

through 9), the Branch designs, tests, and implements programs for effective teaching. The Language Development Section devises programs for English language arts, foreign languages, and bilingual education. The Early Learning Section provides technical assistance and monitors programs for primary education; school readiness assessment; parent involvement; child care for school children; and early identification of and intervention for children who begin kindergarten disadvantaged due to learning disabilities or socioeconomic factors.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES & STATE MEDIA SERVICES BRANCH

Gail C. Bailey, *Chief*
(410) 767-0448

The School Library Media Services and State Media Services Branch originated in 1968 as the Office of School Libraries and Instructional Materials Services. The Office reorganized as the School Library Media Services Section in 1970, became the School Library Media Services Branch in 1978 and received its present name in 1987. Formerly within the Division of Library Development and Services, the Branch joined the Division of Instruction and Staff Development in 1995.

The Branch helps public and private schools use school library media in print, audiovisual and electronic formats. The Branch also helps schools use electronic information technology in teaching. For Department staff, the State Media Center provides information and audiovisual services.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Gaye E. Brown, *Chief*
(410) 767-0381

The Staff Development Branch formed in 1981 within the Division of Certification and Accreditation. In 1994, the Branch became part of the Division of Instruction and Staff Development. The Branch oversees regional staff development centers serving the Eastern Shore, Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and western Maryland. It also is responsible for the Instructional Framework System; School Improvement Leadership Training, and Technical Assistance and Support Teams Training; and State-Aided Institutions Grants.

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Carol Ann Baglin, *Assistant State Superintendent
for Special Education*

200 West Baltimore St. (410) 767-0238
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Established in 1988, the Division of Special Education works with parents and local school systems to educate all children and youth with disabilities. The Division assists local school systems with early childhood programs, individual education plans, nondiscriminatory testing, personnel development, and program evaluation. It also supervises education in approved public and private institutions and assesses the educational needs of children with profound or complex disabilities.

Administering both State and federal programs for special education, the Division directs three branches: Nonpublic Schools; Program Administration and Support; and Program Development and Assistance.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH

Richard L. Gamble, Sr., *Chief*
(410) 767-0264

The Nonpublic Schools Branch began in 1978. Through the *Nonpublic Tuition Assistance Program*, the Branch partially reimburses local school systems for the cost of educating children with disabilities in private schools with programs that meet their special needs. The Branch ensures that the children are placed in regular classrooms or in programs that encourage their independence. To ensure compliance with State and federal regulations, the Branch monitors day and residential schools.

With the State Coordinating Council, the Branch reviews all residential placements of special education students in out-of-state private schools. It also cooperates with the Office of Children, Youth, and Families and other State agencies to expand community programs so that children with disabilities may return from out of state to regular classrooms in Maryland.

The Branch enforces due process regulations under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (P.L. 101-476). These regulations establish specific procedural safeguards for children and their parents to ensure that fair, reasonable and appropriate special programs are provided to them. In the placement of children with disabilities, the Branch monitors local hearing procedures and implements procedures for State hearings by the Office of Administrative Hearings. It also investigates and resolves complaints about special education placements in nonpublic schools and due process procedures.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT BRANCH

Jerry F. White, *Chief*
(410) 767-0249

The Program Administration and Support Branch was organized as the Program Administration and Evaluation Branch in 1978 and received its present name in 1992. The Branch works with local school systems to provide special education.