

TO: Members of the Maryland State Board
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: October 26, 2010
RE: Family Involvement Month

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to acknowledge October as Family Involvement Month by providing an update on the progress that has been made by the Department on State efforts to promote family involvement in our public schools and shine the spotlight on the state winner of the 2010 Maryland Parent Involvement Matters Award.

Background:

The Department has made significant strides over the past five years in its implementation of the recommendations made by the Maryland Parent Advisory Council (M-PAC) in 2005. These recommendations, published in the report *A Shared Responsibility: Recommendations for Increasing Family and Community Involvement in Schools*, have served as the Department's structure for family involvement. As these recommendations have been implemented, Maryland has received national accolades for its outreach to local school systems and schools, as well as for its partnerships that promote family involvement.

Executive Summary:

On October 1, 2010, the Department, along with the Maryland Parental Information and Resource Center and the Maryland PTA kicked off October as Family Involvement Month at G. James Gholson Middle School in Prince George's County. The morning included a Governor's Proclamation designating October as Family Engagement Month. Participating in this recognition were representatives from the United State Department of Education, the National PTA, and parent winners of the 2010 Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award. As we recognize October as Family Involvement Month, the Department shines the spotlight on Maryland's outstanding family involvement initiatives and the 2010 Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award State winner, Jeffrey Macris, for the outstanding contributions he has made in helping to turnaround two formerly low performing middle schools in Anne Arundel County.

Action:

For Information and recognition.

NSG/BRS: lam