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State of Iowa

1921

**Regulations for Standardizing
the Common Schools**

P. E. McCLENAHAN

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Prepared by

MAY E. FRANCES

Inspector for Rural Schools

TRAVELING LIBRARY

STATE OF IOWA

Issued by the Department of

Public Instruction

Des Moines

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THE STATE OF IOWA

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OFFICIAL RATING CARD FOR IOWA STANDARD SCHOOLS

Issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

- I. Grounds and outbuildings.
- II. The schoolhouse.
- III. Equipment and care of the schoolroom.
- IV. Library and supplementary readers.
- V. The teacher and the school.
- VI. Community activities.

To become standardized a rural school must have a rating of 80 per cent from this score card for the first year, 85 per cent the second year, and 90 per cent for every year thereafter.

1. Two inside, separate, sanitary toilets, or two outside ordinary toilets, meeting approval regulations. Required. Section 2784, School Laws of Iowa.....	2
I. GROUNDS AND OUTBUILDINGS.	
2. Fenced playground of at least one acre. Authorized by statute..	1
3. Supervised play and playground equipment.....	2
4. School garden and trees. Statutory for trees. Section 2787, School laws of Iowa.....	1
5. Playgrounds adequate and well cared for.....	2
6. Fuel house in good condition and well supplied with fuel and kindling	1
7. Good flag and flagstaff with flag displayed when weather permits. Required by law	1
	10

II. THE SCHOOLHOUSE

1. Good foundation, required.....	1
2. Siding and roof in good condition. Required.....	1
3. Well-painted exterior. Required.....	1
4. Good windows with no broken lights. Windows shall be provided with locks. Required.....	2
5. Vestibule and separate cloak closets.....	5
6. Good doors provided with lock and key. Required.....	2
7. Interior walls in good condition, and painted or calcimined a light shade; cream, buff, light tan or a very light shade of gray	2
8. Windows on the left, or on left and rear of pupils.....	3
9. Windows well supplied with good shades of some light color and with sash curtains. Required.....	1

10. Ventilated by satisfactory system. Required.....	3
11. Interior clean and tidy. Required.....	1
12. Twenty square feet of floor space and two hundred twenty cubic feet of air space for each pupil. Required	2
13. Window surface equal to from one-sixth to one-fifth of the floor space	2
14. Twenty linear feet of slate blackboard, with chalk trays, good erasers and crayon	2
15. Good floors	2
	<hr/>
	30

III. EQUIPMENT AND CARE OF THE SCHOOLROOM

1. Single seats. Recommended. Three sizes recommended, or, adjustable desks	2
2. A good desk for the teacher and two good chairs. Required.....	1
3. Ample equipment for primary work.....	2
4. Interior of rooms tastefully decorated.....	1
5. Three good pictures, framed. Required.....	2
6. Suitable dictionaries and physiology chart.....	2
7. Good water supply, well or covered cooler with spigot or sanitary bubbler. Required	2
8. Complete, up-to-date set of maps, of Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, North and South America, World Continent, and Iowa. Required	2
9. Globe, ten inches or more in diameter. Required.....	2
10. Waste basket, mirror, soap, basin and towels.....	2
11. A good talking machine with ten good records. Recommended..	2
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	20

IV. LIBRARY AND SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

1. A good bookcase and list of 100 books chosen from the State List of Reference Books for High Schools and Elementary Schools, as specified. Books kept in good condition and recorded.....	5
2. Two sets of supplementary readers for all grades, from one to seven, inclusive. Required	2
	<hr/>
	7

V. THE TEACHER AND THE SCHOOL

1. The teacher must be ranked by the county superintendent as an excellent or superior teacher and must be in attendance at the professional meetings of the county.....	9
2. The teacher must hold a first-grade uniform county certificate, normal training high school certificate, or state certificate. Required by statute	1
3. The teacher retained for the second year or longer.....	1
4. Homes of all pupils visited by the teacher.....	2
5. School visited by local director or directors.....	2
6. Special programs prepared for special days.....	2
7. An average attendance of 85 per cent or better.....	1

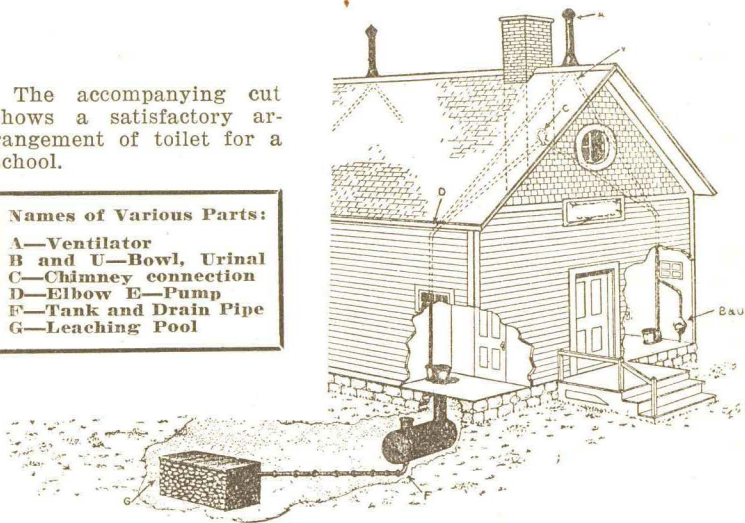
8. Course in citizenship, including current events given. Required....	1
9. Daily program posted in the room and followed.....	1
10. Manual of the State Course of Study for Iowa in each school, and course followed. Required.....	1
	21

