

LAWS OF MARYLAND.

Dec Ses 1821
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the duty of said board of commissioners from time to time to certify the orphans court of all vacancies that may occur in said board, and it shall be the duty of said commissioners to call on the treasurer of the western shore for an estimate of the amount that will become due to the county on the first day of December next, on account of the school fund, distinguishing what part thereof will be due to the county as their annual share of said fund, under the law of eighteen hundred and thirteen, chapter one hundred and twenty two, and what part thereof as interest or dividends on the sums invested in the stock of different banks of this state, and what part, if any, from other sources; and it shall be the duty of the treasurer to furnish said information forthwith; and when they have ascertained the amount that will so become due, then it shall be the duty of said commissioners to apportion the same amongst the several districts of the county, according to the size, population and number of poor children of said district, as near as they can ascertain and determine; and if they find that the sum which each or any district will be entitled to, will not be sufficient to educate all the poor children of such district or districts, then in order that all may participate as far as possible, and inasmuch as those who are nearest grown, must be considered in most immediate need of education and improvement; it shall be the duty of said commissioners to give a preference to girls above the age of ten years, and under fourteen, and to boys above the age of twelve years and under sixteen; and if those should not be a sufficient number within the ages limited, to take the whole sum allotted to any district; then the said commissioners shall admit others under those ages down to seven years old of either sex, always giving a preference to the oldest as most immediately in need; and if the number of poor children in each or any district should prove to be greater than the amount of funds of such district or districts will justify the admission of at one time, then in order that all may have an opportunity at least to learn to read and write; it shall be the duty of the commissioners to admit none for a longer time than one year; but if the fund should prove sufficient, children may in all cases be continued longer at school; and it shall be the duty of the commissioners annually to pursue the course here laid down.

Apportionment & disposition of fund.

Regulation.

4. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners, to make arrangements or bargains with the teachers of the schools, or any of them now existing in the several districts of the county, or with the teachers, or any of them of any schools that may hereafter be commenced in any of said districts, for the education of such poor children as may, under the provisions of this act, be entitled to receive the same, at a rate not exceeding eight dollars per year per scholar; and the commissioners are hereby authorised, at the expiration of each and every year, to pay to each and every teacher who may have received

Bargain with teachers.