persons engaged in full time employment not connected with their training from receiving subsistence allowances while taking training under this bill. The amended law sets a ceiling of \$175.00 a month which a veteran without dependents can receive in subsistence plus salary, and of \$200.00 a month for one with one or more dependents.

For a veteran to be entitled to the maximum subsistence allowance, it is necessary that he carry a minimum load of twelve semester hours per semester of college work in a standard approved college. Nine semester hours per semester will entitle the veteran to three-fourths subsistence. Six semester hours per semester will entitle him to one-half the standard subsistence allowance. Three semester hours per semester will entitle him to one-fourth of the standard subsistence allowance. Since several of the colleges in the state have indicated their willingness to establish extension, evening and Saturday courses, the completion of which would entitle the veteran to six hours of credit per semester, further observations will be based

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upon the assumption that veterans of World War II who are teachers may be interested in pursuing such courses.

Thus the teacher-veteran will have to carry in a satisfactory manner in an approved school, a minimum load of six semester hours of credit work per semester in order to earn half of the standard subsistence allowance, that is, half of \$65.00 or \$90.00, depending on whether the veteran has dependents.

Since the law establishes a ceiling of \$175.00 or \$200.00 per month, whether or not the veteran will receive the full \$32.50 or \$45.00 to which he would otherwise be entitled as subsistence allowance, will depend upon whether these sums added to the veterans monthly salary will exceed the ceiling mentioned above.

In computing his monthly salary, the veteran will include all income from productive labor whether or not connected with his employment. If, in addition to his teaching salary, the veteran receives pay for other jobs performed in the community, this must be included in the computation. However, a teacher-veteran has the privilege of projecting his enrollment at the college for a full twelve months period at one time. Under such conditions, he may, if he chooses, compute his yearly salary on an average monthly basis even though actually it is received on a session basis of eight or nine months. Likewise, if he enrolls for two semesters and he receives salary checks only eight times during that period, he may divide his eight months salary by nine in order to establish the average monthly income for the period of enrollment.

For example: Suppose a teacher-veteran receives a salary of \$200.00 per month for eight months. During four months of the year, he receives no salary. His average monthly income during the twelve months would be \$133.33. If he enrolled in school for the full twelve months period and if there were no other income during the year from productive labor, the veteran would use the sum mentioned above in computing his monthly income for each month during the entire twelve months of enrollment. By subtracting \$133.33 from \$175.00 and the same amount from \$200.00, a veteran with or without dependents would be able to estimate the maximum amount which he could receive from subsistence allowance during each month of his enrollment.

Assuming that a veteran is carrying one-half of the minimum required load, that is, six semester hours per semester, he would be entitled to \$32.50 a month, or \$45.00 per month if with dependents, provided the sum of these two amounts would not exceed the ceiling of \$175.00 a month, or \$2100 per year, established by law. Such veteran with a dependent or dependents could draw each month a maximum subsistence allowance of \$66.67. Since subsistence is computed only in quarters of the established amount, it is probable that one-half the standard maximum subsistence, or \$45.00, would be the largest amount that such veteran would attempt to earn.

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A veteran carrying one-half of the standard load, or six semester hours, under this plan, would be charged with only one-half of the period of eligibility consumed in such enrollment.

Enrollment may be in any extension course, (other than correspondence) evening class, work shop, Saturday class, or such other courses as are offered for credit by approved teacher training institutions. The Veterans Administration will pay the veteran's tuition in such courses and will pay for such books and supplies as are required of all students taking the courses. The Veterans Administration will not pay any cost of transportation for enrollees.

A veteran enrolled on a one-half time basis, as described above, for the full twelve months period, would draw the same subsistence during his period of enrollment and attendance at summer school as during his period of enrollment in extension and similar courses during the nine months of the school session.

Each trainee must select and enroll for a definite employment objective. In this connection, there is quoted for your information the following statement from General Bradley which is incorporated into Instruction 8: "It is the intent of the law that the veteran have the right to elect his course of education or training at any approved educational or training institution at which he chooses to enroll which will accept or retain him as a student or trainee in any field or branch of knowledge which such institution finds him qualified to undertake or pursue."

A veteran, having once enrolled for a given objective, can change his objective only with the consent of the Veterans Administration.

If the veteran prefers to enroll in extension and similar courses for the two semesters during which he is teaching and then enroll in a resident course at the school during the summer months, he may do so and earn full subsistence during such summer period provided his earnings added to the subsistence do not exceed the ceiling mentioned above. A veteran making such transfer would not require a supplemental certificate of eligibility provided he takes summer training at the same school.

Veterans of World War II are authorized to enroll in approved correspondence courses of their choosing. However, no subsistence allowance is payable in connection with correspondence courses. The veteran's period of eligibility is charged with one-fourth of the elapsed time while pursuing such courses. His tuition would be paid for such courses but the veteran loses his subsistence allowance for such enrollment.

Very truly yours,

/s/ W. F. Wheatley

W. F. WHEATLEY, Chief
Vocational Rehabilitation
and Education Division.