VI. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1 School represented by boys' and girls' agricultural and industrial clubs at county, state or district fairs.....	2
2. Represented by other exhibits at district, county, school or state fairs	2
3. School literary society, spelling or other contests.....	2
4. Community center gatherings for three to six meetings of common community interest during the year.....	6
	12

The accompanying cut shows a satisfactory arrangement of toilet for a school.

<p>Names of Various Parts: A—Ventilator B and U—Bowl, Urinal C—Chimney connection D—Elbow E—Pump F—Tank and Drain Pipe G—Leaching Pool</p>



STANDARDS FOR IOWA SCHOOLS

I. GROUNDS AND OUTBUILDINGS

1. Toilets. Every progressive community and school department recognizes the evils attendant upon the use of the foul, unsanitary, detached school closets. In constructing them no provision has been made for ventilation; they are neglected through the summer months and are seldom cleaned and repaired before school opens in the fall; the walls are ordinarily disfigured by obscene carvings and writing. Many eminent authorities are agreed that the use of the outside school closets is the chief cause of immorality in rural life, therefore, this department recommends that rural districts provide some approved form of sanitary toilets for their schools.

These toilets should be placed on opposite sides of the schoolhouse and should be entered directly from the schoolroom through the cloak-rooms. When choosing a plant care should be taken to insure a good wastage tank and ventilating system.

A cut showing the above-mentioned features will be found elsewhere in this bulletin.

If outside toilets are retained the following details must be complied with:

1. The buildings must be widely separated and at the rear of the schoolhouse.
2. They must be properly lighted and ventilated by windows and ventilating shaft.
3. They must be kept clean and sanitary at all times and be free from marks and writing.
4. They shall be provided with locks and keys that they may be locked when school is not in session.
5. There should be good, dry approaches from the schoolhouse to the outbuildings. These may be made of boards, concrete, gravel or cinders.
6. A latticed screen, about seven feet high, shall be provided for each building. These screens shall be so placed as to hide the entrance and prevent snow from drifting in during the winter months.
Section 2784, School Laws of Iowa, makes it mandatory that school boards make proper provisions for wholesome, sanitary toilets kept in good repair.

2. Fenced playground of at least one acre. This is authorized by law. Sections 2745-a and b, also Section 2773, Article 16, School Laws of Iowa. It is requested that this provision be observed and ample grounds furnished. If the grounds are unattractive have children plant trees and shrubbery. The more you can relate play and care of the grounds the better. If necessary call on the parents to help also.

3. Provision shall be made for supervised play. The teacher shall supervise the playgrounds at recess and at the noon hour. Supervised play is an important factor in training for citizenship. When boys and girls learn to have the best of good times together on the school grounds many of the problems of discipline disappear and the community becomes a harmonious neighborhood co-operating for their own best development. Play that teaches teamwork and fairness is the rightful heritage of every boy and girl and should be provided by every school. The recess periods should be devoted by the children to playing simple, wholesome games under the direction of the teacher.

The teacher must be more of a statesman than a policeman. She must keep order by organizing an efficient democracy. He must teach fairness; he must inspire the older children with a desire to protect the smaller ones; he must organize the players so that they themselves attend to the details of the play and assume much of the responsibility of the playground management. The teacher must not only know the games and how to play them, but she must also know human nature. The leader must remember that children inherit the play instinct but must be taught the game. The games must be vital. The test of efficiency of the playground is the games the children play outside of it. The successful leader will influence the entire play life of the children under his or her care. The need for recreation must be recognized as something as definite as the need for work. Special time must be given to it. It must have a place upon the program of each family as well as each community.

Baseball and basket-ball, volley-ball and tennis are suggested for the upper grade pupils, while playground equipment should be secured for the use of the little people. Every standardized playground should be provided with at least four pieces of play equipment taken from the following list. The equipment must be kept in good condition.

1. A low, strong swing.
2. A giant stride.
3. Horizontal bars.
4. Coaster slide.
5. A modern teeter-board.
6. Baseball grounds and equipment.
7. A basket-ball.
8. Sand bin, about 9 by 10, placed in some shady corner of school-grounds.
9. Indoor baseball.
10. Croquet.

