

Division of Research and Development

The fundamental purpose of the Division of Research and Development is the improvement of the public educational enterprise by the application of modern techniques in the collection, analysis, and utilization of experimental and operational statistics and information. The Division provides services for and works cooperatively with the other divisions of the State Department of Education, the local school systems, the University of Maryland, the Federal Government, professional associations, and other interested organizations and individuals. Services include assistance in defining areas of investigation, identifying relevant data, designing appropriate data-gathering instruments and procedures, and processing, analyzing, and interpreting data. On the basis of the findings, existing practices may be evaluated and programs for educational improvement may be implemented. The Division maintains a bank of educational data which may be drawn upon in connection with these services. The specific services performed by the Division depend upon the special needs of the recipient, as well as the resources of the Division.

The work of the Division falls into five general categories. Regardless of category, there is overlapping cooperation and responsibility among the staff members. The following are the major functions of the Division: automatic data processing, development, research, statistical services, and vocational education research (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., 1969 Supp., Art. 77, sec. 20).

Division of Certification and Accreditation

The Division of Certification and Accreditation accredits all Maryland schools and colleges, public and private. The Division issues teacher certificates to the professional and academic staffs of the public and private institutions below college level. It licenses and inspects Maryland trade, vocational and hospital nursing schools and administers the testing program for the issuance of high school equivalence certificates. The Division also performs the staff work necessary to carry out the legal responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools in the field of higher education. Among these activities are: (a) the development of standards for the accreditation of two-year and four-year colleges and for the approval of institutions to offer teacher education programs; (b) leadership in the improvement of teacher education programs; (c) consultant services to institutions of higher education and to local groups interested in the establishment of college-level programs; and (d) leadership in the development of broad programs in the public community colleges (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., 1969 Supp., Art. 77, secs. 11, 12, 14, 18, 27, 107-114, 151-159; Art. 77A, secs. 1-10).

Division of Federal-State Programs

The Division of Federal-State Programs was created in the 1966 fiscal year as that component of the State Department of Education in which the rapidly growing number of Federal assistance programs could be more effectively coordinated. Public Law 89-10, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, provided the major stimulus to formation of the new Division and the Title I and Title III programs of that Act created immediate and strenuous demands which consumed the major portion of the Division's limited resources in its initial year.

The various Federal aid programs currently operative or anticipated are categorical in design and implementation, ranging over many different aspects of the State's total educational program. Conse-