

## Wage and Hour Division, Labor

## § 541.301

(b) In Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, the proviso of § 541.2(c) applies to those administrative employees other than an employee of the Federal Government who are compensated on a salary or fee basis or not less than \$260 per week beginning February 13, 1981 and \$285 per week beginning February 13, 1983.

### § 541.215 Elementary or secondary schools and other educational establishments and institutions.

To be considered for exemption as employed in the capacity of academic administrative personnel, the employment must be in connection with the operation of an elementary or secondary school system, an institution of higher education, or other educational establishment or institution. Sections 3(v) and 3(w) of the Act define elementary and secondary schools as those day or residential schools which provide elementary or secondary education, as determined under State law. Under the laws of most States, such education includes the curriculums in grades 1 through 12; under many it includes also the introductory programs in kindergarten. Such education in some States may include also nursery school programs in elementary education and junior college curriculums in secondary education. Education above the secondary school level is in any event included in the programs of institutions of higher education. Special schools for mentally or physically handicapped or gifted children are included among the educational establishments in which teachers and academic administrative personnel may qualify for the administrative exemption, regardless of any classification of such schools as elementary, secondary, or higher. Also, for purposes of the exemption, no distinction is drawn between public or private schools. Accordingly, the classification for other purposes of the school system, or educational establishment or institution, is ordinarily not a matter requiring consideration in a determination of whether the exemption applies. If the work is that of a teacher or academic personnel as defined in the regulations, in such an educational system, establishment, or institution, and if the other requirement of the regulations, are met, the level of instruction in-

involved and the status of the school as public or private or operated for profit or not for profit will not alter the availability of the exemption.

### EMPLOYEE EMPLOYED IN A BONA FIDE PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

### § 541.300 General.

The term “professional” is not restricted to the traditional professions of law, medicine, and theology. It includes those professions which have a recognized status and which are based on the acquirement of professional knowledge through prolonged study. It also includes the artistic professions, such as acting or music. Since the test of the bona fide professional capacity of such employment is different in character from the test for persons in the learned professions, an alternative test for such employees is contained in the regulations, in addition to the requirements common to both groups.

[38 FR 11390, May 7, 1973. Redesignated at 57 FR 46744, Oct. 9, 1992.]

### § 541.301 Learned professions.

(a) The “learned” professions are described in § 541.3(a)(1) as those requiring knowledge of an advanced type in a field of science or learning customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction and study as distinguished from a general academic education and from an apprenticeship and from training in the performance of routine mental, manual, or physical processes.

(b) The first element in the requirement is that the knowledge be of an advanced type. Thus, generally speaking, it must be knowledge which cannot be attained at the high school level.

(c) Second, it must be knowledge in a field of science or learning. This serves to distinguish the professions from the mechanical arts where in some instances the knowledge is of a fairly advanced type, but not in a field of science or learning.

(d) The requisite knowledge, in the third place, must be customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction and study. Here it should be noted that the word “customarily” has been used to meet a