4. School garden and trees. Under ordinary circumstances the school garden is not urged. However, there is a splendid field here and if certain schools are so situated as to enable them to care for these grounds during the entire season there is a possibility of making a splendid record in this work.

It is statutory that every school site shall have twelve trees in thrifty condition. Section 2787, School Laws of Iowa.

5. The school grounds. The school grounds shall be adequately arranged for directed play and physical exercise. They should be well graded and seeded down to lawn grass. When new trees and shrubbery are set out they should be placed, ordinarily, around the border of grounds.

Special care should be taken of the grounds that the school may present an attractive appearance at all times.

Our public schools are the bulwarks of our government. Let us show our love and veneration of the latter by our interest and care for the former.

6. **Fuel house.** The fuel house should be well painted and kept in good condition. It should be well supplied with fuel, including kindling.

7. **The flag and flag-staff.** By Section 2804, School Laws of Iowa, it becomes mandatory for every school board to provide a suitable flag and flag-staff, and that the teacher keep the colors floating each day that the weather permit.

Section 2804-b provides for suitable flag raising services each morning when the flag is raised. Therefore, it is urged that the flag salute be taught all pupils and be given by the entire school in unison as the flag is raised each morning.

II. THE SCHOOLHOUSE

1. **Good foundations.** The foundations and all walls of the school building must be in first-class condition.

2. **Siding and roof.** The siding and roof of the school building must be in good repair.

3. **Painted exterior.** The exterior of all school buildings must be well and harmoniously painted.

4. **Good windows.** All windows shall be fitted in the casings and shall be in good condition with no broken lights. Each window shall be provided with good locks to guard against the buildings being broken into or property destroyed.

5. **Vestibule and separate cloak closet.** No rural school is well equipped which does not provide separate cloakrooms for the girls and boys. Scarcely a day passes that the need of privacy in such room for dressing purposes is not felt. It is impossible to inculcate in the minds of children habits of good housekeeping when the cloaks, hats, overshoes and dinner pails clutter the room, or are left in the vestibule.

When new schoolhouses are built, two separate, well-lighted cloakrooms should be provided. In old buildings it would be an easy matter to add such cloakrooms.

6. **Good door.** Every schoolhouse should be provided with good locks and keys. There is little incentive to try to keep a school up to standard if the building is left open, as much damage is sure to result to the property from those who can and do enter after school hours. The law fixes a penalty against breaking into public buildings, but does not provide against entering if the buildings are left open.

7. **Interior walls in good condition.** The interior ceiling and walls shall be in first-class condition and shall be tinted some light shade which will be restful to the eyes and will afford the best light for the children. Avoid tinting all surfaces, ceiling and side walls the same shade. Dark colors absorb the light and make a dark room, so should be avoided. A good color scheme is: stone grey for the wainscoting, silver for the walls up to the border line, and a cream color for the ceiling; or chocolate wainscoting, light tan or buff for side walls and cream color for the ceiling. Calcimine or alabastine can be used very successfully. Any finish containing varnish will produce a glare when the sunlight strikes it, therefore, if paint is used for the walls it should be the flat variety only.

8. **Windows on the left, or on the left and in the rear.** For the purpose of correct lighting the windows should be placed on the left, or on the left and in the rear of the room.

No new school building should be erected without observing this regulation, and no old school building should be used where the light is admitted in front of the child or where light from both sides falls in front of the pupil. Cross lights invariably produce eye strain. The lighting of the schoolhouse is a matter of much more importance than people generally realize. The amount of reading and writing done in school today is far greater than the parents know. The eye strain resulting from incorrect lighting of schoolrooms is the cause of many forms of nerve trouble among school children.

9. **Window shades and curtains.** The windows shall be well supplied with light-colored, heavy shades kept in good repair so that they may be easily adjusted to admit or exclude light. The teacher should regulate the light and adjust the shades and curtains. Well-laundered sash curtains should be furnished for all windows.

10. **Heated and ventilated by a satisfactory system.** Basements and basement furnaces are recommended in all cases of new construction. Any school board considering it impracticable to provide a basement and a basement heater for a new school building should correspond with the Superintendent of Public Instruction before starting the construction of the building. All reasons should be given for not complying with the recommendation.

With basement furnaces there should be provision made for bringing in pure air from outside to the base of the furnace and there must be a suitable chimney or stack with a register near the floor line to remove foul air from the room. The combined area of the flue, or flues, for conveying the heated air from the furnace should have a cross section area equal to one two-hundredths of the entire floor area of the rooms to be heated.

Separate flues are recommended, but if they are not used, the smoke flue should be located in the center of the vent flue and should have a diameter of from 10 to 12 inches. The smoke flue should be made of cast-iron pipe, or a good quality of clay soil pipe. The vent flue must have a net area, exclusive of the center smoke flue, equal to one two-hundred-fiftieths of the combined floor area of the rooms to be heated.

