
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

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The Division of Instruction was formed in 1945, although its earliest functions have been carried out by the State Department of Education since 1920. The Division formulates instructional guidelines for elementary and secondary schools and recommends these guidelines to the State Superintendent of Schools. Guidelines cover curriculum and adult continuing education in public schools and State agency educational programs. The Division evaluates education programs for compliance with the accountability program; trains staff; audits programs; and sponsors conferences on curriculum for county school personnel. With the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Division also sets standards and guidelines for school health programs. In addition, the Division oversees two innovative educational programs: Competency-Based Education, and the Baltimore Chesapeake Outward Bound Program.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT & EARLY LEARNING BRANCH

Jo Anne Carter, *Chief* 333-2338

The Language Development and Early Learning Branch was created in 1989. The Branch designs, develops, and conducts programs for effective teaching to promote early learning and language development in children ages four through nine. Branch responsibilities include English/language arts programs, foreign languages, bilingual education, and prekindergarten programs.

ARTS & SCIENCES BRANCH

Maurice Howard, *Chief* 333-2307

Formed in 1989, the Arts and Sciences Branch designs, develops, tests, disseminates, and conducts programs for teaching the fine arts, health and safety, mathematics, physical education, environmental education, science, and social studies.

ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION BRANCH

Charles Talbert, *Chief* 333-2361

The Adult and Community Education Branch was established in 1980. The Branch designs, field-tests, and operates instructional programs for adults. Classes in basic skills are offered for enrichment or remediation in designated schools, both during and after regular school hours.

In addition, the Branch is responsible for educational services provided after school to students in school community centers. These programs for enrichment and recreation are administered at the local level, often by local parks and recreation departments.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION & INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT BRANCH

Robert Gabrys, *Chief* 333-2369

Organized in 1980, the Program Assessment, Evaluation and Instructional Support Branch develops and evaluates tests to assess student and school performance. Under the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program, the Branch is responsible for the Maryland Functional Testing in reading, mathematics, writing, and citizenship, which secondary students must pass in order to graduate. In May 1991, the Branch will initiate the first phase of a new performance assessment test at the 3rd, 5th, 8th and eventually 11th grade levels, designed to collect data for measuring school instructional improvement. Another assessment used by the Branch is based on Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills, 4th edition (CTBS-4), given to students in 3rd, 5th and 8th grades.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & PROGRAM ENRICHMENT BRANCH

Antoinette Favazza-Wiegand, *Chief* 333-2357

The School Improvement and Program Enrichment Branch was created as the Learning Improvement and Program Enrichment Branch in 1989. The Branch received its present name in 1990.

The Branch works with local boards of education to develop programs to improve school performance. Current programs concern early learning years, technology training, development of new assessment measures, instructional strategies to improve student learning, improvement plans for middle schools, and programs for high schools. The Branch coordinates, develops, field tests, implements, and evaluates school improvement models.

The Branch operates twelve Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students in grades four through twelve, helps local boards of education develop programs for gifted students, and oversees a grant program for local gifted and talented programs (Code Education Article, secs. 8-201 through 8-204). The Governor's Gifted and Talented Science and Math School Improvement Project is coordinated by the Branch.

Through the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the Branch oversees athletic rules and regulations, officials, and State tournaments.