

Division of Certification and Accreditation

The Division of Certification and Accreditation accredits all Maryland schools and colleges, public and private. The Division issues teacher certificates to the professional and academic staffs of the public and private institutions below college level. It licenses and inspects Maryland trade, vocational and hospital nursing schools and administers the testing program for the issuance of high school equivalence certificates. The Division also performs the staff work necessary to carry out the legal responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools in the field of higher education. Among these activities are: (a) the development of standards for the accreditation of two-year and four-year colleges and for the approval of institutions to offer teacher education programs; (b) leadership in the improvement of teacher education programs; (c) consultant services to institutions of higher education and to local groups interested in the establishment of college-level programs; and (d) leadership in the development of broad programs in the public community colleges (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., Art. 77, secs. 24, 25, 30, 31, 41, 99-107, 300, 304, and 310-318).

Division of Federal-State Programs

The Division of Federal-State Programs was created in the 1966 fiscal year as that component of the State Department of Education in which the rapidly growing number of Federal assistance programs could be more effectively coordinated. Public Law 89-10, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, provided the major stimulus to formation of the new Division and the Title I and Title III programs of that Act created immediate and strenuous demands which consumed the major portion of the Division's limited resources in its initial year.

The various Federal aid programs currently operative or anticipated are categorical in design and implementation, ranging over many different aspects of the State's total educational program. Consequently, it follows that their effectiveness is dependent to a large degree upon how well the Department can bring to bear upon each program the professional skills represented on the total staff. The Division of Federal-State Programs has among its responsibilities the following: (1) to be a center of information regarding Federal programs, serving the Department and the local school systems in this fashion as well as being the primary point of contact for Federal agencies; (2) to assist the Department, local school systems, and other interested agencies in achieving more effectively coordinated implementation of Federal programs; (3) to serve as a processing center in the administration of the various Federal programs, deriving guidance and direction for such activities from policies formulated for this purpose by the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent, and the several Departmental divisions; (4) to serve as a center for the preparation and dissemination of reports and related information regarding Federal programs operating in the State, a charge being recognized increasingly in the legislation (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., 1967 Supp., Art. 77, secs. 32, 217).

Division of Instructional Television

Maryland State Department of Education's newest division—that of Instructional Television—will be responsible for in-school telecasting over the State network, the first phase of which will be in operation by late 1969. During this past year, the Division of Instructional Television has served as an advisory and informative agency to school and community groups interested in instructional television as