

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.

#### Work of the State Department of Education.

The twenty-three counties of the State in 1943-44 enrolled nearly 180,500 pupils in 1,011 public elementary and secondary schools in charge of 5,297 teachers. Nearly 42,800 of these pupils were in the last four years of work of the 174 high schools distributed over twenty-three counties. In 1943-44 the counties expended on current expenses of public schools approximately \$14,165,000 from public funds, of which \$6,376,000 or over 46 per cent, was received by the twenty-three counties from the State of Maryland and Federal vocational funds. Baltimore City received \$1,709,000 from State and Federal school funds for the maintenance of schools and in addition \$603,000 from State funds toward the City retirement system on account of teachers. For the Maryland Teachers' Retirement System, State aid of \$710,650 was received for administration and as the State's aid toward the contributions of county teachers and teachers in several State institutions.

There were 12,142 graduates from county white elementary schools and 6,532 from county white high schools in 1944. Only 1,011, 13.7 per cent of the white county high school graduates of 1943, continued their education beyond high school in 1943-44 in colleges, universities, commercial schools, and similar higher institutions. Hospital training took 255 or nearly seven per cent of the girls who graduated in 1943, a much larger number and per cent than was ever reported before. Of the white girl graduates from county high schools in 1944 only 74, less than two per cent, entered the Towson, Frostburg, and Salisbury Teachers Colleges. The three teachers colleges for white students had an enrollment in the fall of 1944 of 423 students which included 103 enrolled from Baltimore City at Towson. As one means of attracting more students to the teachers colleges, the 1945 legislature eliminated annual tuition fees of \$100 which have been charged the white students at the teachers colleges since 1934.

Towson, Frostburg, Salisbury, and Bowie Teachers Colleges offer a four-year course to students preparing to teach in the elementary schools. Through the training of the teachers colleges, which until 1935 were normal schools, it has been possible to fill 98 per cent of the positions in county elementary schools with teachers who have had from two to four years of professional training. The financially poorer counties have been able to finance the higher salaries for these trained teachers through aid from the State Equalization Fund.

Any county which could not carry the minimum requirements of the State program on a county school current expense tax rate of 67 cents plus other forms of State aid received the additional amount necessary through the State Equalization Fund from 1923 to 1933. As a result of legislation in 1933, the 67-cent county school current expense tax rate required of counties sharing in the Equalization Fund was reduced to 47 cents during the period from 1934 to 1939. In accordance with the legislation of 1939 enacted to take care of the requirements of the new minimum salary schedule for teachers based on preparation

\*Includes eighth grade promotions in junior high schools.