CHAPTER 39:01

EDUCATION ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title.

PART I

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

2. Interpretation.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- 3. Appointment of Officers.
- 4. Annual report on elementary education.
- 5. Power to inspect schools receiving public money.
- 6. Reference of complaints against teacher to magistrate for investigation.
- 7. Power to cancel certificate in certain cases.
- 8. Consequence of cancellation or suspension.

EDUCATIONAL DISTRICTS

9. Declaration of educational districts.

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

- 10. Appointment.
- 11. Duties of attendance officer.
- 12. Attendance officer may enter premises at certain times and make inquiries.

PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ${\rm OF\ CHILDREN}$

13. Duty of parent to educate child.

SECTION

- 14. Proceedings against parent omitting to educate child.
- 15. Proceedings with respect to child found habitually wandering or not under control.
- 16. Proceedings on disobedience of magistrate's order for attendance at school.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

- 17. Restriction on employment of children.
- 18. Employer of child working on plantation.
- 19. Exemption of employer on proof of guilt of some other person.
- 20. Employment of child in contravention of the Act.
- 21. Wilfully making false representation as to age of child.
- 22. Application of sections 13 to 16.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

- 23. Teacher's power of detention over children.
- 24. Employment of children at industrial school.
- 25. Provision for children required to attend school for part only of a day.
- 26. Execution of order requiring child to be sent to school.

SCHOOL FEES

27. No fees in certain cases.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

- 28. Establishment of government schools.
- 29. Certain aided schools to be deemed to be government schools.
- 30. Accountability for grants and handing over of records.
- 31. Right of access to school.
- 32. Provision of system of education.
- 33. Certain aided schools to become government schools.

PROOF OF AGE OF CHILD, ETC.

SECTION

- 34. Power in certain cases to estimate age of child.
- 35. Certificates of birth.
- 36. School receiving government grant to be deemed efficient.
- 37. Regulations as to legal proceedings.
- 38. Forgery of, and use of forged, certificate made evidence.

LEGAL PROCEDURE

- 39. Procedure.
- 40. Exemption from payment of fees for process.
- 41. Power to grant warrant to examine place in certain cases.
- 42. Power to amend forms.

PART II

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION

- 43. Constitution of National Council for Education.
- 44. Functions of the Council.
- 45. Extraordinary meetings of the Council.
- 46. Appointment of Secretary.

PART III

GENERAL

47. Regulations.

FIRST SCHEDULE—Forms.

SECOND SCHEDULE—Name of school.

LAWS OF GUYANA

6	Cap. 39:01	Education		
1929 Ed. c. 196 1953 Ed. c. 91	CHAPTER 39:01 EDUCATION ACT			
3 of 1876	AN ACT to make better p in Guyana.	rovision for the promotion of education		
		[3RD FEBRUARY, 1877]		
Short title.	l. This Act may be cited as the Education Act.			
	PART I			
	ELEMENTARY EDUCATION			
Interpretation. [26 of 1949 3 of 1961 4 of 1972 1 of 1975 O. 80/1980]	2. In this Part of this Act—			
	"aided school" means an elementary school the managers of which receive any grant-in-aid from public funds;			
	"attendance officer" means an officer appointed to carry out the provisions of this Act in any educational district;			
	"authorised person" means anyone who under this Act has and is entrusted with the same rights, powers, privileges and functions as an attendance officer;			
c. 1:01	"the Commission" means the Teaching Service Commission established by article 136(1) of the Constitution;			
	"education officer" includes senior education officer, education officer and assistant education officer;			
	"elementary school" means a school, or department of a school, at which elementary education is the principal part of the education there given;			

- "father" includes the reputed father and every male person cohabiting with the mother of a child, whether he is the father of the child or not;
- "Form" means Form in the First Schedule;
- "government grant" means a grant made for the support or in aid of an elementary school or day industrial school, either annually or otherwise, from moneys provided by Parliament;
- "government school" means an elementary school established by the Chief Education Officer and maintained from moneys provided by Parliament;
- "industrial school" means—(a) any elementary school in which theoretical and practical instruction in agriculture or in any trade or trades, or in both, is given and which is recognised under the regulations as an industrial school; or (b) a practical instruction centre established by the Government in which agriculture, home economics, industrial art, or subjects of a like nature are taught;
- "managers", when used with reference to a school, includes all those who have the management of any elementary school or day industrial school, whether the legal interest in the schoolhouse is or is not vested in them;
- "parent" includes guardian and everyone who is liable to maintain or has the actual custody of a child, and every male person cohabiting with the mother of a child, whether he is the father of the child or not;
- "schoolhouse" includes a play-ground and all offices required for a school;
- "teacher" includes assistant teacher, pupil teacher, sewing mistress, and everyone who forms part of the educational staff of a school.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Appointment of Officers. [26 of 1949]

- **3.** (l) There shall be a Chief Education Officer and a Deputy Chief Education Officer and one or more senior education officers.
- (2) The Deputy Chief Education Officer may exercise all such powers and perform all such duties of the Chief Education Officer, as may be authorised by the Chief Education Officer.

