

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 9, 1967

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Computation of State Aid re Equipment for Vocational Education Facility.

FACTS:

The State Board of Education has recently approved three schools as regional technical and vocational centers pursuant to the provisions of 20 M.R.S.A. § 2356-A. These three schools consist of existing structures which are to be expanded over a two-year period. Presently, the schools are purchasing equipment representing new and expanded opportunities for instruction. The equipment is not classified as replacement equipment.

The laws relating to public schools of the State of Maine provide for a grant of 75 per cent of the cost of constructing and equipping a building or buildings to be used for the maintenance of regional technical and vocational schools. 20 M.R.S.A. § 2356-B. (1). This same section contains the following language:

" * * * Grants for construction assistance provided by this section, including grants for equipment or for the completing of the equipment of a facility already available shall be in lieu of any construction assistance for the same facility made or authorized under section 3457 and shall be made only on the basis of information available in the office of the commissioner on November 1 of each year covering expenditures made by the administrative unit in its preceding fiscal year as reported by its superintendent of schools to the commissioner on forms which he shall provide for the purpose."

The reference section 2356-B contains a subparagraph 2 specifying that the State shall pay two-thirds of the cost of "replacement of instructional equipment."

"Two thirds of the cost of instruction in approved technical and vocational classes maintained on the secondary level through grade 12 and 90% of the costs of instruction for approved part-time and evening classes for out-of-school youth and adults. Costs of instruction for technical and vocational classes on the secondary school level shall be construed to mean the expenditures chargeable to such classes made for teachers' salaries, fuel, janitorial services, textbooks, reference books, school supplies for desk, laboratory and shop use, public utility services, replacement of instructional equipment, fire insurance and compensation for director and his assistants for the technical and vocational center."

QUESTION:

Whether, under the given facts, the State should pay the reference costs at a rate of 75 per cent; or whether the two-thirds figure should be used in computing State aid?

ANSWER:

State aid should be paid at the rate of 75 per cent.

Kernit S. Nickerson

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REASON:

According to the stated facts, the three schools constitute available facilities which are to be utilized as regional, technical and vocational centers. The State Board of Education has already approved these schools as such centers. The schools are purchasing equipment which constitutes equipment for the equipping of a facility already available. The given facts do not place the State within the import of the language of 20 M.R.S.A. § 2356-B, (2); but rather within the purview of 2356-B, (1).

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