There should be one square foot of grate area for every twenty-five hundred cubic feet of air in the schoolroom and cloakrooms. For each square foot of grate area there should be thirty square feet of radiating surface in the furnace. If the school is not equipped with a basement room, furnaces may be installed, such as the Hero, Waterman-Waterbury, Smith, Old Dominion, or similar plants which bring in pure air and removes the foul air from the room.

If a heating stove is used it must be provided with a shield or jacket of sheet-iron. This shield must be at least eight inches from the floor. The old heating stove with the sheet-iron jacket is but a makeshift at best, and all schools where they are now used should plan to have them replaced with an approved heating system which has adequate provision made for bringing in fresh air and removing the foul air from the room.

Since it is so important to the health of the children that the schoolrooms be well heated and ventilated, this department announces that any school not having made the change within two years after approval

will be dropped from the standardized list and state aid will be withheld from it until such change has been effected.

11. **Interior of the schoolroom shall be clean and tidy.** The following regulations should be observed because it is impossible to accomplish good school work and establish correct habits in an ill-kept schoolroom:

- a. The floor and walls shall be clean.
- b. The pupils' desks shall be neat and clean.
- c. The vestibules and cloakrooms shall be neat and orderly.
- d. The windows shall be clean and shades properly adjusted.
- e. The drinking fountain and wash basin shall be clean.
- f. The blackboards shall be well cleaned each day and the work put on them neatly.
- g. All maps, charts or other supplemental helps shall be readily at hand for class use when needed.
- h. Seat work shall be provided for first and second grades as required by the Iowa State Course of Study.
- i. The teacher's desk shall be in order, and all material essential for her work easily accessible.

12. **Twenty square feet of floor space.** To guard against crowded conditions and to insure a sufficient amount of air per pupil it is required that each standard school shall provide twenty square feet of floor space and two hundred twenty cubic feet of air space per pupil.

13. **The window surface shall be one-sixth to one-fifth as great as the floor space.** That a sufficient amount of light may be admitted for the pupils it is recommended that the combined surface of the windows shall be equal to from one-sixth to one-fifth of the floor space.

14. **Twenty linear feet of slate blackboard.** That ample provision may be made for pupils to discuss and demonstrate their work, it is recommended that at least twenty linear feet of slate blackboard be provided for all standard rural schools. This board should be at the front and right of the pupils. The front board should be from twenty-eight to thirty-two inches from the floor, while that at the side should be from twenty-four to twenty-eight inches from the floor, so that the little people may be able to reach it readily to place their work upon it.

15. **Good floors.** The floors should be in good condition and free from splinters and cracks and kept clean. Every rural schoolhouse should be well cleaned at least three times each year.

III. EQUIPMENT AND CARE OF THE SCHOOLROOM

1. **Single seats.** Every standard school should be furnished with single seats and desks to match. It is recommended that at least three sizes be provided. In placing pupils care should be taken to give each a seat that is suited to his size.

It is much easier to establish correct habits of study and general conduct where school rooms are furnished with single seats. From the standpoint of health it is also desirable, as all contagious and many infectious diseases are much more readily transmitted from one child to another where they occupy the same seat.

2. **The teacher's desk and chairs.** A good desk containing compartments where records may be kept and which is provided with a lock and

key should be furnished for the teacher. There should also be a teacher's chair and one other good chair as part of the required furnishings of the schoolroom.

3. **Ample equipment for primary work.** Proper drill cards and seat work shall be furnished for primary children, such as:

- a. Phonic cards giving all phonograms used in first, second and third grades.
- b. Word cards giving the words which are used in their readers.
- c. Number cards which can be used to teach the fundamental principles.
- d. Language cards for story telling and correct English.
- e. Scissors and paste.

4. **Interior of the room tastefully decorated.** Everything about the schoolroom should be neat, clean and tidy. The curtains and shades should be adjusted so as to admit sufficient light and also to bar the direct rays of sunlight from falling in the face or on the desk of any pupil. The pictures should not be hung too high. Burlap or other suitable material should be placed in position on one side of the schoolroom to provide a suitable place to display the school work of the pupils. Nothing should be displayed that is not representative of the child's best efforts.

The quiet, subtle influence permeating the atmosphere of a well-organized, orderly school is a tremendous factor in character building, therefore, the teacher should attend to every little detail that will create a refining, wholesome environment for her pupils. The public school in the training camp for our American citizens. Let us have no slacker in charge of any camp.

5. **Three good pictures.** Every well-appointed schoolroom should have at least three good pictures, suitably framed, upon the walls. Every child should become acquainted with the world's famous artists and know some of their productions before they finish the rural school course. The history and meaning of each picture should be taught to the pupils.

