



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: August 26, 2008
SUBJECT: Transportation Plan for the SEED School of Maryland, Inc.

PURPOSE:

The SEED School of Maryland is a statewide public boarding school that was established through Education Article 8, Subtitle 7 of the Maryland Annotated Code. The school will provide a college preparatory program for students facing environmental and academic challenges. SEED offers a five-day residential program for 180 school days. Scheduled to open August 24, 2008 with its first class of 80 sixth graders, students will be travelling from 12 different Maryland school systems. The State Board is being asked to review and comment on the Transportation Plan that will transport students to various drop-off points most Friday evenings and pick students up from these or other pick-up points on Sunday evenings for return to the school. The SEED campus is located in Baltimore City at 200 Font Hill Avenue, Baltimore 21223. The school operates through a contract with the Maryland State Department of Education.

BACKGROUND:

Education Article: Title 8. Special Programs for Exceptional Children: Subtitle 7: Residential Boarding Education Programs for At-Risk Youth was enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2006 to establish a residential boarding education program for at-risk youth under the supervision of the Maryland State Department of Education. A major purpose of the school is to adequately prepare students for success in college. Sections 8-101 and 8-701 through 8-709 defined the eligibility criteria for those students applying to the school as well as established the program as a statewide initiative. The school will add a grade each year until the program offers a rigorous education for up to 400 Maryland students in grades 6 through 12. The Maryland school will operate in conformity with the requirements of the Education Article § 8-701 *et seq.* and other applicable State and Federal laws governing public schools in Maryland as well as be accountable to the State achievement standards.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SEED students for the 2008-2009 school year were selected on the basis of a May 17th admissions lottery. In addition, one seat was set aside for each jurisdiction where an eligible student applied. The number of students coming from participating jurisdictions is listed below.

Baltimore City —	35	Montgomery —	1
Anne Arundel —	2	Prince George's —	14
Baltimore County —	12	St. Mary's —	2
Calvert —	2	Somerset —	1
Harford —	1	Washington —	1
Howard —	8	Wicomico —	1

The legislation that established a public boarding school program included \$2 million in general funds (approximately \$25,000 per student) to support the costs associated with boarding, administration and transportation. In addition, the SEED school receives 85% of local and state per pupil expenditures from each local school system in which the student is domiciled. The transportation plan developed by the SEED School of Maryland includes designated pick-up and drop-off points for students with varying distances for families to travel in order to meet the SEED bus. SEED has reported that partnerships for drop off and pick up are being established with Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Recreational Centers and Police Athletic League Centers. Families will use these hubs except on Sundays where six of the 13 designated centers are closed. Other arrangements may need to be made for families assigned to these locations. Families have been asked to complete a Memorandum of Understanding specific to their student's transportation to SEED for this school year.

Attachment I is a map of Maryland school systems. **Attachment II** is SEED's Transportation Plan. **Attachment III** is Title 13A, Subtitle 06, Chapter 07 Student Transportation. SEED is required to meet all State and federal requirements specific to transporting public school students in Maryland. SEED released a Request For Quotations in July and is completing a contract with a local bus company to provide the school's transportation services for the school year that begins August 24, 2008.

ACTION:

To review and comment on the Transportation Plan developed by the SEED School of Maryland.

NSG/rsf

Attachments