

**LAWS OF MAINE  
RELATING TO PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS, 1915**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649332717

Laws of Maine Relating to Public Schools, 1915 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**LAWS OF MAINE  
RELATING TO PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS, 1915**



LAWS OF MAINE  
RELATING TO  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1915

c o f  
E 16 - 323  
24 1818



UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

Compiled by the State Superintendent and printed  
agreeably to An Act Approved March 13, 1889



WATERVILLE  
SENTINEL PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1916

LB2529  
M23  
1915

10/13/18

This pamphlet will be sent free on application to the State Superintendent of Public Schools, Augusta, Maine.

THE STATE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UNIV. OF  
MAINE

LAWS OF MAINE  
RELATING TO  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
1915

---

EDUCATION OF YOUTH.

LOCATION OF SCHOOLS.

SEC. 1. The school districts in all towns in the state are abolished. *Provided, however,* that school districts organized with special powers by act of the legislature, may retain such organization and special powers; but said districts shall annually, on or before the first day of June, by their agents, trustees or directors, submit to the school committees of their several towns estimates of the amounts required for the maintenance of the schools therein, other than free high schools, for the ensuing school year, and shall be entitled to such portion of the common school funds of the town as said committees shall determine, which sum shall not be less than is necessary for the maintenance of their schools for a period equal to that of the other schools of the town; and *provided further,* that the corporate powers of every school district shall continue so far as the same may be necessary for meeting its liabilities and enforcing its rights; and any property held in trust by any school district by virtue of a gift, devise or bequest for the benefit of said district shall continue to be held and used according to the terms thereof.

SEC. 2. The location of any school legally established prior to the seventeenth day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-three continues unchanged, notwithstanding the district is abolished; but any town at its annual meeting, or at a meeting called

for the purpose, may determine the number and location of its schools, and may discontinue them or change their location; but such discontinuance or change of location shall be made only on the written recommendation of the superintending school committee, and on conditions proper to preserve the just rights and privileges of the inhabitants for whose benefits such schools were established; *provided, however*, that in case any school shall hereafter have too few scholars for its profitable maintenance, the superintending school committee may suspend the operation of such school for not more than one year unless otherwise instructed by the town, but any public school failing to maintain an average attendance for any school year, of at least eight pupils, shall be and hereby is suspended, unless the town in which said school is located shall by vote, at the annual meeting, or at a meeting called for that purpose, after the said committee shall have made a written recommendation to that effect, instruct its superintending school committee to maintain said school. The superintendent of schools in each town shall procure the conveyance of all common school pupils residing in his town, a part or the whole of the distance, to and from the nearest suitable school, for the number of weeks for which schools are maintained in each year, when such pupils reside at such a distance from the said school as in the judgment of the superintending school committee shall render such conveyance necessary. *Provided, however*, that the superintending school committee may authorize the superintendent of schools, to pay the board of any pupil or pupils at a suitable place near any established school instead of providing conveyance for said pupil or pupils, when in their judgment it may be done at an equal or less expense than by conveyance.

SEC. 3. When a location for the erection or removal of a schoolhouse and requisite buildings has been legally designated, by vote of the town at any town meeting called for that purpose, and the owner thereof refuses to sell, or, in the opinion of the municipal officers, asks an unreasonable price for it, or resides without the state and has no authorized agent or attorney therein, they may lay out a schoolhouse lot, not exceeding three acres, and appraise the damages as is provided for laying out town ways, and appraising the damages therefor; and on payment or tender of such damages, or if such owner does not



reside in the state, upon depositing such damages in the treasury of such town for his use, the town designating it may take such lot to be held and used for the purposes aforesaid; and when such schoolhouse has ceased to be thereon for two years, said lot reverts to the owner, his heirs or assigns. And any town or city may take real estate for the enlargement or extension of any location designated for the erection or removal of a schoolhouse and requisite buildings and playgrounds, as herein provided; but no real estate shall be so taken within fifty feet of a dwelling-house, and all schoolhouse lots and playgrounds that require fencing shall be fenced by the town or city.

SEC. 4. If the owner is aggrieved at the location of the lot, or the damages awarded, he may apply to the county commissioners within six months, who may change the location and assess the damages. If the damages are increased, or the location changed, such town or district shall pay the damages and costs; otherwise the costs shall be paid by the applicant.

