

7. *Seeking public interest in development of schools.*

*The State Board of Education shall exercise, through the State Superintendent of Schools and his professional assistants, general control and supervision over the public schools and educational interest of the State; and they shall consult with and advise, through the State Superintendent and his professional assistants, county boards of education, county superintendents and their staffs, principals, teachers, and interested citizens, and shall seek in every way to direct and develop public sentiment in support of public education.*

8. *Investigation of educational needs.*

*The State Board of Education shall conduct, with and on the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, investigations relating to the educational needs of the State and the means of improving educational conditions; they may employ additional expert assistance for such investigations if needed.*

9. *School construction.*

*(a) Standards and Guides.—The State Board of Education shall establish, upon the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Schools, standards of, and guides for, the planning and construction of school building projects. Such standards shall be used as the basis for reviewing plans and specifications submitted to the State Superintendent of Schools for approval.*

*(b) Planning Service.—The State Board of Education shall maintain a school construction planning service for the purpose of assistance in the developing and reviewing of the preliminary and final plans and specifications for any public school building project and the educational program which it is designed to house and for the purpose of advising boards of education as to the suitability of such construction plans on the basis of educational effectiveness, construction, and reasonable economy of costs.*

*(c) Collection and Distribution of Information.—The State Board of Education shall arrange for the collection, publication, and dissemination to the boards of education of information on school construction procedures, methods, and materials.*

10. *Ratio of Professional staff members to pupils.*

*The State Board of Education, from time to time, shall adopt by-laws, rules and regulations for the ratio of professional staff members to pupils enrolled in the elementary and high schools, or any combination of grades thereof, within the overall ratios fixed in Section ~~69~~ 68 of this Article.*

11. *Rules and regulations for approval and accreditation.*

*(a) The State Board of Education shall prescribe, with and on the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, bylaws, rules and regulations for approval and accreditation of all public schools.*

*(b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe the minimum requirements for issuing all certificates and diplomas, and academic, collegiate, professional, or university degrees. No public or private educational institution may issue any certificate or diploma or academic, collegiate, professional, or university degree without having*