15,000 WPA Teachers Attend Summer Training Conferences.

Approximately 15,000 teachers on WPA educational projects will attend summer training conferences of three to five weeks duration between now and mid-September to learn to become better teachers and to improve their chances of being reabsorbed in the regular educational systems of the country, Dr. L. R. Alderman, Director of the Educational Division of WPA, announced today.

Those expected to attend are well over half the total number of teachers now employed by the WPA, Dr. Alderman said. Attendance is voluntary, and in the majority of instances each teacher will pay his own transportation and maintenance out of his slender project earnings.

The training conferences resemble the periodic "refresher" courses required of public school teachers in most states. They are being held in conjunction with universities and colleges and State departments of education, and in a number of cases, regular academic credits toward a degree or teaching certificate will be given for successful completion of the work.

"The purpose of the conferences," Dr. Alderman said, "is to afford our teachers an opportunity to freshen up and improve their own techniques. They become thereby not only more efficient workers in the emergency education program, but their chances of finding jobs in their local school systems are materially improved."
"WPA teachers present a wide range and variety of backgrounds, experience and education. Most of them were educated for teaching, and many have had long experience in public and private schools. Some are young people recently out of colleges, with good backgrounds, ambition and interest, but who have never been able to get regular teaching jobs. Still others are teachers of special subjects dropped from the schools in the economy cuts of depression years. And some are classified as teachers because of some special skill or experience such as craftsmen, homemakers, etc., outside of the teaching profession, but who need help in learning how to teach those skills to others.

"Both for effectiveness in their work on this program, and for rehabilitation looking toward reemployment on non-relief jobs, these teachers need further training."

The conferences are being held at colleges, universities and normal schools, and those attending live on the campuses. Courses are conducted by the WPA State supervisory staffs and members of the faculties of the cooperating colleges and universities. They are assisted frequently by experts from outside and by staff specialists from WPA Education Division headquarters in Washington.

"Workshop" methods rather than formal classroom lectures are employed at most conferences, Dr. Alderman said. Under such a system, actual classroom groups of children and adults are used for demonstration and practice, and teachers spend much of their time in "curriculum laboratories," preparing courses of study for use during the coming year. Principal emphasis is being given this year to nursery schools and the adult education program, with particular attention to the integration of the work into the normal life of the community.

"We are anxious," Dr. Alderman explained, "that this work be re-
garded not as an emergency or charitable activity but rather as an
integral part of the educational system in each community. The need
for such services is abundantly established and they should be
considered a permanent part of the nation's educational program.”

In several states training conferences already have been held.
Those currently under way or to be held later are listed below:

ALABAMA -- White adult education, August 1 to 11, University of
Alabama; Negro adult education, August 15 to 25, State Teachers
College, Montgomery; white nursery school, August 22 to 31,
Battles Wharf.

ARIZONA -- All groups, July 11 to August 12, State Teachers College,
Tempe.

ARKANSAS -- Six adult education and three nursery school conferences
in various districts, August 10 to 27.

CALIFORNIA (Northern) -- All groups, August 8 to 19, University of
California. Conferences for the southern half of the state
already have been held.

COLORADO -- All groups, August 29 to September 16, University of
Colorado.

FLORIDA -- Negro teachers, July 10 to 23, Bethune-Cookman College,
Daytona; white teachers, August 7 to 20, State College for
Women, Tallahassee.

GEORGIA -- White nursery school, July 23 to August 26, State College
for Women, Milledgeville; white adult education, July 25 to
August 6, Georgia Vocation and Trade School, Monroe; Negro adult
education, August 9 to 20, Industrial College for Negroes.
Savannah. Several other district conferences already have been held.

IDAHO -- All groups, August 1 to 27, University of Idaho (southern branch), Pocatello.

ILLINOIS -- Adult education, July 18 to 30, University of Illinois; nursery school, July 25 to August 6, Municipal College of Education, Evanston.

INDIANA -- Adult education, August 15 to September 2, Indiana University and Purdue University.

IOWA -- All groups, August 15 to September 3, Iowa State College, Ames.

KANSAS -- All groups, August 8 to 31, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

KENTUCKY -- White teachers, July 18 to August 5, University of Kentucky and Western State Teachers College; Negro teachers, August 8 to 26, Louisville Municipal College.

MICHIGAN -- Adult education, July 25 to August 19, University of Michigan.

MINNESOTA -- Adult education, northern section, July 25 to August 26, State Teachers College, Duluth; southern section, August 8 to 26, Minneapolis.

MISSISSIPPI -- White teachers, August 1 to 13, State College; Negro teachers, August 15 to 27, Jackson College.

MISSOURI -- Five district conferences at various locations from August 16 to September 10.

MONTANA -- All groups, August 15 to September 3, State College, Bozeman.

NEBRASKA -- All groups, July 18 to 29, University of Nebraska.

NEVADA -- Probably during early part of September, but exact dates and place not yet determined.
NEW YORK CITY -- September 6 to 8. Place not determined.

NORTH CAROLINA -- Negro adult education, July 11 to 22, Bricks Junior College, Enfield. A number of district conferences at various places and dates have been arranged for white teachers.

NORTH DAKOTA -- All groups, August 6 to 26, State Agricultural College.

OHIO -- Group No. 1, July 11 to 29, University of Akron; Group No. 2, August 8 to 26, State University, Columbus.

OREGON -- Three conferences each of three weeks duration, dates and places not determined.

OKLAHOMA -- Adult education, August 1 to 26, State A. and M. College, Stillwater; nursery schools, August 8 to 13, University of Oklahoma.

SOUTH CAROLINA -- White teachers of nursery schools, parent education and homemaking, July 5 to 30, University of South Carolina; white teachers adult education, July 18 to August 13, Furman University; Negro teachers, August 8 to September 3, Benedict College.

SOUTH DAKOTA -- All groups, August 15 to 26, Dakota Wesleyan University.

TENNESSEE -- Negro teachers, July 18 to August 5, A. and I. College, Nashville; white teachers, August 8 to 26, State Teachers College, Murfreesboro.

VERMONT -- All groups, August 2 to 5, University of Vermont.

VIRGINIA -- White supervisors, August 5 to 11, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Negro teachers, August 15 to 20, State College for Negroes; Petersburg.

WASHINGTON -- Three conferences, four weeks each, dates and places not determined.

WISCONSIN -- Nursery school, July 25 to August 5, Sparta; adult education, August 8 to 19, Madison.