

## Administration of Schools in Ghana - Part 3

Dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity to wish every one of you a (slightly belated) Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

In June of 2022, I visited Ohio (unplanned, from your perspective -a gift that was given to me by a family friend), but the purpose of my trip was to share my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with those of you who have supported my ministry in Ghana. I stayed for only a month. During the visit I was invited to preach at First Lutheran Church, Lorain and at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church. The Sunday that I preached at First Lutheran Church was my actual birthday, and it was also the occasion (previously unknown to me) when Pastor Rosalina Rivera announced her acceptance of call to move on and resign from First Lutheran Church. It was a day of mixed emotions. I pray that the Lord will continue to prosper her ministry among the people of God in her new church.

### Concluding with Part 3

This will be the concluding part of the narration about the administration of schools in Ghana. I need to say that these articles should not to be assumed as the complete description of the operation of the system that manages education and related matters, but to be seen as an overview. These three articles are an attempt to bring up the subject so that the opportunity is afforded to you, who are very much in the USA management of schools - to see the necessary comparisons. I will now proceed with the narration about some of the Offices (Officers) in the GTS (Ghana Teaching Service), for the purpose of their relevance to the learning and teaching objectives in the Ministry (Secretariat) of Education and Youth (MEY), as handled by the teaching staff of the GTS.

### Teaching Staff

This is the category of personnel, whose main function is to teach and to help children acquire the relevant knowledge and skills to be able to be employable and independent as a result of education they receive. Below are the usual people who are found in the classroom. I am using the Akrampa School as the reference

situation. The Akrampa school, as a full-fledged school, with Crèche, through Kindergarten to Basic Six (6<sup>th</sup> Grade), has Nursery and Kindergarten Teachers. From Basic One (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) through Basic Six (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) we have *subject teachers*, meaning a teacher with specific role to play.

The headteacher plays a key functional role. The headteacher is always on standby to step in where a teacher is absent, or the need for a new/replacement classroom teacher arises. In the later situation, the district office will be informed to fill the place, as the headteacher manages the situation. The district office will scout for a replacement or activate an existing application placed in the office. Needless to say, to a large extent, any graduate from any of the government approved schools of education (teacher training colleges) get automatic appointment and placement into any Ghanaian public school. However, to teach in a tertiary institution, in Ghana, the individual must apply to be accepted. Those who wish to teach in the university must respond to an advertisement placed in the media, before he or she may be privileged to enter into a teaching position.

### Field Officers

These are individuals who work in the offices. Every one of them is a certified and professional teacher, whose main responsibility is to provide the necessary and adequate supervision and support to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom.

### Different categories of Field Officers:

1. Regional/District Directors, who provide administrative direction to the running and managing of schools in their jurisdiction.
2. Supervisors, who work with Circuit Officers in managing the schools directly.
3. Circuit Officers, who have demographic and territorial responsibility over schools in their domain. They conduct regular visits to the schools to observe teaching and learning in the classroom, check the teaching notes of teachers to make sure that the syllabus and curriculum is being applied and followed.

I hope that this effort will be illuminating, informative, and helpful in understanding the Ghanaian education system.

Pastor Ben Wilson