

SHALL CONSULT WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONCERNED WITH AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL PRECLUDE A LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM DEVELOPING A PLAN WHICH EXCEEDS THE STATE STANDARDS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE REASONABLE ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN. THE LOCAL PLAN SHALL PROVIDE FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN FIVE YEARS ON AN ANNUAL PHASE-IN BASIS. EACH LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL SUBMIT ITS PLAN TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS WITHIN NINE MONTHS AFTER ADOPTION OF THE STANDARDS BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, WITH IMPLEMENTATION TO COMMENCE WITH THE SCHOOL YEAR NEXT FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF THE PLAN. "LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION," AS USED IN THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDES THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY, AND "COUNTY", AS USED IN THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY.

(C) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SHALL REVIEW EACH LOCAL PLAN, AND, IF HE FINDS IT TO BE IN ACCORD WITH THE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, HE SHALL [[APPROVE IT.]] RECOMMEND THE PLAN'S APPROVAL BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. IF HE FINDS IT NOT TO BE IN ACCORD WITH SUCH STANDARDS OR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, HE SHALL RETURN IT TO THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH HIS WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE AREAS OR MANNER IN WHICH THE PLAN DOES NOT COMPLY WITH [[THE STANDARDS]] THOSE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS. IN EITHER CASE, HE SHALL TAKE SUCH ACTION WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE LOCAL PLAN. IF, WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER RETURN OF THE PLAN BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, THE LOCAL BOARD DOES NOT SUBMIT A PLAN WHICH, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, CONFORMS TO THE STATE STANDARDS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL THEREUPON DEVELOP [[AND PROMULGATE]] A PLAN FOR THE SUBDIVISION. [[WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE LOCAL PLAN WAS OR SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESUBMITTED TO HIM.]] PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL OF SUCH PLAN BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THE SUBDIVISION SHALL BE AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE PLAN WITH THE STATE BOARD.

(D) UPON ADOPTION OF THE STANDARDS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (A), THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN THROUGH AGE 20 WHO ARE IN STATE INSTITUTIONS. THE PLAN SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL REVIEW AND APPROVE THE PLAN.

[[D)] (E) IT SHALL BE THE MANDATORY DUTY OF EACH LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN FOR ITS SUBDIVISION AS APPROVED OR DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD OR STATE SUPERINTENDENT, AS PROVIDED HEREIN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS THEREOF.