

2205

A PERSON HOLDING AN EXECUTIVE HEAD CERTIFICATION
MAY SERVE AS A PRINCIPAL OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
—§3319.22 (L), R.C.

SYLLABUS:

A person who holds an executive-head certificate pursuant to Section 3319.22 (L), Revised Code, may properly serve as a principal of an elementary school in a local school district.

Columbus, Ohio, May 24, 1961

Hon. E. E. Holt, Superintendent of Public Instruction
State Department of Education, Columbus 15, Ohio

Dear Sir:

I have before me your request for my opinion which request reads as follows:

“The question has been raised as to whether a person who holds an executive-head certificate may serve as principal of an elementary school. The problem becomes important in calculating salary allowance under Section 3317.052 of the Revised Code. I would appreciate your opinion as to whether the person in the above described situation is properly certificated.”

Certification of principals and executive-heads is authorized by Section 3319.22, Revised Code, which reads in part as follows :

“Teachers’ certificates of state-wide validity shall be issued pursuant to Sections 3319.22 to 3319.31, inclusive, of the Revised Code, or in accordance with standards, rules, and regulations authorized by law. The grades of certificates shall be designated as ‘temporary certificates,’ ‘provisional certificates,’ ‘professional certificates,’ and ‘permanent certificates.’ Each of such grades of certificates may be issued in each or any of the following types :

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“(E) Elementary principal, valid for teaching or supervision in the elementary schools ;

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“(L) Executive head, valid for teaching the subjects named in such certificate and for supervision and administration in a local school district.”

The authorization for a certificate for executive-head was added to this section in 1957. Prior to that time all executive-heads were principals who were denominated executive head by a local board of education. Section 3319.02, Revised Code, then read in part as follows :

“‘The board of each city, exempted village, and *local school district shall appoint principals for all high schools and for such other schools as the board designates.* Upon recommendation of the county superintendent, a local board may *designate a principal as executive head* who may be employed as such for a period of twelve months.’ ”

In 1957 the executive-head certification was recognized in Section 3319.02, Revised Code, which was amended to read as follows :

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“The board of each city, exempted villege, and local school district shall appoint principals for all high schools and for such other schools as the board designates. Upon recommendation of the county superintendent, a local board may employ a person of proper certification or a person holding or qualified to hold the position of executive head of a local school district on the effective date of this act, as executive head for a period not to exceed five years beginning with the first day of August and ending on the thirty-first day of July. * * *”

It does not necessarily follow, however, that the addition of executive head as a new type of certificate automatically prevents a person holding such a certificate from properly fulfilling the duties of a principal which he obviously could have done prior to the 1957 amendment. A close examination of those parts of Section 3319.22, Revised Code, quoted above, reveals that there is considerable overlapping in the duties of an elementary principal and an executive-head. Similar overlapping in analogous supervisory capacities was recently noted in my Informal Opinion No. 296, issued on April 13, 1961, wherein high school and elementary school principals were held to be authorized to supervise junior high schools. An elementary principal may supervise in the elementary schools. An executive head may supervise in a local school district. A local school district will necessarily include an elementary school for the elementary students residing in that local school district. Thus, the executive head will, among his other duties, be supervising an elementary school. This is what an elementary principal is also authorized to do. To this extent, therefore, it appears that both the elementary principal and the executive-head may properly perform the duties of supervising in the elementary schools in a local school district.

It is, therefore, my opinion and you are accordingly advised that a person who holds an executive-head certificate pursuant to Section 3319.22 (L), Revised Code, may properly serve as a principal of an elementary school in a local school district.

Respectfully,

MARK McELROY

Attorney General