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Although a centralized administration of the Maryland public schools was attempted in 1865, the State Board of Education was not established until 1870. The Board, composed of seven members appointed by the Governor for terms of seven years, formulates policy governing education within the State and passes the by-laws and administrative regulations that govern the school system (Code 1951, Art. 77, secs. 2, 5, 14-19, 160).

The State Board of Education appoints the State Superintendent of Schools for a four-year term. He directs the State Department of Education, executes policy governing the school system, and enforces the administrative regulations adopted by the Board (Code 1951, Art. 77, secs. 33-35). The State Department of Education is composed of the State Superintendent of Schools and the professional staff employed by the Board to assist him in the supervision and direction of the Maryland public schools. The Department has six divisions, each with its specific duties to perform.

Division of Instruction

The Division of Instruction provides leadership in planning and supervising educational programs for young people and adults in the public schools of the State. It also plans programs for, and assists with the education of, the handicapped. Specific aids provided for teachers and pupils include courses of study cooperatively planned, certain types of visual aids, and workshop and consultant service (Code 1951, Art. 77, secs. 21, 36-38, 234-35).

Division of Vocational Education

The Division of Vocational Education supervises the vocational curricula of the public schools: home economics, agriculture, and industrial arts. In addition, the Division renders educational services to industry. The Federal funds granted to the State for these purposes are allocated through the Division (Code 1951, Art. 77, secs. 275-78).

Division of Finance and Research

The finance section of this Division prepares, and within the Department administers, the annual State public school budget. It maintains budget and accounting records and distributes funds made available to the local school system by the State and Federal governments. In addition, this unit provides auditing services and fiscal advice to the State teachers colleges.

The research section compiles all statistical records necessary for the efficient administration of the public school system. These records are used to prepare the Annual Report of the State Depart-