

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

The Office of Developmental Projects develops and coordinates systems and programs in the following functional areas: operating the "Maryland Professional Development Academy"; coordinating inservice professional development for LEA personnel offered by MSDE units or by LEAs where certification credit or state-managed funding is involved; identifying MSDE staff training needs and providing programs to meet these needs; managing the MSDE tuition reimbursement program; revising as necessary and coordinating the Agency Performance Plan (APP) and the related Staff Development and Performance Report (SDPR); providing liaison with the State Executive Planning Process; coordinating and monitoring MSDE research and evaluation efforts; locating external funding to support MSDE priority programs; providing staff support and coordination for the projects and activities of the Education Coordinating Committee; and developing and improving the MSDE capacity for dissemination of information regarding quality instructional and administrative practices.

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Division of Special Education is responsible for the overall administration, management, and budgetary development of State and Federal programs for handicapped children and youth. The Division assists local education agencies in providing appropriate educational programs for all handicapped children and youth in Maryland in compliance with State and Federal mandates. It is the responsibility of the Division to insure compliance with State and Federal legislation that mandate service be provided for all handicapped children. The Division offers assistance to parents seeking a free, appropriate, special education for their handicapped children, and cooperates and collaborates with other State agencies in order to provide a comprehensive service network to handicapped children.

The Division provides programmatic assistance to LEAs in such areas as individual educational plans, non-discriminatory testing, early childhood programs, personnel development, and program evaluation. The Division also supervises educational programs and services in approved nonpublic and State institutions and the administration of assessment of children having profound or complex handicaps.

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is responsible for the supervision of a program of direct services to handicapped persons; the development of a Statewide plan to provide rehabilitation services to all the State's handicapped citizens; and the implementation of plans for establishing, staffing, and supervising workshops and rehabilitation facilities.

The Division offers services at regional and local offices located strategically throughout the State. The primary purpose is to provide diagnostic counseling, physical restoration, training, and placement services for every Maryland resident with a vocational handicap resulting from disability.

The Division is also directly responsible for the administration and operation of the Maryland Rehabilitation Center, a multi-million dollar facility in which eligible handicapped persons may undergo a comprehensive program of evaluation, counseling, and training while residing on the premises.

Consultative services are available to workshops and facilities that may be used for federally-funded programs.

The Division's professional personnel also work with community organizations in developing research and demonstration projects designed to improve services to handicapped persons.

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Division of Vocational Technical Education is responsible for the administration, supervision, and evaluation of Vocational-Technical Education in the State. In carrying out this responsibility, the Division provides leadership and assistance to educational and related agencies, institutions, organizations, business, industry, and commerce in the planning, development, improvement, evaluation, and expansion of educational and training programs.

Programs administered by the Division are offered in both public and private institutions and are available to both school age and adult citizens of Maryland.