A suggestive list of these artists and some of their paintings are given. Any picture gotten for the schoolroom should be at least seven-teen by twelve inches clear of the frame. A good print in sepia or United States carbon is recommended. These pictures can be secured at a nominal price from any of the firms that furnish pictures for schools.

Pictures.

"The Last Supper".....	<i>Leonardo da Vinci</i>
"Madonna of the Chair".....	<i>Raphael</i>
"Aurora"	<i>Guido Reni</i>
"Spring"	<i>Corot</i>
"Dance of the Nymphs".....	<i>Corot</i>
"The Lake"	<i>Corot</i>
"Return to the Farm".....	<i>Troyon</i>
"The Angelus"	<i>Millet</i>
"The Gleaners"	<i>Millet</i>
"Feeding the Birds".....	<i>Millet</i>

"The Horse Fair"	<i>Rosa Bonheur</i>
"Christ in Gethsemane".....	<i>Hoffman</i>
"Saved"	<i>Landseer</i>
"Shoeing the Bay Mare".....	<i>Landseer</i>
"Embarkation of the Pilgrims".....	<i>Rothermel</i>
"Puritans Going to Church".....	<i>Boughton</i>
"Stag at Bay".....	<i>Landseer</i>

Pictures of distinguished people, of famous historical or geographical places are also recommended.

6. **Suitable dictionaries and physiology charts.** One copy of Webster's International, or its equivalent, and two smaller dictionaries should be provided for each school. One good, modern physiology chart for class use is recommended.

7. **Good water supply.** A good water supply is absolutely essential for every school. It is best to have a deep well of good water on the school grounds, but if this is not provided every school should have a covered cooler equipped with a spigot or sanitary bubbler. If the bubbler is not provided each child should have his own drinking cup.

8. **Complete up-to-date set of maps.** Every school should have a complete set of maps as follows: a map of Asia, of Africa, Europe, the World Continent, South America, North America, the United States, Iowa, and your county. All maps should be recent editions.

9. **Globe.** A good globe, twelve inches or more in diameter, should be in each school. It is best to have the globe suspended from the ceiling.

10. **Waste basket, etc.** A waste basket, mirror, soap, wash basin, and clean towels should be a part of the regular equipment.

11. **Talking machine and records.** The talking machine is of great educational value and can be used to splendid advantage in teaching rhythm in both music and writing. Ten well-chosen records used on such a machine would eliminate much of the trouble which the rural teacher encounters in teaching music.

IV. LIBRARY AND SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

1. **A good bookcase and 100 well-chosen books.** Every standard school should be provided with a good bookcase where the books can be arranged according to grade and kept away from the dust when not in use. A bookcase is for books only and should not be converted into a "catch all." All of the books should be catalogued and a record kept by the teacher of those that are loaned.

A minimum of ten juvenile books should be provided for each grade. The aim in selecting these books should be to get only those which will have a direct influence in character building, be a guide in the choice of right associates, stimulate a healthy imagination, create a desire for the best literature, act as a medium for intellectual discipline, and afford esthetic culture.

Each library should contain an up-to-date set of encyclopedia, prepared for pupils in the elementary grades, also one or more reference books for each subject taught.

2. **Two sets of supplementary readers for each grade, from one to seven, inclusive.** Two extra sets of supplementary readers beside the basic text should be furnished for pupils in the first seven grades.

These readers must be up to date and in good condition, with a sufficient number provided so that each child in the class may have a book. Suggestive lists will be found in the "State List of Reference Books for High Schools and Elementary Schools."

V. THE TEACHER AND THE SCHOOL.

1. The teacher must be ranked by the county superintendent as excellent or superior and must attend the professional meetings of the county.

In ranking a teacher the county superintendent should consider:

- A. The appearance of the schoolroom—
 - a. The floors, walls and windows should be clean and the pupils' desks clean and orderly.
 - b. The entries and cloakrooms should be clean and neat.
 - c. The drinking fountain, wash basin and towels should be clean.
 - d. The teacher's desk should be clean and orderly.
- B. The appearance of the teacher and the pupils—
 - a. The teacher should be neatly dressed and refined in conduct.
 - b. The pupils should be clean, neat and orderly in conduct.
 - c. The teacher and pupils should be working steadily.
- C. Preparation of the teacher and conduct of the school—
 - a. A program carefully made out from the Iowa State Course of Study should be posted on the walls and followed daily.
 - b. The teacher should have a plan book with plans made out for each day's work; this book should be on her desk for the superintendent's inspection and should be followed closely.
 - c. All school work for the day should be prepared by the teacher before opening school; reference and all materials used as helps should be ready; if written work is to be given it should be prepared and instruction for it previously placed on the blackboard.
 - d. Recitation time and study periods should be devoted to useful material.
 - e. Dismissal and calling of classes should be orderly and without loss of time.
 - f. All teaching must be effective.
 - g. Careful attention should be given to the seatwork of the younger pupils.
 - h. There should be stated times for helping pupils, and a part of the recitation or study period should be used for explanation of the work.
 - i. The teacher should be courteous and sympathetic toward the pupils.
- D. Organization and management of the school—
 - a. There should be a daily register kept clean, up to date and ready for inspection.
 - b. Pupils should be doing regular grade work as prescribed by the Course of Study for Iowa.
 - c. School hours and daily program should be followed closely.
 - d. Physical exercises should be well ordered and beneficial.