Annual report on elementary education.

4. The Chief Education Officer shall submit annually to the Minister a report on the state of elementary education throughout Guyana, in the form and containing information with regard to the particulars directed by the Minister.

Power to inspect schools receiving public money. [26 of 1949] **5.** The Chief Education Officer and every education officer shall have full power and authority to enter, visit, and inspect every school or schoolhouse and all the premises or offices used therewith, where the managers of the school have received or have applied for any aid from moneys provided by Parliament within the next preceding twelve months.

Reference of complaints against teacher to magistrate for investigation.
[1 of 1975 9 of 1976]

- **6.** (1) If a teacher in a government school is charged by anyone with immoral conduct as teacher or otherwise, or cruel or improper treatment of any of the children or pupils attending the school, the Commission may transmit a statement, specifying the particular acts in respect whereof the charge is made, to the magistrate of the magisterial district within which that school is situate; and the magistrate shall thereupon cause a copy of the statement to be served on the teacher, together with a summons requiring the teacher to appear before him at any time to be therein appointed, but not less than eight days from the day of the service of the summons.
- (2) The teacher, if he thinks fit, may answer the particulars of the complaint in writing, or may plead orally that he is not guilty; and the magistrate shall proceed to hear the complaint and take evidence upon oath in the same manner as if the complaint were a complaint in a civil matter over which the magistrate had jurisdiction and the teacher was the defendant therein.

- (3) The magistrate shall transmit to the Commission the evidence taken by him, with a report of what in his opinion is the effect and weight thereof.
- **7.** If any teacher holding a certificate granted by the Chief Education Officer or other authority in Guyana is, in the opinion of the magistrate and the Commission, guilty of immoral conduct as teacher or otherwise, or of cruel or improper treatment of any of the children or pupils under his charge, the Chief Education Officer, acting on the advice of the Commission, may cancel the certificate or suspend the operation thereof for any time to him seeming meet.

Power to cancel certificate in certain cases. [1 of 1975]

8. No teacher whose certificate has been cancelled or suspended shall be employed in any aided school until, in the case of suspension, the period of suspension has expired, or, in the case of cancellation, the Chief Education Officer on the advice of the Commission has issued a new certificate to the teacher, and no school whether an aided school or not, in which a teacher whose certificate has been cancelled or suspended as aforesaid is employed shall be deemed to provide efficient elementary education.

Consequence of cancellation or suspension. [24 of 1942 1 of 1975]

EDUCATIONAL DISTRICTS

9. The Minister may by order declare that any portion of Guyana specified in the order shall form a district for educational purposes and that district shall be called an educational district.

Declaration of educational districts.

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

10. (1) For more effectually carrying out the provisions of this Act, one or more officers may be appointed for each educational district.

Appointment. [26 of 1949 24 of 1969]

- (2) The officers shall be called attendance officers and shall receive the salaries provided for them by Parliament.
- (3) Every member of the National Assembly, minister of religion, justice of the peace, education officer, school manager, certificated principal teacher of a school authorised in writing by the manager of his school, member of any municipal council or council of

LAWS OF GUYANA

10	Cap. 39:01	Education	
c. 28:01	a local government district established under the Municipal and District Councils Act or village council, district commissioner,		
c. 62:01		pointed under the State Lands Act or the Mining	
c. 65:01	Act, member of the police force, or person authorised by the Minister, shall have and may exercise all the rights, powers, privileges and functions vested in an attendance officer by this Act:		
	Provided that—		
	given to ar authorised or (b) nothing	re constable shall have and exercise the powers a attendance officer by section 15 unless rempowered as therein mentioned; and herein contained shall impose on any person specified the duties imposed on attendance ection 11.	
Duties of	11. It shall be the du	ity of each attendance officer—	
attendance officer. [24 of 1942]	 (a) to ascertain and report to the Chief Education Officer every parent of every child resident within his district who has failed or is omitting to cause his child to receive efficient elementary instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic; (b) to enforce the provisions of this Act, and to prosecute all those not complying therewith; and (c) generally, to follow the directions laid down for his guidance by the Chief Education Officer. 		
Attendance officer may enter premises at certain times and make inquiries. [6 of 1997]	enter any yard, house, o'clock in the morning	nce officer, or other authorised person, may building, or place, between the hours of six and five o'clock in the evening of any day in the nd there make inquiries as to any child there	
	(2) Everyone wh	20—	

