

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW OF MARYLAND,
PASSED AT THE JANUARY SESSION, 1872, AS
AMENDED AT THE JANUARY SESSION, 1874;
BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
GUIDANCE OF
TEACHERS AND SCHOOL OFFICERS OF THE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MARYLAND**

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The public school law of Maryland, passed at the January session, 1872, as amended at the January session, 1874; By-laws, rules and regulations for the guidance of teachers and school officers of the public schools of Maryland by State Board of Education

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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THE
PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW OF MARYLAND.

PASSED AT THE JANUARY SESSION, 1872, AS AMENDED AT
THE JANUARY SESSION, 1874.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Act passed at the session of eighteen hundred and seventy, entitled an Act to repeal an act passed at the session of eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, entitled Public Education, providing a system of Free Public Schools for the State of Maryland, and to repeal all laws inconsistent therewith, be and the same is hereby repealed, and re-enacted so as to read as follows : Repealed.
Re-enacted.

SECTION 1. *And be it enacted,* That there shall be throughout the State of Maryland a general system of Free Public Schools, according to the provisions of this Act. Free public schools.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted,* That this Act shall be added to the Code of Public General Laws, under the title "Public Education," and that all existing laws inconsistent herewith be, and the same are, hereby repealed. Addition to Code.

CHAPTER I.—*Supervision.*

SECTION 1. Educational matters affecting the State, and the general care and supervision of public edu- State Board.

cation shall be entrusted to a State Board of Education.

County Board SEC. 2. Educational matters affecting a county shall be under the control of a Board of County School Commissioners.

Dist. Board. SEC. 3. Educational matters affecting a school district shall be under the supervision of a Board of District School Trustees.

CHAPTER II.—Formation of Boards.

Formation of State Board. SECTION 1. The Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint at every regular session of the General Assembly, from among the Presidents and Examiners of the several County Boards, four persons (one of whom shall be a resident of the Eastern Shore), who, together with the Governor and the Principal of the State Normal School, shall constitute the State Board of Education.

*Princ. of Normal Sch.
is ex officio State Bd.
See P. 4 of Regulations*

Term of Service. SEC. 2. The Board of County School Commissioners shall be composed of three persons, appointed by the Judges of the Circuit Courts, to serve for two years from the first day of January next succeeding said appointment, and until their successors shall qualify; *provided*, that in counties having over one hundred schools five persons shall be appointed.

Proviso.

Dist. School Trustees. SEC. 3. The Board of District School Trustees shall be composed of three persons, who shall be appointed by the County School Commissioners on the first day of May, or at their first meeting thereafter in each year, and who shall meet within thirty days after their appointment, and enter upon the duties assigned them in chapter five of this Act. At their first meeting they shall appoint a chairman, to hold office for one year, and shall give notice of the appointment to the Secretary of the Board of County School Commissioners.

CHAPTER III.—*Duties of the State Board of Education.*

SECTION 1. The State Board of Education shall hold regular meetings on the last Wednesday in May, August, November and February of every year, and special meetings as occasion may require. Meetings.

SEC. 2. The office of the Board shall be in the State Normal School. Office.

SEC. 3. The members of the board shall receive no salary, but actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the board, and they are authorized to employ clerical assistance when necessary; the Treasurer, upon the warrant of the Comptroller, is hereby authorized to pay the President of the Board such amount, not exceeding one thousand dollars per annum, as he shall show to be due for these necessary expenses. No Salary. Pay Presid't.

SEC. 4. The State Board of Education shall, to the best of their ability, cause the provisions of this law to be carried into effect, and may, if necessary, institute legal proceedings for that purpose, with the direction and advice of the Attorney General; they shall enact by-laws for the administration of the Public School System, not at variance with this Act, and shall have the power to suspend or remove any examiner or teacher who may be found inefficient in or incompetent for the discharge of duties assigned him, or guilty of such moral delinquency as may have unfitted him for the office he holds; they shall explain the true intent and meaning of the law, and they shall decide, without expense to the parties concerned, all controversies and disputes that may arise under it. Duty of the State Board.

SEC. 5. They shall have the general care and supervision of the Public School interests of the State; Shall act as assistants and advisers of the various County Boards; and shall, from time to time, issue circular letters to teachers and commissioners on topics connected with the administration of public schools. Have general care and supervision.

Uniformity in reports. SEC. 6. In order to insure uniformity in the statistical reports of the public schools, they shall issue a uniform series of blanks for the use of teachers and of County Boards, and shall require all accounts to be kept and returns to be made according to these forms.

Examine candidates. SEC. 7. They shall, when requested by the Board of County School Commissioners, examine candidates for the office of County examiner, and give a certificate of qualification.

Grant Certificates. SEC. 8. They may grant to teachers of long experience and established reputation professional certificates, which shall be valid until revoked for cause.

Trustees ex officio. SEC. 9. The State Board of Education shall be, *ex-officio*, trustees of the State Normal School; and the Principal of the State Normal School shall be, *ex-officio*, a trustee of the State Agricultural College.

To report annually. SEC. 10. All schools and colleges receiving any State donation shall make a report, on or before the fifteenth day of November in each year, of such matters and in such form as the State Board of Education shall require; and said reports, or an abstract therefrom, shall be published by the President of the Board in his annual school report.

CHAPTER IV.—Duties of the County School Commissioners.

Organization. SECTION 1. The Board of County School Commissioners shall meet for organization on the first Tuesday in January next succeeding their appointment, or as soon thereafter as may be, and elect a person not a member of the board, who shall serve as Secretary, Treasurer and Examiner; and notice of such election, signed by the President of the board, shall be transmitted to the Comptroller; *provided*, that in counties having more than eighty-five schools, the board may at their discretion appoint one assistant examiner and fix his salary.

The board shall meet once in every school term, and at other times if necessary, for the transaction of business; each commissioner shall receive per day for each day of his attendance at the board, or on committees appointed by the board, such pay as is allowed the County Commissioners in the several counties of the State; *provided*, that the aggregate amount paid in one year to commissioners as per diem, or any other compensation, shall not exceed an average of one hundred dollars for each commissioner. ^{Proviso.}

Sec. 2. The Board of County School Commissioners is hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the Board of County School Commissioners of _____ county, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be capable to sue and be sued, to have and use a common seal, and the same at their pleasure to alter or break, and to exercise all the powers and privileges hereby granted to or vested in them; and every County School Commissioner shall have power to take affidavits and administer oaths in all matters pertaining to public schools, but without charge or fee. ^{Name and style.}

Sec. 3. All the property, estate, effects, money, funds, claims, and State donations, now vested by law in the public school authorities of any county, for the use and benefit of public, primary, free or high schools, are hereby transferred to and vested in the Board of County School Commissioners and their successors in office. ^{Property transferred to}

Sec. 4. The Board of County School Commissioners shall have the general supervision and control of all schools in their respective counties; they shall build, repair and furnish school-houses; they shall fix the salaries of teachers, they shall purchase and distribute text-books, and shall perform such other duties as may be necessary to secure an efficient administration of the public school system, subject to the provisions of this law. ^{General supervision and control.}