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A centralized administration of the Maryland public schools was attempted in 1865, but the General Assembly did not establish the State Board of Education until 1870 (Ch. 311, Acts of 1870). The Board, composed of seven members appointed by the Governor for staggered seven-year terms, makes policy for the public school system and passes the by-laws and regulations that govern it (Code 1957, Art. 77, secs. 2, 5, 19-24, 27, 29, 32, 35).

The State Board of Education appoints the State Superintendent of Schools for a four-year term. He directs the State Department of Education and executes the policy and enforces the regulations adopted by the Board (Code 1957, Art. 77, secs. 37-39). The State Department of Education consists of the State Superintendent of Schools and the professional staff employed by the Board to assist him. The Department has seven divisions (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 77, secs. 45, 46).

Division of Instruction

The Division of Instruction provides leadership in planning and supervising education for children and adults in the public schools of the State. Among the specific aids it supplies are curriculum materials which it plans in cooperation with teachers, certain types of visual aids, and workshop and consultant service. It maintains a curriculum center. It also plans programs for the handicapped and assists with their education. This division is also responsible for the administration of programs under Titles III and V-A of the National Defense Education Act (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 77, secs. 26-42, 241-242).

Division of Vocational Education

The Division of Vocational Education provides leadership in planning and supervising the vocational curricula in the public schools in the areas of agriculture, distributive education, home economics, technical education, health occupations, trades and industry, business and office education, as well as in the nonvocational program of industrial arts. This Division also administers the training programs authorized under the Manpower Development and Training Act and the Area Redevelopment Act and coordinates the activities of the Maryland State Apprenticeship Council. The Federal funds granted to the State for these purposes are allocated through the Division (Code 1957, Art. 77, secs. 285-288).

Division of Research and Development

The Division of Research and Development compiles all statistical records necessary for the efficient administration of the public school system. These records provide a guide to the services rendered by the Department in planning, construction, staffing, and supervision. Statistical studies are provided as they are requested by the State Board of Education or the State Superintendent of Schools. In addition, it