(2) Everyone who—

- (a) hinders or obstructs an attendance officer or any other authorised person in the performance of his duty; or
- (b) wilfully makes any false representations to an attendance officer or any other authorised person with

respect to the age or employment of a child, whether that child is under the age of five years or not; or

(c) wilfully refuses to afford to an attendance officer or any other authorised person reasonably requiring it, any information that he possesses as to the age or employment of a child, whether the child is under the age of five years or not.

shall be liable to a fine of one thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars.

PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

13. It shall be the duty of the parent of every child to cause the child to receive efficient elementary instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and if a parent fails to perform that duty, he shall be liable to the orders and penalties provided by this Act.

Duty of parent to educate child.

14. (1) If the parent of a child habitually and without reasonable excuse omits to provide efficient elementary instruction for his child, an attendance officer or other authorised person may prefer a complaint against the parent before a magistrate; and the magistrate, if satisfied of the truth of the complaint, shall make an order that the child do attend some school named in the order, being either such as the parent selects, or, if he does not select any, such public elementary school as the magistrate considers expedient; and the child shall attend that school every time it is opened, or in any other regular manner specified in the order.

Proceedings against parent omitting to educate child.

- (2) Any of the following reasons shall be deemed a reasonable excuse:
 - (a) that there is not within two miles, measured according to the nearest road, from the residence of the child any aided school or government school open which the child can attend; or
 - (b) that the absence of the child from school has been caused by sickness or other unavoidable cause.

First Schedule, Form 1, Form 2.

- (3) Every complaint under this section may be in Form 1, and every order under this section may be in Form 2.
- (4) "Efficient elementary instruction" within the meaning of this section means the instruction prescribed by regulations made under this Part.

Proceedings with respect to child found habitually wandering or not under control.

- **15.** (1) If any child is found habitually wandering or not under proper control or in the company of rogues, vagabonds, disorderly persons, or reputed criminals, he may be taken into custody by an attendance officer or other authorised person, or by any police constable authorised by the Chief Education Officer to detain children so found, until a complaint can be preferred against him and he can be brought before a magistrate.
- (2) The magistrate shall inquire into the circumstances and may either make an order—
 - (a) that the child do attend some elementary school, other than an industrial school, named in the order; and in that case the school so named shall be either such as the parent may select, or if he does not select any public elementary school the magistrate considers expedient; or
 - (b) that the child shall be sent to an industrial school to be named in the order; or
 - (c) that the child shall be delivered to the parent.
- (3) When a child is taken into custody under this section, the person taking the child into custody shall, as soon as practicable, give notice of the detention to the parent, if the parent is known and can be found; and the parent may appear before the magistrate and shall have the same rights with respect to the complaint as if it were a civil proceeding and he was the defendant therein.

First Schedule, Form 3, Form 4.

(4) Every complaint under this section may be in Form 3, and every order under this section may be in Form 4.

- **16.** (1) Where, without any reasonable excuse within the meaning of this Act, an order for the attendance of a child at school is not obeyed, any magistrate, on the complaint of an attendance officer or other authorised person, may if he thinks fit, order as follows:
- Proceedings on disobedience of magistrate's order for attendance at school. [6 of 1997]
- (a) in the first case of non-compliance, if the parent of the child does not appear, or appears and fails to satisfy the magistrate that he has used all reasonable efforts to enforce compliance with the order, the magistrate may impose a fine of three hundred and ninety dollars; but if the parent satisfies the magistrate that he has used all reasonable efforts as aforesaid, the magistrate may, without inflicting a penalty, order the child to be sent to an industrial school; and
- (b) in a second or any subsequent case of non-compliance with the order, the magistrate may order the child to be sent to an industrial school; or he may for each non-compliance inflict any penalty aforesaid, without ordering the child to be sent to an industrial school:

Provided that a complaint under this section with respect to a continuing non-compliance shall not be repeated by the attendance officer or other authorised person at any less interval than two weeks.

(2) Every complaint under this section may be in Form 5, and every order under this section may be in Form 6.

