

Chapter 506 of the Acts of 1916 provides that the Governor shall appoint the members of the State Board of Education as follows: Before the first Monday in May, 1918, three members for terms of seven, six and five years; in 1920, two members for terms of six and seven years, and in 1922, two members for terms of six and seven years from the first Monday in May next succeeding their appointment, thus creating a Board, after 1922, of seven members, one appointed annually for a term of seven years from the first Monday in May, next succeeding the appointment. The Governor and State Superintendent of Schools are no longer members of this Board.

The State Board of Education selects a State Superintendent of Schools, and through him and his assistants, has general control of the Public School System of the State. The Board is a legislative body, and, as such, enacts by-laws and prescribes rules and regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of the school laws. These by-laws and rules include regulations for the construction of school buildings, for grading and standardizing all public schools, for the certification of public school teachers, for taking the bi-ennial school census, and for a uniform series of forms and blanks for the use of county superintendents, school officials and teachers.

The State Superintendent of Schools is the executive officer of the Board. The members of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools are *ex-officio* trustees of the State Normal Schools.

#### STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

The present position was created by the General Assembly of 1900. The principal of the Maryland State Normal School before that time (1872-1900) being *ex-officio* State Superintendent. The State Superintendent of Schools is appointed by the State Board of Education for a term of four years and is *ex-officio* secretary and treasurer of the Board.

He is the executive officer of the State Board of Education, which, in addition to having general control of the State School System, is charged with the duties of interpreting school laws and acting without expense to the parties concerned in all controversies and disputes involving the proper administration of the public school system. He carries out the educational policies of the State Board of Education. He conducts conferences of school officials and teachers, issues teachers' certificates, passes upon proposals for the sale of school sites and buildings, and the plans for the construction of new buildings. He directs the taking of the bi-ennial school census, prepares courses of study and an annual report. He also issues bulletins from time to time on the conditions and needs of the schools.

Either in person, or through his assistants, he has general supervision over the educational affairs of the counties, co-operates with county school officials in welding together school interests in a State system. He certifies to the Comptroller each year a list of schools entitled to receive State aid, and the amount due each county in part payment by the State of the salaries of superintendents, supervisors and attendance officers. He audits the accounts of the county boards of education and sees that their expenditures conform to the law.

The appointment of the county superintendents and supervisors and attendance officers is made by the county boards of education subject to the approval of the State Superintendent.

All communications pertaining to the supervision and administration of the State School System (Baltimore City not included) should be sent to him either as State Superintendent of Schools, or as secretary to the State Board of Education.