- e. The papers of the pupils should be promptly corrected and returned.
- f. The teacher should discern between important and unimportant matters of discipline.
- g. All suggestions of the county superintendent for improvement in the school work should be fully carried out.
- h. The teacher should be progressive, resourceful, and an inspiration to her pupils.
- i. The pupils should be wide awake in their work.

2. **The teacher must hold a first-grade uniform county certificate.** Mandatory by statute. Section 5 of the standardization law reads:

"No school shall be deemed a standard school unless the teacher is the holder of a first-grade uniform county certificate or its equivalent."

The normal training high school certificate is considered the equivalent of the first-grade county certificate. A teacher holding a normal training certificate should have a year of experience before going into a standard school. Any teacher holding a state certificate is also eligible to teach in standard schools.

3. **Teachers retained for second year or longer.** It is highly desirable that teachers who have made, and are making, a successful record be retained for as long a time as possible, because they are able to study the needs of their particular district and work out many local problems in a way that will be highly beneficial to the community.

4. **Homes of all pupils visited by the teacher.** A good teacher gains the confidence and co-operation of her patrons if she becomes acquainted with them. The best way to gain this acquaintance is to visit in each home. This gives her a chance also to understand the pupil and his individual needs.

5. **School visited by the local director or directors.** The directors are chosen officers to look after school matters in each district. They should acquaint themselves first hand with the school and by their co-operation with the teacher help to build up the best school possible for their district. It is the patriotic duty of every citizen to serve in this way.

6. **Special programs prepared for special days.** A part of every child's education should consist of a love and veneration for our national holidays. It is fitting that every school prepare and give two or three special programs, each year, celebrating some of our holidays.

7. **An average attendance of 85 per cent or better** is necessary to hold the interest and efficiency of the school up to a good standard of work.

8. **Course in citizenship including current events.** Mandatory by statute. Section 1 in law relating to the teaching of citizenship: "All public and private schools located within the state of Iowa shall be required to teach the subject of American citizenship." Current events should be correlated with the citizenship course.

9. **Daily program.** Each school shall have its daily program posted upon the wall by the close of the first week of school. This program should be carefully followed.

10. **Manual of the State Course of Study.** Every standard school shall be provided with a State Course of Study and said course shall be carried out in the school by the teacher.

VI. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The rural school district affords the purest form of democratic government to be found in Iowa today. The school is the center of community life because it is an institution organized and operated for the boys and girls from every home in the community. The group of neighbors residing in a district determine the kind of school they can afford to support and it becomes their school. It is here that the children receive the inspiration and training which is to be their greatest asset in meeting life's problems. It is here that the people should work out their own problems of community development and get the larger vision of the possibilities of country life. When this vision comes rural life will become more attractive. Physical and social conditions will be on a higher plane and a higher type of citizen will be developed. There will be born a new school spirit which will reflect the life of the community and create a purer environment. Reared in this atmosphere the boys and girls will develop happy, useful lives.

When the social spirit of a community is awakened it is powerful enough to function such methods of expression as are best suited to its needs. It is the teacher's privilege to lead the community out into a spirit of co-operation.

The best way to awaken a community to its possibilities is through community meetings. First discover the need for such a gathering, then have the meeting. Work **with** the community through the school. All children delight in the evidence of having actually accomplished some constructive work; to show some finished product to the parents; to assist in giving a patriotic program or take part in some of the club work going on in the community will add a new interest to the school for the boy or girl and stimulate a new interest in the school.