First Schedule, Form 5, Form 6.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

17. No person shall take into his employment or employ any child who is under the age of fifteen years:

Restriction on employment of children. [19 of 1947 12 of 1999]

Provided that the service rendered by a child to its parents, being such service as is usually given by children to their parents, shall not constitute a breach of this section unless such service is rendered on a school day during school hours.

18. The manager of a plantation on which a child performs any work for the proprietors thereof shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be deemed to have taken the child into his employment.

Employer of child working on plantation.

Exemption of employer on proof of guilt of some other person.

- **19.** (1) Where the offence of taking a child into employment in contravention of this Act is in fact committed by an agent or workman of the employer, the agent or workman shall be liable to a penalty as if he were the employer.
- (2) Where an employer charged with taking a child into his employment in contravention of this Act proves that he has used due diligence to enforce the observance hereof, and either that some agent or workman of his employed the child without his knowledge or consent, or that the child was employed on the production by the parent of a forged or false certificate and under the belief in good faith in the genuineness and truth of that certificate, the employer shall be exempt from any penalty.
- (3) Where the employer satisfies the person inquiring into the matter that he is exempt under this section by reason of the guilt of some agent, workman, or parent, and gives all facilities in his power for proceeding against and convicting the agent, workman, or parent, the person inquiring into the matter shall institute proceedings against the agent, workman, or parent, and not against the employer.

Employment of child in contravention of the Act. [6 of 1997] First Schedule. Form 7.

- **20.** (1) Everyone who takes a child into his employment, or employs a child in contravention of this Act shall be liable to a fine of one thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars.
- (2) Every complaint for employing a child in contravention of this Act may be in Form 7.

Wilfully making false representation as to age of child.
[6 of 1997]

21. Everyone who—

- (a) wilfully makes any false representation as to the age of a child for the purpose of procuring the employment of that child in contravention of this Act; or
- (b) uses any false certificate knowing it to be false,

shall be liable to a fine of four thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars.

22. Sections 13 to 16 (inclusive) shall apply to children between the ages of six and fifteen.

Application of sectons 13 to 16. [24 of 1942] [12 of 1999]

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

23. Every child required to attend an industrial school or sent there by his parents may be detained by the teacher during the prescribed hours.

Teacher's power of detention over children.

24. (1) Every child attending an industrial school may be employed in the vicinity of the school during prescribed hours in agricultural pursuits on any plantation or lands or in any workshop:

Employment of children at industrial school.

Provided that the full value of any labour performed by a child after deducting the cost of the instruction and of the food (if any) supplied at the cost of the school to the child shall be paid to the parent of or secured for the child.

- (2) The amount that may be deducted for that cost shall be fixed by the Chief Education Officer.
- 25. Provision shall be made at every industrial school for allowing children who are only required to attend an elementary school for two and a half hours in the day to receive instruction in elementary education in the school without becoming subject to the industrial training thereat.

Provision for children required to attend school for part only of a day.

26. Every child ordered by a magistrate to be sent to an industrial school may be taken, at any time while the order continues in force, to the industrial school named in the order by an attendance officer or authorised person, or by anyone empowered in writing by an attendance officer or authorised person.

Execution of order requiring child to be sent to school.

SCHOOL FEES

27. No fees shall be charged at any school receiving a government grant in respect of elementary instruction given to any pupil.

No fees in certain cases. [24 of 1942]

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Establishment of government schools.

16

- 28. (1) If in any educational district the Minister on economical or other grounds so directs, the Chief Education Officer, as soon as the funds are provided for the purpose by Parliament, shall erect proper schoolhouses and establish and maintain sufficient schools in that district.
- (2) Those schools when established shall be called government schools.
- (3) When a government school has been established in an educational district, the Chief Education Officer may, at his discretion after fair notice, withdraw or withhold all government grants from any aided school within two miles of the government schoolhouse.

Certain aided schools to be deemed to be government schools. Second Schedule. [3 of 1961]

- **29.** (1) The Minister may by order declare that on a date to be specified in the order, being not less than one month after the date of the order, (hereinafter referred to as the "appointed date"), any aided school listed in the Second Schedule, shall for the purposes of control and management cease to be an aided school, and shall thereafter for the said purposes, notwithstanding this Act, be deemed to be a government school under section 29.
- (2) As soon as practicable after the making of the order under the preceding subsection a copy thereof shall be served on the governing body of the said aided school.
- (3) Where an aided school is deemed to be a government school by virtue of subsection (1), the governing body of such school and any other manager appointed by them shall, notwithstanding the other provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, cease to be recognized for the purposes of regulation 5 of the Education Code, and the said governing body and any such manager shall not thereafter be entitled to exercise any powers and perform any duties in relation to the control and management of the said school; and the Chief Education Officer shall thereupon be responsible for the control and management of the said school.

