

DIVISION OF CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

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The Division of Certification and Accreditation both regulates and administers functions relating to the certification of teachers and the accreditation of nonpublic schools. Its four branches include Teacher Education and Certification, Staff Development, Nonpublic Schools Accreditation, and General Education Development.

The Division issues certificates to teachers in public, nonpublic, and independent schools and in various institutions of the State. It interprets certification standards and administers interstate reciprocity in certification of teachers. The Division also provides an advisory and consultative service on school staffing.

Teacher education programs offered by State colleges and universities are evaluated by the Division, which provides consultative services for improving such programs.

The Division interprets and implements State statute and State Board of Education bylaws relating to the approval of all levels of nonpublic education from nursery school through secondary school. Certificates of approval are issued to approved schools.

The Division administers the General Education Development (GED) testing program that leads to the attainment of the Maryland high school diploma. It also administers the Maryland Professional Development Academy and internal staff development programs.

DIVISION OF COMPENSATORY, URBAN AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS

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The Division of Compensatory, Urban and Supplementary Programs administers and supervises federal and State programs designed to improve the education of economically and socially deprived children. The Division coordinates the State leadership and administrative responsibilities of these programs so as to provide maximum support and supplementary services to Maryland's local school systems.

The array of federal educational programs requires coordination at the State level to ensure that these supplementary services achieve legislative intent and benefit the school children of Maryland to the greatest degree. To carry out this work, the Division is organized into three branches: Compensatory Education, Migrant Education, and Pupil Services.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

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The Division of Instruction develops policy guidelines for elementary and secondary school programs and services and recommends these guidelines to the State Superintendent. The guidelines include curriculum and adult continuing education in all public schools and State agency educational programs. The Division evaluates education programs to include the accountability program; ensures the implementation of policies, guidelines, programs, and services through staff development, program audits, and supervision; and offers conferences for county school personnel on matters relating to curriculum content, needs, and improvements of schools. The Division prepares and publishes pamphlets to stimulate public interest, promote the work of education, and foster professional insight and efficiency in teachers. It also cooperates with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs.

The Division consists of four branches: Language and Learning Improvement, General Curriculum, Adult and Community Education, and Program Assessment.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION

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The Division of Instructional Television provides innovative and timely instruction via television, media services, and computer technology. Its three branches include Video Services, Instructional and Information Services, and Instructional Technology Services.