



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN 11, TEXAS

**JOHN BEN SHEPPERD
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 14, 1954

Honorable J. W. Edgar
Commissioner of Education
Texas Education Agency
Austin, Texas

Letter Opinion No. MS-137

Re: Type of Teacher
Certificate to be issued
under certain conditions

Dear Mr. Edgar:

You have asked us to construe Article 2888, in part, and Article 2891a, Vernon's Civil Statutes, to determine if a certain teacher has complied with the requirements there provided. The teacher received an elementary certificate in 1945, on completion of two years of college work, as provided in Article 2888. The six year certificate was to expire in 1951 but has been continued in force since that time by the teacher attending summer school during the summers of 1951, 1952 and 1953 as provided by Article 2891a. The teacher attended the fall term in 1953 at a recognized college of the first class. She received a bachelor's degree in January, 1954. The records in your office do not show that she completed college courses in secondary education or practice teaching so as to entitle her to a permanent high school certificate. Her record does show that she has taught three years of elementary school under the six year certificate.

Article 2888 reads in part:

"An applicant who has satisfactorily completed the second year's work of a university, or senior or junior college, other than a Texas State normal college, which is classified as first class by the State Superintendent, in which work shall be included two courses of professional training, shall be entitled to receive an elementary certificate of the first class, valid until the sixth anniversary of the thirty-first day of August of the calendar year in which the certificate was issued; provided that the holder of this certificate shall, upon completion of five years of successful elementary teaching, be granted a permanent elementary certificate; provided further that the satisfactory

completion of any year's work at any Texas State normal college, or any university, senior college, junior college, or normal college, which is ranked as first class by the State Superintendent, may be substituted for a year's successful teaching, if this attendance at college takes place after the issuance of the certificate."

We construe Article 2888 as authorizing a teacher holding a six year elementary certificate to receive a permanent elementary certificate upon the completion of five years of successful elementary teaching. After a teacher receives a temporary elementary certificate on meeting minimum requirements, the completion of each additional year of college work may be counted in substitution for a year of teaching experience for certification purposes. A "year's college work" signifies satisfactory completion of thirty units of accredited courses, the normal schedule carried in two regular semesters by a resident student. The attainment of a year's college work--thirty units of college credit--may be satisfied by attendance in summer sessions, or by attendance in regular semesters over a period of one or more years, or by both.

This teacher has completed two years of college work since receiving her temporary elementary certificate. She also has taught three years. Consequently, she is entitled to receive a permanent elementary certificate. Article 2891a does not apply to a teacher holding a permanent teaching certificate.

Yours very truly,

JOHN BEN SHEPPERD
Attorney General of Texas

By
Billy E. Lee
Assistant