30. (1) Every governing body or manager of an aided school that is deemed to be a government school in pursuance of subsection (1) of section 29 shall, not later than one month after the appointed date or within such further period as the Chief Education Officer may allow, render to the Chief Education Officer an account for every grant made in connection with the control and management of the school since the last account was rendered.

Accountability for grants and handing over of records. [3 of 1961]

- (2) Every governing body or manager of an aided school that is deemed to be a government school as aforesaid, shall on the appointed date at the said school deliver or cause to be delivered to the Chief Education Officer or any person authorised by him to act on his behalf all records in their possession in connection with the management of the said school, and all furniture and other effects purchased out of funds made available by the Government.
- **31.** On and after the appointed date, any person shall have the right to enter into any aided school that is deemed to be a government school or upon any land on which it is situate, for any lawful purpose in connection with the activities of the school.

Right of access to school. [3 of 1961]

32. (1) Except with the permission in writing of the Minister, no person other than the Chief Education Officer, shall establish, maintain or manage any school or other place of education for the provision of nursery, elementary, secondary or further education, and any permission granted by the Minister shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Minister may deem fit to impose.

Provision of system of education. [6 of 1997]

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1), or breaches any term or condition imposed by the Minister pursuant to that subsection, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of sixty-five thousand dollars and to imprisonment for twelve months, and, in the case of a continuing offence, to an additional fine of six thousand five hundred dollars for every day during which the offence continues subsequent to the date to which the conviction relates.

Certain aided schools to become government schools. [6 of 1997]

- **33.** (1) On the date on which this section comes into operation (hereinafter in this section referred to as "the appointed date") every school which at any time during 1976 and prior to that date was an aided school shall thereupon be deemed to be a government school.
- (2) Where an aided school is deemed to be a government school by virtue of subsection (1)—
 - (a) the Chief Education Officer shall thereupon become responsible for the control and management of the school and section 31 shall apply in relation thereto;
 - (b) there shall be vested in the State, without further assurance—
 - (i) the schoolhouse,
 - (ii) such land appurtenant to any schoolhouse, as is described in an order made by the Minister under subsection (4), subject to such interests in or rights over such land used exclusively for public religious worship or any building used in connection therewith, as may be set out and described in the said order;
 - (iii) all records, furniture and other equipment, used in connection with and for the purpose of carrying on the school, notwithstanding any written law or rule of law.
- (3) The provisions of subsection (2) (b)(i)and (ii) shall, as the same apply to an aided school which is deemed to be a government school by virtue of subsection (1), apply *mutatis mutandis* on the appointed date in relation to every school in respect of which an order was made under section 29(1) prior to the appointed date.
- (4) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable, by order, prescribe the boundaries of any land appurtenant to a schoolhouse for the purposes of subsection (2) subject to any easements or other interests as may be specified in the order and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law the Registrar of Deeds shall take due notice thereof and shall make such annotations on the records as may be necessary to give effect to such order.

- (5) Where property has been vested in the State by virtue of subsection (2)(b), the Minister may, in such circumstances as he thinks just, pay compensation in such amount and in such manner as may be determined by him for any such property and any determination made by him under this subsection shall be final and conclusive and shall not be called in question in any court on the ground that the compensation is not adequate.
- (6) Every governing body or manager of an aided school that is deemed to be a government school by virtue of this section shall not later than one month after the appointed date or within such further period as may be allowed by the Chief Education Officer render to him an account for every government grant made in connection with the control and management of the school since the last account was rendered.
- (7) On the appointed date, or later with the approval of the Chief Education Officer, every governing body or manager aforesaid, or any person duly authorised by either of them, or any other person having the possession or control of the records, furniture and other equipment, used in connection with the carrying on of the aided school and vested in the State under subsection (2)(c) shall, at the said school deliver them or cause them to be delivered to the Chief Education Officer or any person authorised by him to act on his behalf.
- (8) On the appointed date, the provisions of any regulations made under this Act, in so far as they relate to aided schools and the governing bodies and managers thereof, shall, except for the purposes of subsection (6), or (7) or (11), cease to have effect and the regulations shall accordingly be construed and have effect with such adaptations, exceptions, modifications and qualifications, as may be necessary for the purpose.
- (9) For the purposes of this section, the expression "aided school" includes the schools known as the Christ Church Secondary School, the Stewartville Government School and the David Rose School for Handicapped Children.

