

New Brunswick was passed in 1800, when the College of New Brunswick (a secondary school in disguise) was established and granted support. Five years later (1805) the Legislature made similar provisions (under another name) for St. John; and established the first parish schools—two being provided for each county and placed under the management of the justices of the sessions. Royal instructions to the first Governor directed that no one be employed as teacher unless he held a license from the Bishop of London or the Governor of the province. The year 1816 witnessed an enlargement of the plan of 1805 with a very important addition. Aid was to be granted to parish schools conditionally upon the inhabitants subscribing a proportionate amount. Further, authority was given to assess, should the inhabitants so decide; and trustees for the parish were to be appointed. The germ of the school district appears in the exemption from compulsory assessment granted to any one living more than three miles from the school. In 1829 the College was reorganized and further provision made for grammar schools; but higher education languished. The parish schools, however, multiplied and increased in usefulness. In 1833 the trustees were directed to divide the parishes into school districts; increased grants were made and hampering restrictions withdrawn; and two female schools (i.e., schools taught by women) were authorized for each parish. The tasks of examining and licensing teachers and of inspecting and supervising the schools became too great for the Governor-in-Council. In 1837 these matters were entrusted to boards of education appointed for each county. Ten years later these boards were superseded by a provincial board which was specially enjoined to make provision for the training of teachers and to select text-books. In 1852 a Superintendent of Education for the province was appointed.

The provincial allowances were at first unconditional grants, then (1816) conditional upon the locality's subscription. This was repeated in 1823, and in 1833 the grants were limited to the number of schools in the parish. In 1847 the allowance was granted according to the grade of license of the teacher, and in 1852 according to the sex of the teacher. A bonus of 25 per cent. (1852) or 10 per cent. (1858) was granted to districts