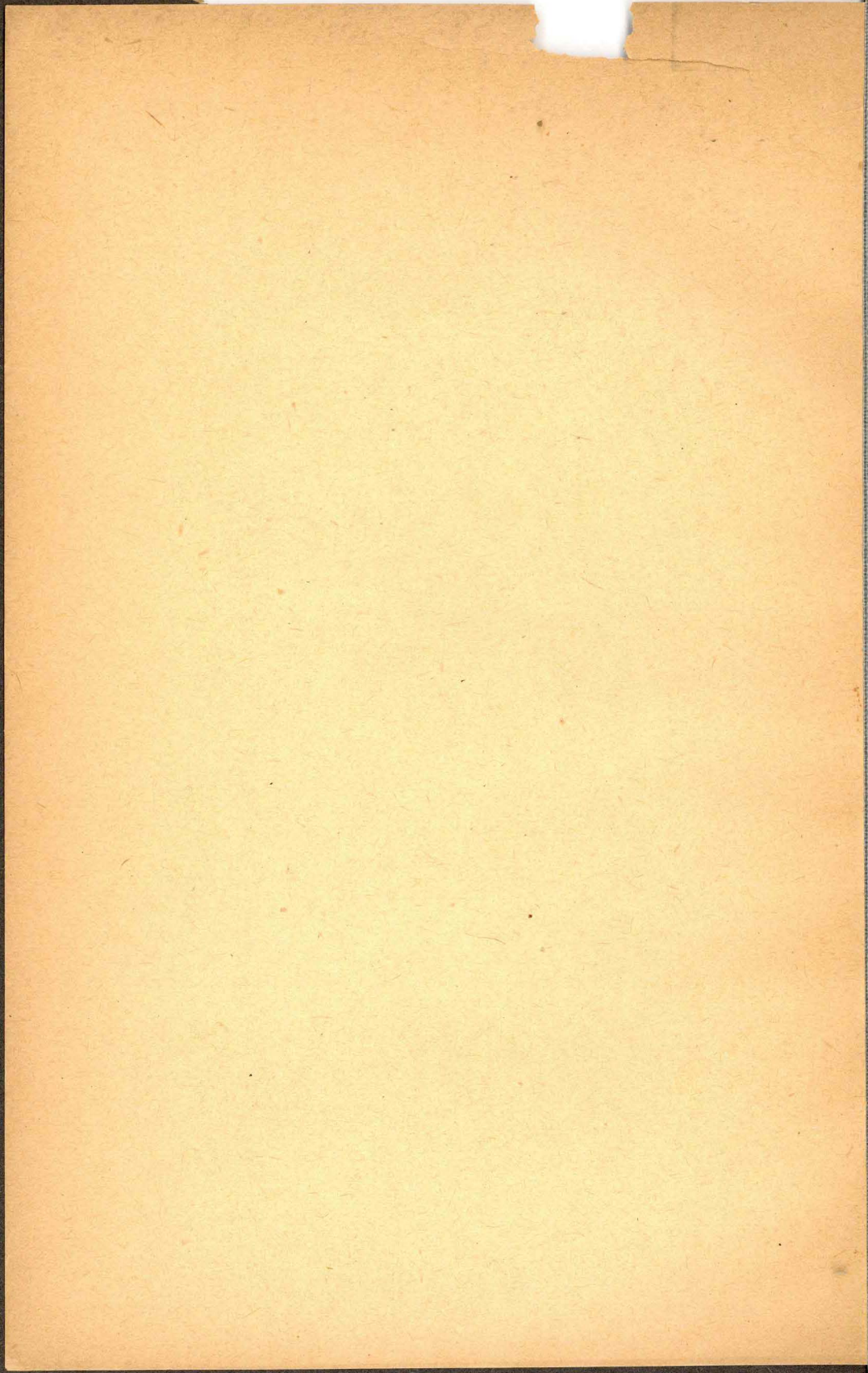
1. **Boys' and girls' industrial clubs.** These clubs may be along the line of live-stock raising, agriculture, canning, baking, sewing, etc. The finished product may be exhibited at district, county, or state fairs.
2. **Other exhibits.** Any finished product which a child exhibits affords a certain pride and arouses an ambition to do better things.
3. **School literary societies, spelling or other contests** arouses a healthy spirit of competition and sociability which is very desirable.
4. **Other community meetings.** That the field be broad and a chance given each community to find its own outlet for self-expression, we are suggesting community meetings.
 - a. The teacher should provide opportunity for the club that discusses the serious side of agriculture and household arts, as well as for the boys' and girls' debating society, and the monthly social. Singing societies, neighborhood bands, the clubs that give simple plays and entertainments, lectures on interesting and important topics; these are well-established aids to community pleasure and advancement. Remember that no community-center enterprise will succeed unless it is something that your neighbors really desire and need. A successful community-center organization will generally make it possible for the educational extension forces of your state to co-operate with your community to the best advantage.
 - b. Special-day festivals, perhaps with pageantry, upon which the whole neighborhood should unite for a good time that is worth while.
 - c. Outdoor fun for old and young, such as picnics, camping, nature study, and water sport.