- (10) The Minister may, by order which shall be subject to negative resolution of the National Assembly, extend the application of this section to any other school or place of education, whether or not in receipt of aid from moneys provided by Parliament, with such adaptations, exceptions, modifications and qualifications as the Minister considers necessary for the purpose and the order may, in addition, contain such incidental or consequential provisions as may be necessary for the purpose of giving full effect to the order.
- (11) If any person fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (6) or (7) he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars and imprisonment for six months.

PROOF OF AGE OF CHILD, ETC.

Power in certain cases to estimte age of child.

34. Where the age of a child is required to be ascertained in any judicial proceeding under this Act, the magistrate or judge having cognizance of the proceeding, if the child is produced before him, after considering any evidence adduced on the point and the appearance of the child, and in the absence of clear testimony to the contrary, may declare and note on the proceedings what in his opinion is the true age of the child, and that age for all purposes connected with that proceeding, shall be taken to be the true age of the child at that time.

Certificates of birth. [24 of 1942]

35. The Chief Education Officer, everyone authorised in writing by him, and every attendance officer, shall be entitled to obtain from the general register office, a certified copy of any entry in any register in that office with respect to the birth of a child.

School receiving government grant to be deemed efficient. [3 of 1961]

36. Every school receiving a government grant shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed an efficient school, and every parent who causes his child regularly to attend any school receiving a government grant shall, in all proceedings under this Act, be deemed to have performed his duty with respect to the elementary education of his child.

- **37.** In any proceedings before a magistrate for offences and penalties under this Act—
 - (a) the magistrate may by summons call upon any parent or employer of a child, required by this Act to attend school, to produce the child before him, and anyone failing without reasonable excuse to his satisfaction to comply with the summons shall be liable to a fine of nine hundred and seventy-five dollars;
 - (b) a certificate purporting to be under the hand of the principal teacher of an elementary school, stating that a child is or is not attending that school, or stating the particulars of the attendance of a child thereat, or stating that a child has been certified by the Chief Education Officer or an education officer to have reached a particular standard of education, shall be evidence of the facts stated in the certificate;
 - (c) where a child is apparently of the age alleged for the purposes of the proceeding, it shall lie on the defendant to prove that the child is not of that age;
 - (d) if a child is attending an elementary school which is not an aided school, it shall lie on the defendant to show that the school is efficient, and the magistrate in considering whether an elementary school is efficient, shall have regard to the age of the child and to the standard of education corresponding to that age prescribed by the education code for the time being in force;
 - (e) anyone may appear by a member of his family or any other person authorised by him in that behalf.

38. Everyone who—

- (a) forges or counterfeits; or
- (b) gives or signs knowing to be false in any particular; or
- (c) uses, knowing to be forged, counterfeit, or false,

Forgery of, and use of forged, certificate made evidence.

any certificate by this Act made evidence of any matter, shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for three months.

Regulations as to legal proceedings. [26 of 1949 6 of 1997]

LEGAL PROCEDURE

Procedure.

39. All penalties incurred under this Act may be sued for and recovered in a summary manner before a magistrate; and all orders which a magistrate is authorised to make under this Act shall be applied for, made, and enforced in the manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

Exemption from payment of fees for process.

40. No one whether complainant, plaintiff, or defendant, shall be required to pay any fees for process in a proceeding, other than those for the recovery of school fees, taken or had under this Act against the parent or employer of a child.

Power to grant warrant to examine place in certain cases.
[6 of 1997]

- **41.** (1) If it appears to a magistrate, on the complaint of an attendance officer or other authorised person, that there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is employed in contravention of this Act in any place, whether a building or not, the magistrate may, by order under his hand, empower an attendance officer, or other authorised person, or police officer, to enter that place, at any reasonable time within seven days from the date of the order, and to examine the place, and anyone found there, touching the employment of any child there.
- (2) Everyone who refuses admission to an officer authorised by order under this section, or obstructs him in the discharge of his duty when acting under this section, shall for each offence be liable to a fine of nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Power to amend Forms. [43 of 1956]

42. The Minister may by order amend the First Schedule.

PART II

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION

Constitution of National Council for Education. [43 of 1956 7 of 1963] **43.** (1) There shall be established a body to be known as "The National Council for Education" (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") consisting of a Chairman and not more than thirteen other members appointed by the Minister.

