

tributes the results, and prepares an evaluation report which considers the effectiveness of vocational education programs, services and activities carried out in the year as set forth in the State's Long Range Program Plan and Annual Program Plan. The Council also advises the State Board for Community Colleges with regard to vocational-technical programs, services and activities and serves in an advisory function to the implementation of the 1963 Vocational Education Act as amended, and to advise the State Board of Education on the development of policy matters arising in the administration of the State Plan (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1971 Supp., Art. 41, secs. 409A-409H).

#### **Division of Vocational-Technical Education**

The Division of Vocational-Technical 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. Adult vocational education, teacher training programs, and industrial training are also administered by this Division. The Federal funds granted to the State for these purposes are allocated through the Division (Code 1957, 1970 Repl. Vol., Art. 77, secs. 125 and 133).

#### **Division of Research, Evaluation, and Information Systems**

The fundamental purpose of the Division of Research, Evaluation, and Information Systems is the improvement of the public educational enterprise by the application of modern techniques in the collection, analysis, and utilization of experimental and operational statistics and information. The Division provides services for and works cooperatively with the other divisions of the State Department of Education, the local school systems, the University of Maryland, the Federal Government, professional associations, and other interested organizations and individuals. Services include assistance in defining areas of investigation, identifying relevant data, designing appropriate data-gathering instruments and procedures, and processing, analyzing, and interpreting data. On the basis of the findings, existing practices may be evaluated and programs for educational improvement may be implemented. The Division maintains a bank of educational data which may be drawn upon in connection with these services. The specific services performed by the Division depend upon the special needs of the recipient, as well as the resources of the Division.

The work of the Division falls into five general categories. Regardless of category, there is overlapping cooperation and responsibility among the staff members. The following are the major functions of the Division: automatic data processing, information systems, research, statistical services, and vocational education research (Code 1957, 1970 Repl. Vol., 1970 Supp., Art. 77, sec. 20).

#### **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 awarding of high school diplomas issued by the State Department of Education. The Division