

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AND INSTRUCTION OF PUPILS IN GOVERNMENT INDIAN SCHOOLS.

1. Pupils shall be directed to attend the respective Churches to which they belong or for which their parents or guardians express a preference.

2. Should a question arise as to which Church pupils belong, they shall be classed as belonging to a certain denomination as follows:

(a) Those whose names are to be found on the baptismal record of said denomination, or who have been formally received as members of such denomination, or who belong to families under its instructions, except where the children are under 18 years of age and parents or lawful guardians make written request that the child be instructed in some other religion.

(b) Those who, regardless of previous affiliations, Christian or pagan, having attained the age of 18 years, desire to become members of any denomination.

(c) Those of any religion whatever, under 18 years of age (or over that age, unless they make voluntary protest), whose parents or lawful guardians, by written request, signify their desire that their children shall be reared in a certain denomination.

3. Ample provision shall be made for the conveyance of those who are too young or unable to walk in cases where the Church services are held at a distance from the school. Hours of services are to be agreed upon between the attending pastor and the superintendent. Where these services can not be held in or near the school on Sunday, the pupils must be sent to Church on week days, provided arrangements can be made between the attending pastor and the superintendent so as not to conflict with regular school duties.

4. Pupils shall not change Church membership without the knowledge of the superintendent and consent of parents or guardians.

5. Pupils who belong to no Church are encouraged to affiliate with some denomination—preference being left to the pupil if he be 18 years of age or to the parent or guardian if the child be under 18 years of age.

6. Proselyting among pupils by pastors, employees, or pupils is strictly forbidden.

7. Method and promptness and a pervasive desire to cooperate with the discipline and aims of the school must characterize the work of those to whom the spiritual interests of the pupils are intrusted.

8. Two hours on week days are allowed each Church authority for religious instruction, the hours to be decided upon by superintendent and pastor.

9. Each Sunday all pupils belonging to a certain denomination shall attend the Sunday school taught, either at the school or in a near-by church, when by mutual consent of the attending pastor and superintendent such a place has been selected.

10. Pupils will have every facility in attending Confession, preparatory classes, and Communion by handing their names to their religious instructors, and these in turn shall hand the names to the matron or disciplinarian—this as a precaution to account for the presence of the pupil.

11. Truancy, tardiness, or misconduct on the part of pupils attending Church or Sunday school, either away from or at the school, must be promptly reported to the superintendent.

12. For special services in Church or at the school, special permission, granted at least a day in advance, must always be procured from the superintendent.

13. In the general school assembly exercises, as distinguished from the several Sunday school exercises under separate denominational control, the following *only* must be observed for the strictly religious part:

(a) Substitute the Revised Version for the King James Version of the Bible, for scriptural readings, and confine these to the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles.

(b) Either form of the Lord's prayer as given in the Revised Version.

(c) For song exercises use the "Carmina for Social Worship," omitting the following hymns: Nos. 106, 108, 110, 111, 119, 161, and 165.

(d) These assembly exercises are to be conducted by the superintendent of the school, or some employee or pupil designated by him; but not a minister or priest unless the superintendent should be one, in which case he acts *ex officio*.

(e) The privilege of addressing the school at these exercises will be cordially offered to all ministers and priests; but doctrinal instructions or denominational teachings must not be permitted.

14. Regular and compulsory attendance is demanded on the part of all pupils at the regular assembly exercises conducted by the superintendent of the school.

15. Superintendents shall be required to carry out these regulations. They are required not only to cooperate loyally with this Office in holding the balances equally between all Churches, granting them equal privileges and excluding special privilege, but must not under any circumstances allow their personal prejudices or Church affiliations to bias them in any way.

R. G. VALENTINE, *Commissioner*.