- (2) Subject to this section, every member of the Council shall hold office for such period as is specified in the instrument or other document appointing him, and he shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- (3) Seven members (including the Chairman or any other member acting as such) shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Council.
 - (4) If any member of the Council—
 - (a) departs from Guyana without the leave of the Minister; or
 - (b) remains out of Guyana after the expiration of his leave; or
 - (c) fails without reasonable excuse (the sufficiency whereof shall be determined by the Minister) to attend six consecutive meetings of the Council,

he shall cease to be a member of the Council.

- (5) The Chairman or a member of the Council may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Minister, but he shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- **44.** The Council shall advise the Minister upon matters relating to nursery, elementary, secondary, or further education, and may at any time make recommendations to the Minister in respect of such matters.

Functions of the Council. [9 of 1976]

45. An extraordinary meeting of the Council shall be summoned by the direction of the Minister or by the secretary on the written request of a majority of the members of the Council.

Extraordinary meetings of the Council.

46. Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Council may appoint a secretary at such salary and on such terms and conditions as the Council thinks fit, and the salary shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament for the purposes of education.

Appointment of Secretary.

Education

PART III

GENERAL

Regulations. [7 of 1963 1 of 1975 9 of 1976]

- **47.** (1) The Minister may from time to time make regulations generally for establishing and maintaining an efficient system of education throughout Guyana.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1), the Minister may make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:
 - (a) for securing the proper application and distribution of all moneys provided by Parliament for the purposes of education;
 - (b) for awarding scholarships or other awards or for withholding any such scholarship or award and for controlling persons holding such scholarships or awards;
 - (c) for the government and discipline of all schools of every kind maintained from moneys provided by Parliament.

FIRST SCHEDULE

FORMS

FORM 1

Complaint against parent for not educating child

GUYANA.

The complaint of an attendance officer or other authorised person, taken before me, the undersigned magistrate for the district, at in the county of this day of 19 who saith that residing at in the said county, being the parent, within the meaning of the Education Act, of the child named and which child is above the age

s. 14

of five years and under the age of twelve years, has, for the period of next before the date of this complaint, habitually and without reasonable excuse omitted to provide efficient elementary education for h said child, the said in contravention of the said Act; and thereupon he, the said educational district officer or other authorised person, makes application that the said may be dealt with according to law.

A.B.

Taken before me the day and year and in the place above mentioned.

(Signed)

C.D.

Magistrate

FORM 2 s. 14

Order on parent for attendance of child at school

GUYANA

County of

Be it remembered that on the day of 19 complaint was made before a magistrate for the on attendance district by officer, or other authorised person, that residing at in the county of being the parent, within the meaning of the Education Act, of the child named who is above the age of five years and under the age of twelve years, had, for the period of next before the said day of 19 , habitually and without reasonable excuse omitted to provide efficient elementary education for the said child, the said in contravention of the said Act, and that on the day of 19 at the court room, at in the said county of the matter of the said complaint was heard and investigated by the undersigned magistrate for the district; and now, being satisfied of the truth of that complaint, I do order that the said do cause the said child to attend the school at [here describe the school] being the school which the said

LAWS OF GUYANA

26	Cap. 39:01	Education	
	I have named] on [hatend school] in	ere specify how many da	arent has not selected any ys on which the child is to a that school shall be open
	Dated this	day of	19 , at
		(Signed)	
			C.D Magistrate
s. 15			
		FORM 3	
	Complain	t against child found hab	itually wandering
	GUYANA.		
	The complain	t of	an attendance officer, o
	other authorised p	erson, taken before me, tl	ne undersigned magistrate
	for the	district, at	in the county of
		this day of	
	who saith that		a child subject to the pro-
		cation Act, has, for the pe	
		this complaint, been four	
		•	g, [or not under prope vagabonds or disorderly
	persons or reputed		nstances of the case may
	require].		A.B
	Taken before mentioned.	me the day and year an	d at the place first above
	mentioned.	(Signed)	
		(Biglieu)	C.D
			Magistrate

Cap. 39:01

27

s. 15

FORM 4

Order under section 15

GUYANA.

Be it remembered that on the day of 19 at the court room in the county of in pursuance of the Education Act, I, magistrate for the district, do order that being a child subject to the provisions of section 15 of the said Act, do attend the public elementary school at being the school which the parent of the said child has selected [or which, as the parent of the said child has not selected any, I have named] for days in each week during which that school shall be open for hours on each of those days, [or be sent to the industrial school at or be delivered to his parent]. Dated this day of 19 (Signed) C.D.

Magistrate

s.16

FORM 5

Complaint for non-compliance with order of magistrate

GUYANA.

