

**INSTRUCTION**Grouping

The placement of each individual within a group where he will work best, where he will have a sense of belonging and status, and where his mental health will be safeguarded and improved shall be the objective of grouping. Progress and growth of students shall be stressed. An organization based to some degree upon levels of achievement and ability in the several subjects may also be used. Social and emotional growth considerations, however, require the inclusion of definite provisions for flexibility in such an organization. It may be desirable to permit students to work in groups which are more heterogeneous for part of the day and more homogeneous for the other part of the day, on the basis of certain skills or abilities. The pattern which gives the greatest amount of aid to teachers in individualizing instruction shall be the accepted practice.

Flexible grouping also suggests grouping within the class, so that students may be assisted in specific areas of need and interest. These groups shall usually be formed for short periods and changed frequently.

Many opportunities shall be provided in the school program to allow for experiences in which students from different grades come together. Assemblies, student government, activities interest clubs, and other such groupings provide opportunities for students of different ages to associate together. At other times, students shall be encouraged and permitted to study and work independently with self-direction and with a minimum of supervision.

Whatever practices of grouping may be adopted, they shall be accompanied by a variety of appropriate materials and methods to facilitate optimum learning for each student.

Elementary Schools

Grouping of pupils in elementary schools is a matter for local decision. Principals will be responsible for determining the basis for grouping by working with area director, general supervisors, the vice-principal, guidance counselor, and teachers. The kind of organizational pattern being utilized in the school will also help determine the grouping of pupils.

Junior High Schools

Certain junior high schools might be selected to conduct a pilot study of the result of individual scheduling in all grades, which would provide for a greater degree of homogeneity in all subjects.

Specific provisions shall be made for a series of articulation meetings between each junior high school and its feeder elementary schools to develop common understandings relative to grouping and marking standards and practices.

Senior High Schools

It is recommended that there be some uniformity in grouping in the Baltimore County high schools, while at the same time leaving room for experimentation by individual schools.

In order to provide the flexibility required for any effective scheme of grouping, attention must be given to maintaining class size at such a level that a student may move, or be moved, up or down in the groups.

Rule  
Approved: 11/21/68]

Superintendent of Schools