

No. 266.

## AN ACT

To provide for the equalization of educational opportunity and the encouragement of the study of citizenship by recognition of extension education, for boys and girls who are employed and for adults, as a function of the public schools of this Commonwealth; and to facilitate the proper organization and administration of such extension education.

Public schools.

Definitions.

"Extension education."

"Curricular course of study."

"Extra-curricular course of study."

Directors may furnish free extension education.

Proviso.

When and where extension education provided.

Provided.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the following words and phrases, as used in this act, shall, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, have the following meaning:

"Extension education" shall designate any instruction provided and administered by the board of directors of any school district which is organized primarily for boys and girls who are employed and for adults whose earlier educational opportunity has been restricted, but shall not include the school work of continuation and other vocational schools.

"Curricular course of study" shall designate any subject of study included in the programs of study of the regular elementary and secondary public day schools of the district.

"Extra-curricular course of study" shall designate any elementary or secondary course of study not so included.

Section 2. That the board of school directors of any school district may and upon written application, signed by twenty or more residents of such district above the age of sixteen years who are not in attendance at any public or private day school, shall provide free extension education for the instruction of said applicants in any curricular course of study so requested, or in English and citizenship for immigrants and native illiterates, or in citizenship for adults and in such other extra-curricular courses of study as said board may deem advisable: Provided, That any such board of school directors may refuse to provide or continue such extension education whenever less than twenty of its said applicants are unfitted to pursue with reasonable profit the course of study requested.

Section 3. Extension education shall be provided in school buildings at any time not in conflict with regular day-school activities as requested by such applicants, and elsewhere at any hour during any day except Sunday or legal holidays which the board may deem advisable: Provided, That the board shall not be required to admit to said extension schools a person who is in actual full-time attendance at any public

or private school during the day: Provided further, That attendance at such classes by part-time pupils shall not be accepted in lieu of the compulsory part-time attendance required of such pupils: Provided further, That said board of directors may close any class of said extension schools when the average attendance for any month falls below ten.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Deposit fee may be required from applicants.

Return of fee.

Proviso.

Section 4. Any board of school directors may require a deposit fee of a sum not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) from each person enrolling in such extension schools or classes, and may require further that such deposit fees accompany said written applications for such extension instruction. Such deposit fee shall be returned at the close of each term of instruction to all persons so enrolled who have attended seventy-five (75) per cent. or more of the class sessions of said term: Provided, That nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the return of said deposit fee because of death, sickness, or for any other cause which the board may deem justifiable.

School credits may be accepted for graduation in day school.

Certificate may be awarded.

Section 5. All school credits derived from any curricular course of study in the extension classes of any district shall be accepted by the school authorities of that district toward fulfillment of the requirements for graduation from any curriculum of any day school of corresponding grade in that district. Upon the satisfactory completion in extension classes of the curricular courses of study required for graduation from any curriculum of any school district by any person, such person shall be awarded the appropriate school certificate or diploma at the close of the then current school term.

Extension education to be part of public school system.

Section 6. Schools and classes for extension education shall be a part of the public schools of the Commonwealth and of the district in which they are organized, and shall be under the supervision of the superintendent of the county or of the district, as are other public schools of that district. The State Council of Education shall adopt standards for the qualifications and certification of extension teachers and all other matters pertaining to extension education not inconsistent with this act or other acts pertaining to the public schools of the Commonwealth.

Effective date and appeal.

Section 7. This act shall become effective immediately, and other acts or portions of other acts inconsistent herewith are hereby declared null and void.

APPROVED—The 2nd day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.