

**A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE
NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES
OF PART-TIME EDUCATION.
JANUARY 1913**

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A Special Report on the Needs and Possibilities of Part-Time Education. January 1913 by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Education

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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OF PART-TIME EDUCATION.
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
BOARD OF EDUCATION.

A SPECIAL REPORT

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT ON PART-TIME EDUCATION.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives.

In accordance with the provisions of chapter 64, Resolves of 1911, relative to the need and practicability of part-time schooling, vocational or otherwise, for working children, the Board of Education herewith submits the results of the investigation, together with its recommendations.

The investigation was made and the report prepared under the direction of the Board by Commissioner of Education, David Snedden, assisted by Special Agent Michael W. Murray.

The Board adopts the report and endorses the recommendations.

FREDERICK P. FISH, *Chairman*,
SARAH LOUISE ARNOLD,
ELLA LYMAN CABOT,
SIMEON B. CHASE,
LEVI L. CONANT,
THOMAS B. FITZPATRICK,
FREDERICK W. HAMILTON,
PAUL HANUS,
CLINTON Q. RICHMOND,

Members of the Board.

JAN. 1, 1913.

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PART I.

GENERAL REPORT.

I. AUTHORIZATION.

The following is the text of the resolve passed by the Legislature:—

RESOLVES OF 1911, CHAPTER 64.

Resolved, That the board of education is hereby authorized and directed to investigate the need and practicability of part-time schooling, vocational and otherwise, for working children, and also the establishment of an apprenticeship system, especially for children between the ages of fourteen and seventeen years. The board shall investigate and report as to the means now existing which might be used to furnish vocational training, and is authorized to employ such agents as may be necessary to collect pertinent information from employers and others. The board shall report the result of its investigations with its recommendations, in print, to the general court not later than the second Wednesday in January, nineteen hundred and thirteen. For the purposes of this resolve, there shall be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the commonwealth a sum not exceeding six thousand five hundred dollars.

In compliance to this resolve, the Board of Education directed the Commissioner of Education to make the necessary investigations and engage expert assistance. Mr. Michael W. Murray, director of vocational education for the city of Newton, was engaged as chief special agent to assist the commissioner in directing the study and preparing the report.

Special acknowledgment is here made of the assistance of the following: Mr. Charles A. Prosser, secretary of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education; Dr. Susan M. Kingsbury, director, Research Department, Women's Educational and Industrial Union; Mrs. John T. Prince, director, School of Salesmanship, Women's Educational and Industrial Union, who is responsible for Appendix G; Mr. Wm. H. Doo-

ley, director, Lowell Industrial School; Mr. Charles Mills, general superintendent, Saco-Petee Machine Company; Miss Ruth Evans and Miss Abigail D. Steere, fellows of the Research Department of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union.

In making this report the problem has been considered under the four following heads, suggested by the resolve:—

A. — Is there a need of part-time schooling, vocational or otherwise, for working children?

B. — Is there a need of an apprenticeship system, and can such a system be established?

C. — Is a program of part-time schooling, vocational or otherwise, practicable?

D. — What means now exist which might be made to furnish vocational training?

II. DEFINITION OF PART-TIME SCHOOLING.

Large numbers of young persons must enter upon productive employment before they have received as complete a liberal and vocational education as the best interests of the individual and of society require.

A system of part-time schooling aims to give to persons already employed in productive work the opportunity to devote a portion of their working time to attending school. The problem of part-time schooling or part-time education is, then, so to organize schools on the one hand and industries on the other that the young worker, while receiving due compensation for service rendered, may be enabled to distribute his time between a school and his productive employment in such a way as to make possible an effective education.

The portion of the training given in school should aim (*a*) to utilize the practical experience of the learner in conjunction with special studies, to the specific end of promoting vocational efficiency; and (*b*) by appropriate studies of a liberal nature to promote general culture and civic efficiency.

Under the system of apprenticeship once prevailing, modified forms of part-time education were often found. Apprentices, while performing regular tasks in the workshop, counting-room or on the farm, were required to give stated amounts