

1973. No. 427

[C]

EDUCATION

Grammar Schools (Admissions and Scholarships)

REGULATIONS, DATED 27TH SEPTEMBER 1973, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER ARTICLE 39 OF THE EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1972.

The Ministry of Education (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") on behalf of the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Article 39 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Grammar Schools (Admissions and Scholarships) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on the 1st October 1973.

(3) The Grammar Schools (Admissions, Scholarships and Special Allowances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971(b) are hereby revoked with effect from 30th September 1973.

2. In these Regulations—

"Group A voluntary school" has the meaning assigned to it in the Secondary Schools (Grant Conditions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(c);

"Group B voluntary school" has the meaning assigned to it in the Secondary Schools (Grant Conditions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973;

"parent" includes a legal guardian or, where the board considers it to be appropriate, any other person who normally maintains the pupil;

"qualified pupil" has the meaning assigned to it in Regulation 4;

"school" means a grammar school;

"school authorities" means in the case of a controlled school a board and, in the case of a voluntary school, the governing body of that school;

"school year" means the year beginning on 1st August and ending on 31st July;

"secondary department" means that part of a grammar school in which secondary education is provided.

3. These Regulations prescribe the conditions under which qualified pupils shall be admitted to the secondary departments of schools and the conditions under which awards tenable at schools shall be made by boards.

(a) S.I. 1972, No. 1263 (N.I. 12).

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 259 as amended by S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972, No. 184 and S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973, No. 253.

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973, No. 403.

Admission of qualified pupils to grammar schools

4. A qualified pupil is a pupil who has reached the qualifying standard in or as a result of such test or tests or other arrangements for the admission of pupils to the secondary department of a school as the Ministry may conduct, make or approve.

5.—(1) The school authorities of every Group A voluntary school or controlled school shall reserve for qualified pupils not fewer than 80 per cent of the places available each school year for the admission of day pupils to the secondary department of the school.

(2) The school authorities of a Group A voluntary school or controlled school shall not without the prior approval of the Ministry increase the number of places available in the school for boarding pupils in such a way as to reduce the number of places available for day pupils.

(3) No qualified pupil shall be refused admission to a Group A voluntary school or controlled school on other than reasonable grounds: provided, however, that, where the number of qualified pupils seeking admission to the secondary department of a Group A voluntary school or controlled school is greater than the number of places reserved for such pupils in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1), the school authorities may select such of the qualified pupils as appear to them best fitted to profit by the education provided at the school.

6. The school authorities of a Group B voluntary school may admit each school year to the secondary department of the school such and so many qualified pupils as they may think fit.

Award of scholarships

7. A board shall make an award to each qualified pupil ordinarily resident in its area who is in attendance at a school:

Provided that where the board is satisfied that a pupil's parents are not ordinarily resident in its area and that the pupil is resident in that area solely or mainly for the purpose of receiving education the making of an award shall be at the discretion of the board.

8. A board may, at its discretion, make an award to a qualified pupil who is not ordinarily resident in its area.

9.—(1) An award shall consist of a scholarship of a value equal to—

- (a) in the case of a pupil who is in attendance at a Group A voluntary school or controlled school the approved tuition fee of the school; or, in the case of a pupil who is in attendance at a Group B voluntary school, an amount determined by the Ministry; and
- (b) the amount of examination fees as certified by or on behalf of the school authorities and approved by the board; and
- (c) such amount in respect of books, stationery and other school requisites as may be determined by the board and approved by the Ministry, which amount may be paid either to the school authorities, the parent or otherwise for the benefit of the pupil as the board may decide; and
- (d) where appropriate, a boarding allowance under the provisions of paragraph (2).

(2) If in respect of any qualified pupil a board is satisfied—

- (a) that, where by reason of the distance between his home and the nearest suitable school, or other sufficient cause, it would be unreasonable that he should attend a school as a day pupil; and
- (b) that it is necessary that, for the purpose of the avoidance or alleviation of hardship to the pupil or his parents, an allowance should be granted so as to enable him to attend a suitable school as a boarder;

the board may grant in respect of that pupil a boarding allowance of an amount determined in accordance with arrangements approved by the Ministry.

Conditions of award

10. Each award made under these Regulations shall be continued so long as is necessary in the opinion of the board to enable the holder to complete the course of study approved by the board for the purpose of the award:

Provided that the board may at any time cancel the award—

- (1) if the holder ceases to satisfy the conditions under which the award was made; or
- (2) if it is satisfied, after consultation with the principal of the school concerned, that the conduct, progress or attendance of the holder is not satisfactory.

11. A board may require an application to be made in such form, contain such information, be accompanied by such documents and be submitted by such date as the board may require. The board shall, in accordance with arrangements approved by the Ministry, satisfy itself of the accuracy of any information furnished under the provisions of this Regulation.

12. A board may require the parent of the holder of a scholarship as a condition of payment of boarding allowance granted under Regulation 9 to inform the board of any change in his financial circumstances. If the board has reason to believe that such a change has occurred or if the parent of the holder represents to the board that such a change has occurred, the board shall give the parent an opportunity of submitting a revised application and the board shall thereafter reconsider and if necessary adjust the value of or cancel the allowance.

13. A board shall require the parent of the holder of an award to inform the board of any change in the place of residence of either the holder or the parent.

14. The school authorities of a school shall furnish to the board concerned such reports on the conduct, progress and attendance of each holder of an award as the board may require.

15. A pupil who held an award on 30th September 1973 under the provisions of the Grammar Schools (Admissions, Scholarships and Special Allowances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 shall continue to hold the award under the provisions of these Regulations. The value of any such continuing award shall be determined under the provisions of these Regulations or under the provisions of those Regulations whichever is the more advantageous to the pupil.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 27th day of September 1973.

(L.S.)

G. I. Dent,
Deputy Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The purpose of these Regulations is to make provisions for the admission of qualified pupils to the secondary departments of schools and to set out the conditions for the award of scholarships to qualified pupils in attendance at schools.