SEC. 5. If any town or school district, by its officers or by a committee, has designated, located and described a lot upon which to erect, move or repair a schoolhouse, and from mistake or omission has failed to comply with the law, whereby such location has been rendered invalid, three legal voters and taxpayers thereof may apply in writing to the selectmen of said town, and have the lot, so designated or described, re-appraised by them.

SEC. 6. The selectmen of any town to whom such application has been made, shall forthwith give not less than seven nor more than twenty days' notice, to the clerk of said town or district and to the owner of such real estate, or to the persons having the same in charge, of the time and place by them fixed for such hearing, and shall, after examination and hearing of all interested, appraise the lot as set out and affix a fair value thereon, exclusive of improvements made by said district or town, either by buildings or otherwise; and shall, as soon as practicable, notify the town or district clerk, and the persons interested in said estate who had been notified as hereinbefore provided, of the sum at which said lots had been appraised.

SEC. 7. The sum fixed as the value of said lot shall be assessed, collected and paid over as other school money.

SEC. 8. Any sum which has been tendered and is in the hands or under the control of the persons owning or having charge of such land, shall be allowed in payment of said appraisal.

SEC. 9. If the town or district, or persons owning or having charge of the land on which such location is made, are dissatisfied with such appraisal, either party may within ten days appeal to the county commissioners of the county in which the land lies, by filing a copy of the proceedings and a claim of appeal with said commissioners, and the determination of a majority of said commissioners not residents of said town, shall be final.

SEC. 10. When any school district or town has erected or moved a building upon such lot or in any way improved the same, such improvement shall inure to the benefit of such town or district, and the same may be as completely occupied and controlled by such town or district as it would have been if such location had been in strict conformity to law.

SEC. 11. The legality of a tax assessed to build, repair or move a schoolhouse and to pay for a lot, shall not be affected by any mistake or error in the designation or location thereof.

SEC. 12. A plan for the erection or reconstruction of any schoolhouse voted by a town, shall first be approved by the superintending school committee; and in case no special building committee has been chosen by the town, said superintending school committee shall have charge of said erection or reconstruction; *provided, however,* that they may if they see fit, delegate said power and duty to the superintendent of schools.

SEC. 13. The state superintendent of public schools shall procure architect's plans and specifications for school buildings of not exceeding four rooms each, and full detail working plans therefor. Said plans and specifications shall be loaned to any superintending school committee or school building committee desiring to erect a new school building. For the use of the state superintendent of public schools in procuring such plans and specifications the sum of two hundred dollars annually shall be appropriated.

SEC. 14. Where the plans and specifications prepared by the state superintendent are not used, all superintending school committees of towns in which new schoolhouses are to be erected, shall make suitable provision for the heating, lighting

and ventilating and hygienic conditions of such buildings, and all plans and specifications for any such proposed school buildings shall be submitted to and approved by the state superintendent of public schools and the state board of health before the same shall be accepted by the superintending school committee or school building committee of the town in which it is proposed to erect such building.

SEC. 15. Any building which is used in whole or in part as a schoolhouse shall be provided with proper egresses or other means of escape from fire sufficient for the use of all persons therein accommodated. These egresses and means of escape shall be kept unobstructed, in good repair and ready for use. Stairways on the outside of the building shall have suitable railed landings at each story above the first, accessible at each story from doors or windows and such stairways, doors or windows shall be kept clean of snow, ice and other obstructions. In school buildings of more than one story there shall be at least two separate means of egress by inside or outside stairways, and each story above the first shall be supplied with means of extinguishing fire consisting of pails of water or other portable apparatus, or of a hose attached to a suitable water supply and such appliance shall be kept at all times ready for use and in good condition. Upon written notification by the superintending school committee that any school building does not meet the specifications herein named, the municipal officers of the town shall at once proceed to correct the defects, and any failure so to act shall render the town liable to the provisions of section nineteen of this chapter.

#### DUTIES OF TOWNS.

SEC. 16. Every town shall raise and expend, annually, for the support of common schools therein, exclusive of the income of any corporate school fund, or of any grant from the revenue or fund from the state, or of any voluntary donation, devise or bequest, or of any forfeiture accruing to the use of schools, not less than eighty cents for each inhabitant, according to the census by which representatives to the legislature were last apportioned, under penalty of forfeiting not less than twice nor more than four times the amount of its deficiency, and all