The complaint of an attendance officer or other authorised person, taken before me, the undersigned magistrate for the district, at in the county of this day of 19 , who saith that heretofore on the day of 19 an order was made by , magistrate for the district, that being the parent, within the meaning of the Education Act, of the child named

should cause the said child to attend, and that the said child should attend, the school at therein named, in the manner specified in the said order. and that the said now residing at in the county of has, for the period of next before the date of this complaint, failed, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the said order in contravention of the said Act, and thereupon he, the said attendance officer, or other authorised person, makes application that the said may be dealt with according to law.

A.B.

Taken before me the day and year and at the place abovementioned.

(Signed)

C.D. Magistrate

NOTE.—For a second or any subsequent case of non-compliance with an order made by a magistrate after the words "to comply with the said order, in contravention of the said Act," proceed as follows:—and further that he, the said heretofore, and before the period mentioned in this complaint, to wit, on the day of 19, was adjudged to have failed to comply with the said order without reasonable excuse.

FORM 6

Order under section 16

GUYANA.

Whereas on the complaint of an attendance officer, or other authorised person, it has been made to appear to me, the undersigned magistrate for the district, that without any reasonable excuse, the order made by magistrate for the district, requiring that residing at in the county of being the parent, within the meaning of the

s. 16

Education Act, of the child named should cause the child to attend, and that the child should attend, the school therein named at the times therein specified, has not been complied with; and whereas the said parent, the said has failed to satisfy me that he has used all reasonable efforts to enforce compliance with the said order, I, the said magistrate, do, this day of order the said 19 , at to pay to the said attendance officer, or other authorised person, the sum of and if the said sum is not paid forthwith [or on or before the day of next] I do order and adjudge the said to be imprisoned in the prison at in the said county, for the space of days, unless the said sum shall be sooner paid. Dated this 19 day of , at in the said county. (Signed)

> C.D. Magistrate

NOTE.—Where, in the first case of non-compliance, the magistrate orders the child to be sent to an industrial school, proceed from the words "has not been complied with" as follows:—and whereas the said parent, the said has satisfied me that he has used all reasonable efforts to enforce compliance with the said order, I, the said magistrate, under the provisions of the said Act, do this 19 day of , at in the county of order that the said and there detained shall be sent to the industrial school at until the , 19 day of

Where, in the second case of non-compliance, the magistrate orders the child to be sent to an industrial school, proceed from the words in the form "has not been complied with" as follows:—"and whereas the said has been previously adjudged to have failed, without reasonable excuse to comply with that order, I, the said magistrate," as in the last case.

s. 20

FORM 7

Complaint for employing child in contravention of the Act

GUYANA.

The complaint of taken before me, the undersigned magistrate for the district, at in the county of this day of 19 who saith that residing at in the said county, did on the day of 19 , take into his employment [or employ] at in the said county, one then being a child subject to the provisions of the Education Act, in contravention of the said Act.

A.B.

Taken before me this day and year and at the place abovementioned.

(Signed)

C.D.

Magistrate

s. 29 [3 of 1961]

SECOND SCHEDULE

NAME OF SCHOOL

St. Matthew's Anglican Providence Grove Anglican Supply Anglican St. Mary's Anglican Goed Fortuin St. Simon's Anglican La Bonne Intention Anglican Lusignan Anglican

St. Augustine's Anglican

Non Pariel Anglican

St. Mark's Anglican Paradise

St. Alban's Anglican

St. Gabriel's Anglican Bath Settlement Anglican

No. 59 Anglican

Leeds Anglican

Dartmouth Anglican (St. Barnabas)

Jacklow Anglican

Endeavour Anglican

St. Mary's Anglican Hackney

Kingston Methodist

Plaisance Methodist

Strath Campbell Methodist

Liberty Methodist

Christianburg Church of Scotland

Cornelia Ida Church of Scotland

Mahaica Church of Scotland

Belmont Church of Scotland

St. Columba's Church of Scotland

Manchester Church of Scotland

Good Hope Church of Scotland

Huis t'Dieren Church of Scotland

Malgretout Roman Catholic

St. Francis Roman Catholic

Santa Rosa Roman Catholic

Ramjit Canadian Mission

Hague Canadian Mission

MacGillivary Canadian Mission

John Gibson Canadian Mission

De Hoop Canadian Mission

Biaboo Canadian Mission

Novar Canadian Mission

Bohemia Canadian Mission

No. 56 Canadian Mission

Gibson Fisher Canadian Mission

Ridge Canadian Mission

Maryville Canadian Mission

Bethel Congregational

Ithaca Congregational

No. 5 Congregational