

infusion of State funds will be focused on specific objectives to enhance the quality of education. Thus, both the importance and size of the 5-year State aid program make it essential to institute an accountability program.

The---General---Assembly---supports---the---goals---of---improving classroom instruction and student performance to enhance the quality of education. ---Within these broad goals, much latitude exists for local boards of education to establish their own goals and objectives for their own schools. ---For example, local boards of education may wish to use these funds to increase teacher salaries, to reduce class sizes, to expand remedial programs, to provide programs for children to learn English as a second language, to expand programs for disadvantaged children, to buy new textbooks, or to expand or initiate other programs to improve teaching and learning in the classrooms of the State.

In short, local decision-making in the accountability program will be matched with a statewide perspective. The outcome of this local effort will be reported and monitored, providing a comprehensive review of the improvements in education as a result of the new funding program; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

5-202.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) "Adjusted-assessed ASSESSED valuation of real property" means the most recent estimate made by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation before the annual State budget is submitted to the General Assembly, of the assessed value of real property for State purposes as of July 1 of the first completed fiscal year before the school year for which the calculation of State aid is made under this section.

[(ii) "Adjusted assessed valuation of real property for fiscal year 1982" means:

1. Properties identified as "Group I" by the Department of Assessments and Taxation to be included in the valuation of real property without adjustments; and

2. Properties identified as "Groups II and III" by the Department of Assessments and Taxation shall be converted to full value using an average of assessment to sales ratio data as of November 1, 1979, and November 1, 1980, pursuant to Article 81, § 232(14) of the Code; these properties shall then be adjusted to a percentage of full value equivalent to the