

ance officer shall be invalid without the written approval of the State Superintendent of Schools. And provided, further, that no attendance officer, appointed under the provisions of this section or continued in office under the provisions of this section, shall be paid an annual salary of less than twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200), and the State of Maryland shall pay, as hereinafter provided, out of the General State School Fund to the treasurer of the county board of education the entire annual salary of one attendance officer not to exceed twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200), provided that the county board of education shall provide suitable individual means of transportation for the attendance officer. County boards of education may pay an additional amount to the attendance officer, but the State shall not share in this additional payment. County boards of education are free to employ as many additional attendance officers as in their judgment are necessary, subject to the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools, but the State shall not share in the payment of their salaries. Provided that the State Board of Education in its discretion may excuse any county from employing an attendance officer and may designate the county superintendent of schools, the supervising teacher or the helping teacher to perform the duties of the attendance officer, and when so designated the amount allowed each county for such work shall be used for general school purposes.

(3) There shall be employed in each county at least one statistical and stenographic clerk.

(4) And such other clerical, statistical, and stenographic assistants and such other professional assistants, assistant superintendents, supervising teachers, helping teachers, attendance officers, medical inspectors and school nurses as the county board of education shall authorize; provided that no professional assistant shall be appointed who does not hold the appropriate certificate issued by the State Superintendent of Schools, and the appointment of no professional assistant shall be valid without the written approval of the State Superintendent of Schools.

The board of county commissioners of each county shall levy sufficient funds to meet the scale of salaries provided for in this section and shall not deny any part of the amount requested for any one school year by the county board of education to be raised by local taxation for the payment of the salaries of the professional and clerical assistants of the county