

all handicapped children through State and federal funding in 1929; and build schools for baby boomers with the School Construction Loan Fund of 1949. Desegregation of Maryland schools began in 1955.

The basic foundations were laid in 1916 for the current State Department of Education, which became a cabinet-level department in 1976 (Chapter 539, Acts of 1976). The general care and supervision of public education are vested in the Department, consisting of the State Superintendent of Schools, appointed by the State Board of Education, and the professional staff employed by the Board to assist the Superintendent.

The State Board of Education sets policy for the public school system and enacts the bylaws and regulations that govern it (*Code Education Article, secs. 2-201 through 2-205*). The Board also considers and mediates disputes arising from the twenty-four local independent school districts in Maryland. The Board, often through the office of the State Superintendent of Schools, consults and advises county boards of education, county superintendents of schools and their staffs, principals, and teachers. Appointed by the Governor, the State Board of Education is composed of ten members. Nine are appointed to five-year terms, and a nonvoting student member serves a one-year term.

With the advice and counsel of the State Superintendent of Schools and the staff of the State Department of Education, the Board prescribes basic policy and guidelines for instruction in public schools. The Board, with the State Superintendent's advice and counsel, also sets the standards for certification of teachers and other professional personnel employed in Maryland schools and establishes high school graduation requirements. If local school districts do not comply with State standards, the Board and the State Superintendent are empowered to recommend the withholding of State funds from those districts.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Nancy S. Grasmick, Ph.D., *State Superintendent
of Schools*

200 West Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 333-2200

The State Board of Education appoints the State Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent directs the State Department of Education and executes the policy and enforces the regulations adopted by the Board. The Superintendent serves a four-year term (*Code Education Article, secs. 2-301 through 2-303*).

The State Superintendent of Schools serves on the Governor's Executive Council; the Governor's Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families; the State Coordinating Council (for residential placement of handicapped children) the Advisory Committee for Children, Youth, and Families; the Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy; the Governor's Advisory Board for Justice Assistance; the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee for Minority Affairs; the Governor's Volunteer Council; the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board; the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs; the State Use Industries Advisory Committee; the State Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission; the Education Coordinating Committee; the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission; and the Maryland Education Council. The Superintendent also chairs the Cabinet Council for Career and Technology Education; the Education Coordinating Council for Correctional

Institutions; and the Education Coordinating Council for State Hospital Centers.

The Department was reorganized in 1988 into three Bureaus: Educational Support; Educational Development; and Vocational Rehabilitation and Correctional Education. In 1990, divisions formerly within the Bureau of Educational Support were placed directly under the State Superintendent of Schools. The other two bureaus were disbanded in 1991. Now, directly under the State Superintendent of Schools are five divisions: Business Services; Planning, Results, and Information Management; Library Development and Services; Certification and Accreditation; and Rehabilitation Services. The Deputy State Superintendent for School Improvement oversees four additional divisions: Instruction; Compensatory Education and Support Services; Special Education; and Career Technology and Adult Learning.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL BLOCK GRANTS

Edwina L. Green, *Chairperson*

Staff: Janet Bagsby (410) 333-4395

The Advisory Committee for Educational Block Grants, formerly the Education Advisory Committee, was established by Executive Order in 1981. Pursuant to the federal Education Consolidation and Improvement Act of 1981, the Committee advises the State Department of Education on allocating federal funds for instructional improvement among eligible State education programs. It also advises the Department on how to plan, develop, support, implement, and evaluate these programs.

Committee members are appointed by the Governor for one-year terms. They represent public and