

The one-room school typically included first through 8th grades; ages and attendance varied widely, and class size ranged from less than half a dozen to 40 or more students. Boys and girls wrote on slates with chalk. Later on they used pens or charcoal to write with; many used homemade ink. Some students couldn't afford their own paper. If they lost a book, they would not get a new one. If students were bad, the teacher would whip them.

Some rules for teachers in the late 1800s were:

1. Teachers will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal each day
2. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
3. After school, teachers may read the Bible or other good books
4. Women teachers who marry or engage in improper conduct will be dismissed

5. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings if they go to church regularly
6. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his/her earnings for his/her benefit during his/her declining years so that he/she will not become a burden on society
7. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intent, integrity, and honesty
8. Female teachers may not wear face powder
9. Female teachers must wear a certain number of petticoats, and skirts cannot be more than two inches from the floor

