

the county board of education shall for any cause be unable to contract with the owner or owners thereof upon what they deem to be a fair valuation thereof, the county board of education may institute proceedings for the acquisition of such lands, in accordance with Article 33A of the Annotated Code and the Maryland Rules of Procedure. The county board of education may request the assistance of the county commissioners or county council in instituting condemnation proceedings.

52. Schools on or near line of two counties.

Schools on or near the dividing line of two counties shall be free to the children of each county; and the boards of education of the respective counties shall have power to provide jointly for the maintenance of said schools.

Should the two boards of education fail to agree in determining the support each should give to such school, the State Superintendent of Schools shall decide the matter.

53. Consolidation of schools.

The county board of education shall consolidate schools, wherever in its judgment it is practicable. The county board of education shall arrange for the transportation of pupils to and from such consolidated schools, subject to the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools.

54. Appointment and compensation of public school personnel.

The county board of education shall appoint, on the written recommendation of the county superintendent of schools, all principals, teachers, and all other certificated and noncertificated personnel, and fix their salaries, subject to the provisions of this Article.

55. Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study.

The county board of education, subject to the provisions of this Article, the bylaws, basic policies, and guidelines established by the State Board of Education, shall prescribe, on the written recommendation of the county superintendent of schools curriculum guides and courses of study including appropriate programs of instruction or training for mentally or physically handicapped children for the schools under their jurisdiction, and printed copies of these materials shall be supplied to teachers and to interested citizens.

56. School census and census of handicapped children.

The county board of education and the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City may cause to be taken, under the direction of the county superintendent of schools or the superintendent of public instruction of Baltimore City, a school census of the children under eighteen years of age, including a census of handicapped children both of school age and of preschool age. Whosoever has under his control a child under eighteen years of age and withholds the information in his possession from any officer demanding it, relating to the items aforesaid, or makes any false statement in regard to the same, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined not more than twenty dollars. Any data collected as to handicapped