PETER THE GREAT

Decree on Compulsory Education of the Russian Nobility – January 12 1714

Send to every region some persons from mathematical schools to teach the children of the nobility – except those of the freeholders and government clerks --- mathematics and geometry; as a penalty for evasion establish a rule that no one will be allowed to marry unless he learns these subjects. Inform all prelates to issue no marriage ceritificates to those ordered to go to schools…

The Great Sovereign has decreed: in all regions children between the ages of ten and fifteen of the nobility, of government clerks, and of lesser officials, except those of the freeholders, must be taught mathematics and some geometry. Toward that end, students should be sent from mathematical schools [as teachers], several into each region, to prelates and to renowned monasteries to establish schools. During their instruction these teachers should be given food and financial remuneration of three altyns and two dengas per day from regional revenues set aside for that purpose by personal orders of His majesty. No fees should be collected from students. When they have mastered the material, they should be given certificates written in their own handwriting. When students are released they ought to pay one ruble each for their training. Without these certificates they should not be allowed to marry nor received marriage certificates.