

Extract from the 1897 Regulations of the Department of Public Instruction

Establishment of Provisional Schools

8. (a) Under ordinary circumstances the Minister will not establish Provisional schools except in places distant at least four miles from any existing State or Provisional school by the nearest route practicable for children, and unless the average attendance of pupils is likely to reach twelve at the least.
- (b) A building provided by the local promoters at their own expense will be approved by the Minister for a Provisional school if it is suitable as regards situation, form, and size; if it is weather-proof, sufficiently lighted and furnished; and if there is detached closet accommodation for each sex. It should contain at least 294 square feet of flooring, the desks must be sufficient to accommodate at least two-thirds of the children, and there must be seats and hat-pegs for all. The school must be furnished with a blackboard (3 feet 6 inches x 2 feet 9 inches) and easel, a press for the reception of school books, a table, and a chair. The closets must be at least a chain from each other, and from the school.
- (c) Out of money voted by Parliament for the purpose, the Minister may contribute towards the cost of a Provisional school building, and of providing the required furniture, tanks, and closets, on the following conditions:-
- (1) That the promoters have first submitted their proposals to the Department with an estimate of the cost, and have applied for and obtained from the Minister a promise to contribute to the same;
 - (2) That the amount so contributed by the Department shall be not more than four-fifths of the total cost;
 - (3) That the building shall be placed on Crown lands, or on lands vested in the Secretary for Public Instruction;
 - (4) That the building shall be not less than 21 feet in length by 14 feet in width and 9 feet in height to the wall-plates, and shall have a pitched roof, two or more windows, and a boarded floor, a veranda 7 feet wide on one side, two closets at least a chain apart, and at least a chain from the school, a tank of minimum capacity of 400 gallons, and the following articles of furniture, viz. – four desks each 7 ½ feet long, six forms each 7 ½ feet long, a blackboard (3 feet 6 inches x 2 feet 9 inches) and an easel, a press (3 feet x 4 feet x 1 ½ feet), a table, a chair, a clock; building and furniture to be in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Minister;
 - (5) That payment of the said contribution shall not be made until an inspector or other person authorised by the Minister has reported the building to be erected and furnished in accordance with the foregoing conditions, and that it is ready for occupation.

These plans and specifications for a Provisional school with offices, furniture, and tank, have been prepared for the guidance and information of school committees intending to ask for Departmental contributions towards the cost, under the provisions of the foregoing section of the Regulations. Although it is desirable that these plans and specifications should be adhered to as far as possible, the Minister will contribute towards the cost of the erection and equipment of buildings sufficient for the requirements and suitable to local circumstances, if the material and the work are substantial, and the buildings and furniture are of the required form and proportions. It is necessary, however, that all the items specified in the Regulation, together with a blackboard, shall be supplied.