

He is the executive officer of the State Board of Education, which, in addition to having general control of the State School System, is charged with the duties of interpreting school laws and acting without expense to the parties concerned in all controversies and disputes involving the proper administration of the public school system. He carries out the educational policies of the State Board of Education. He conducts conferences of school officials and teachers, issues teachers' certificates, passes upon proposals for the sale of school sites and buildings, and the plans for the construction of new buildings. He directs the taking of the bi-ennial school census, prepares courses of study and an annual report. He also issues bulletins from time to time on the conditions and needs of the schools.

Either in person, or through his assistants, he has general supervision over the education affairs of the counties, co-operates with county school officials in welding together school interests in a State system. He certifies to the Comptroller each year a list of schools entitled to receive State aid, and the amount due each county in part payment by the State of the salaries of superintendents, supervisors and attendance officers. He audits the accounts of the county boards of education and sees that their expenditures conform to the law.

The appointment of the county superintendents and supervisors and attendance officers is made by the county boards of education subject to the approval of the State Superintendent.

All communications pertaining to the supervision and administration of the State School System (Baltimore City not included) should be sent to him either as State Superintendent of Schools, or as secretary to the State Board of Education.

Work of the State Department of Education.

The twenty-three counties of the State in 1925-26 enrolled in school 155,000 pupils in nearly 2,200 schools in charge of over 4,700 teachers. Nearly 20,000 of these pupils were in the 167 high schools distributed in the twenty-three counties of the State. In the same year the counties expended on schools approximately \$7,150,000 for current expenses and \$2,600,000 for capital outlay. Of the former amount, nearly \$2,250,000, or 31.5 per cent, was received by the twenty-three counties from the State of Maryland and the federal vocational fund. Baltimore City received over \$1,000,000 from the State school funds.

High school enrollment and attendance in the counties increased last year approximately eight per cent, necessitating fifty additions to the teaching staff. The larger amount of State aid provided annually merely takes care of this necessary and normal increase required by greater enrollment.

There were 8,653 graduates from county white elementary schools and 2,619 from county white high schools in 1926. Of the white girl graduates from county high schools, 19.8 per cent entered the Towson, Frostburg, and Salisbury Normal Schools. These normal schools had an enrollment for 1926-27 of over 1,100 students. This enrollment includes 275 from Baltimore City, since the State Normal School at Towson has taken over the work of teacher training for the elementary schools of Baltimore City.

Nearly one-half of the high school graduates of 1925 continued their education beyond high school in colleges, universities, normal schools, hospitals, commercial schools, etc.

Towson, Frostburg, and Salisbury Normal Schools gave diplomas in 1926 to 540 young men and women, of whom 214 were from Baltimore City. Of the county normal school graduates, 63 per cent. went out to teach in one and two-teacher schools in the fall of 1926. Two-thirds of the county graduates returned to teach in their home counties.