

## **INTRODUCTION**

The state education agency consists of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools who, with the staff under her executive direction, comprise the State Department of Education. The State Board of Education sets the state's educational policies and standards for pre-kindergarten through high school and for Maryland's public libraries and vocational rehabilitation programs. The Board also enacts bylaws, rules and regulations for the administration of public schools; institutes legal proceedings to enforce the law; and interprets the "true intent and meaning" of the law. The State Superintendent of Schools is the chief educational leader of the state and is responsible for providing direction in the development of adequate educational programs for all youth.

The 12 members of the State Board of Education are appointed by the Governor. The term of Office is four years. Tenure is limited to two consecutive terms. A student member serves a one-year term.

The State Superintendent of Schools, appointed by the State Board of Education for a renewable term of four years, is the chief executive and secretary-treasurer of the Board.

Responsibility for the administration of the Maryland public school system is shared by the state with the 24 local subdivisions. The public is involved in the processes of policy development and implementation at both the state and local levels by membership on task forces and commissions, testimony at Board hearings, active membership in school-related organizations, and in other ways.

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry/national origin, color, disability, gender identity/expression, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For inquiries related to Department policy, please contact:

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