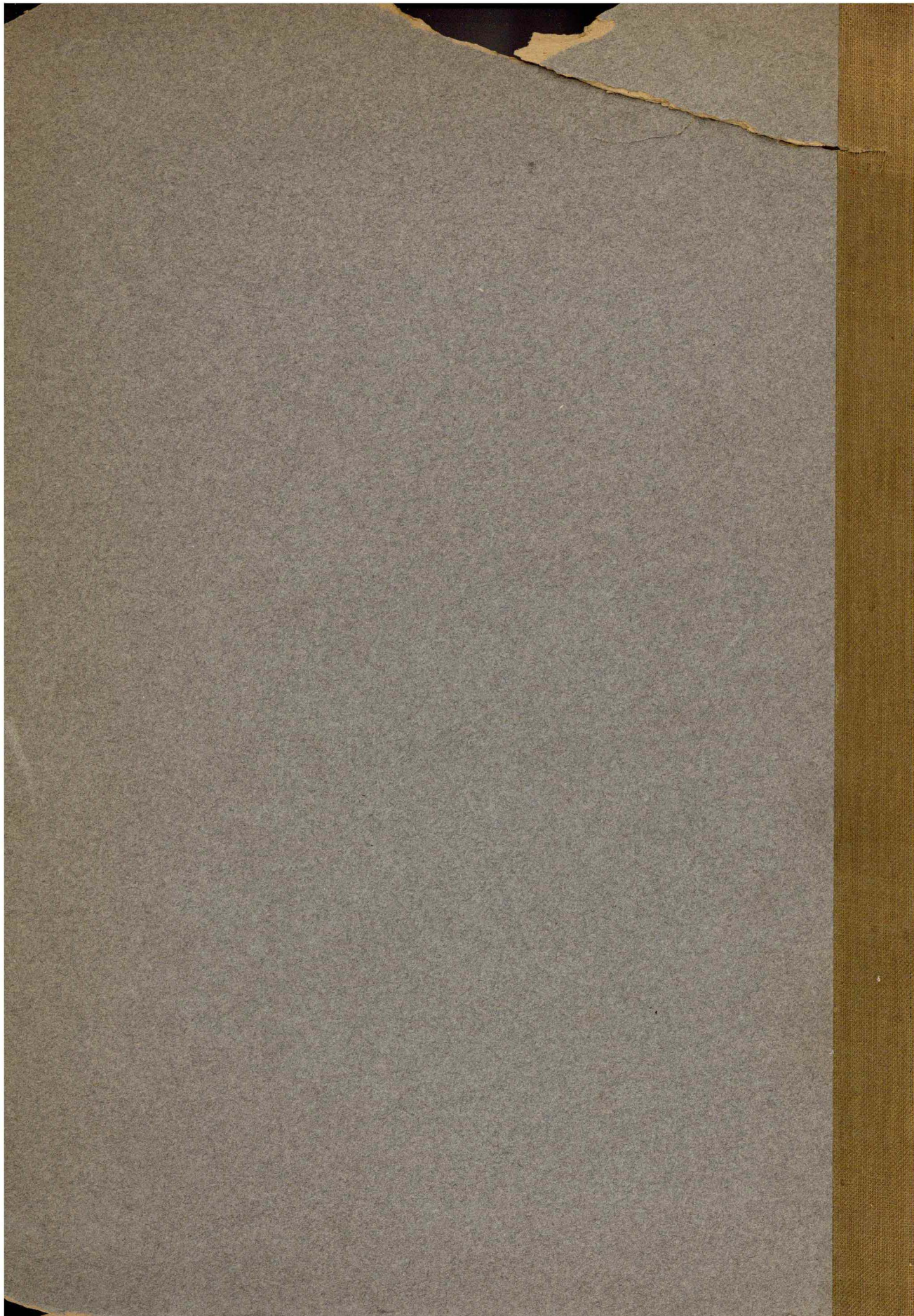
- d. Non-commercial clubs in agriculture and household arts that will bring young people together and encourage better farming and better living.
- e. Co-operation with outside clubs, such as Boy Scouts, the Camp-fire Girls and the Audubon Society.
- f. Athletics, beginning with the local playground and extending to a county system, planned so as to encourage physical fitness and good times for all boys and girls rather than the success of a few after unlimited competition.

Education is truly the bulwark of liberty, if it is the right kind of education. That which is supervised and guided in the proper channel can be relied upon to uphold the traditions, the institutions and the government of this country. Trained in American ideals, understanding American thought and grasping the American attitude of justice the youth of our country will develop a patriotic spirit necessary for all good citizens. To do this we must have the services of live, patriotic teachers. If we do not have such teachers our young people grow up with wrong conceptions of our institutions, ideals and government and may easily become a public menace. The duty of the public school is to train and develop fair-minded, clean, wholesome, honest, democratic citizens for America. Before we can have a strong national life we must have strong individual lives.

"We have long deceived ourselves with words and phrases about free public, universal education. Up to the present time we have barely the beginnings, here and there, of such an effective educational program as these terms ought to imply. The educational task immediately before us is to make universally real the ideals which we have so long boasted."

Every teacher can assist in this great task by teaching the best school that he or she is capable of developing.





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