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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*  
**DATE:** June 22, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Race to the Top

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to share next steps with the Maryland State Board of Education regarding Race to the Top, a competitive federal grant program designed to encourage and reward States that are creating conditions for education innovation and reform.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Maryland's Race to the Top Application was delivered to the United States Department of Education on June 1, 2010. This application was the result of approximately eight months of preparation and cross-divisional work at MSDE. It was guided by a broad stakeholder group, the Executive Steering Committee. The application, budgets, and appendices are now posted on the MSDE website.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Timeline:

The below timeline marks the significant dates and activities for Phase II of Race to the Top.

1. Common Core State Standards adopted and USDE notified (June 2010)
2. Maryland notified of its status by USDE (mid to late July)
3. Phase II finalists interviewed (week of August 9)
4. Winners notified (on or about September 1)
5. LEA develop final scopes of work (90 days following above notification)

Interim Steps:

While waiting for notice of the selection of finalists, MSDE is engaged in the following preparatory activities:

1. Deciding on an organization structure needed to implement Maryland's third wave of reform regardless of the outcome of Race to the Top
2. Copying and reviewing the 16 Phase I finalists' PowerPoint presentations to the interview committee to help inform Maryland's approach

Members of the State Board of Education

June 22, 2010

Page 2

3. Viewing videos of selected Phase I finalists' interviews (Q & A) with the interview panel (two Phase I winners, three states that made the biggest gains in the interview process; three states that lost points in the interview process)
4. Preparing initial templates for final scopes of work for participating LEAs
5. Thinking through an overall advertising strategy for new contractual positions required to implement the reform plan

**ACTION:**

No action required; information only

NSG:mc/tm