

What is a high School?

Paper Issued by the Educational Campaign Committee of South Carolina.

1. A high school is a school for boys and girls who have really mastered the common school branches of study, at least through the seventh grade, or seventh school year.

2. To enter a high school a pupil should have completed geography and grammar school arithmetic, and should have a good start in history and English grammar. A good start in algebra or Latin, if not in both, is desirable.

3. In high a school such subjects as advanced arithmetic, English grammar and composition, algebra, history, and Latin are met in the first year of the course of study.

4. A high school is a school for pupils who have reached at least their fourteenth year of age, and have been to school from fifty to seventy months, or have done an equivalent in study.

5. It is a school for pupils old enough and trained enough to begin to do some independent thinking in their studies.

6. A school in which the pupils are studying for the first time percentage in arithmetic, have recently begun formal English grammar, and are yet studying elementary history and common school geography, cannot in any sense be called a high school.

7. A school of forty pupils ranging from first reader to the beginning of algebra and Latin, is not a high school.

8. A school of young immature boys and girls studying three or four grammar school studies and just beginning one or two high school subjects, is not entitled to be called a high school.

9. Ten and twelve-year old pupils are not, as a rule, able to grapple with high school work.

10. A high school is a school in which the teachers have had training in some school of higher grade than a village or town graded school.

11. It is a school in which the teachers have mastered the subjects they offer to teach before they have classes in these subjects.

12. It is a school in which the course or courses of study are regularly laid down and systematically followed.

13. A school that has a class of beginners in Latin one year, two or three pupils in algebra the next year, and a pupil in geometry the third year, is not a high school, nor would it be correct to say that it has a high school department.

14. A high school is one in which the recitation periods are long enough to permit some systematic work. The State Board of Education rightly puts the minimum at forty minutes. High school work cannot be done in recitation periods of fifteen and twenty minutes.

15. A high school, like any other school, must have in it enough teachers to do the required work. For one teacher to

undertake to teach a three-year high school is absolutely impossible; for one teacher to undertake to teach a four-year high school is utterly absurd.

16. A standard high school offers four years of work to its pupils. However, a good three-year high school is better than an inferior four year course.

17. An efficient high school fully prepares its pupils to enter any of the regular courses in any college of standard grade, or it prepares those not going to college to enter some vocation with some degree of special fitness. A pupil well-prepared in a two year high school may enter some college course without conditions. That means that that college is doing high school work—either from necessity or from choice.

18. A good modern high school, in addition to full preparatory courses for college entrance, offers courses preparatory to entering industrial, commercial, and domestic life. The large majority of high school boys and girls will never go to college; these pupils need high school courses fitting them to enter life as much as the other pupils need courses fitting them for college.

19. A good modern high school must fit a few for college entrance and must fit all in some degree for vocational life and for good citizenship.

20. A high school with adequate range of courses of study will attract and hold the boys as well as the girls.

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"Not Catchin'."

A county school teacher is many times the recipient of some extremely amusing questions and replies from the pupils under her.

Preceding the following incident a diphtheria epidemic had been raging in a certain young lady's district, and although the authorities had success in getting it under control, they were still somewhat strict concerning illness in the neighborhood.

One of the rules laid down was that no pupil was to attend school, until after an examination had been made, if any one of the immediate family were taken ill.

However, one morning a little girl approached the young woman with the following:

"My ma she's sick this mornin', but she said I had to go to school jest the same."

"Why, you know you shouldn't have come," said the teacher, "until the doctor had reported the matter, so I shall have to send you home."

"Well," the child replied, "it's jest a new baby up to our house, anyway, and ma said she thought it wasn't catchin'."

It's needless to say that the child stayed.—O. D. S.

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