

It also helps prepare federal, State and local plans, programs, and budgets for special education. For children with disabilities, the Branch monitors local programs and coordinates training for their parents. The Branch also oversees the Principals' Academy, which consists of professional development institutes sponsored by the Division.

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
& ASSISTANCE BRANCH**

Lucy A. Hession, *Chief*  
(410) 767-0242

Formed in 1978, the Program Development and Assistance Branch is responsible for the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development. Under the System, the Branch trains, technically aids, and advises local school systems and State programs

on promising educational practices in special education. It also develops print and video materials for them. In addition, the Branch trains the hearing officers from the Office of Administrative Hearings who hear disputes between parents and local school systems over placement of children with disabilities.

The Branch works on projects concerned with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired, or both deaf and blind; and early childhood and transitioning. Through the American Printing House for the Blind, for example, the Branch administers the federally funded quota system for educational materials for visually impaired students. The Branch also implements initiatives on the Least Restrictive Environment, the Seriously Emotionally Disturbed, and Learning Disabilities.

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**DEFUNCT DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR  
EDUCATIONAL BLOCK GRANTS**

Abolished in 1994 when it no longer was required by federal law (Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382).

**CAREER & EMPLOYABILITY DEVELOPMENT  
BRANCH**

Under the Division of Compensatory Education and Support Services, renamed Family Involvement and Dropout Intervention Branch in 1995.

**CAREER & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BRANCH**

Under the Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, reorganized in 1995 as the Career Connection Branch.

**COMMITTEE ON  
OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN STANDARDS**

JoAnne L. Carter, *Co-Chair*  
Carol Ann Baglin, *Co-Chair*

(410) 767-0275

*Appointed by Governor upon recommendation of State Superintendent of Schools: Patricia Foerster; Polly B. Harrison, M.D.; Estella Ingram.*

At the request of the General Assembly, the Committee on Opportunity to Learn Standards was formed in 1994 by the Department as part of the *Schools for Success and Goals 2000 Program* (Joint Resolution no. 9, Acts of 1994). In December 1995, the Committee recommended Opportunity to Learn Standards, based on local school data, to the State Department of Education.

**COMPENSATORY & MIGRANT EDUCATION  
BRANCH**

Under the Division of Compensatory Education and Support Services, renamed Compensatory Education Branch in 1995.

**DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION**

In 1994, renamed the Division of Instruction and Staff Development.

**DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

David E. Sumler, *Chair*  
Contact: Louise (Lu) Morrissey (410) 767-0301  
The Council last met in May 1995.

**PUPIL SERVICES & DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS  
BRANCH**

Under the Division of Compensatory Education and Support Services, renamed Pupil Services Branch in 1995.

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, PRODUCT  
& SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

In 1994, renamed School Performance: Research and Development.

**SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION SERVICES  
BRANCH**

Formerly under the Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, Branch functions were assumed by the Career Connection Branch in 1995.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT  
& PROGRAM ENRICHMENT BRANCH**

Under the Division of Instruction and Staff Development, Branch functions were reassigned in 1994 to the Arts and Sciences Branch.

**TEACHER EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION  
BRANCH**

Under the Division of Certification and Accreditation, renamed the Licensure Branch in 1994.