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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick 

DATE: February 22, 2011

SUBJECT: Report on Progress at the SEED School of Maryland

PURPOSE:

The SEED School of Maryland is a statewide residential education boarding program for at-risk students that opened in August 2008. SEED Maryland is designed to provide a rigorous education and to prepare eligible students for college. The school adds a grade each year until it will serve students through grade 12. For the 2010-2011 school year, SEED has enrolled 240 students in grades 6, 7, and 8, and which come from 13 of Maryland's 24 school systems. SEED presented to the State Board in January 2011 to revisit previously established admissions standards to lower the income standard from 300% of the poverty level to 250% and to implement strategies designed to increase student participation from different local school systems. The State Board approved these changes and requested that SEED leadership return to their February meeting for a progress report based on areas specified by the Board.

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 (MSDE). A major purpose of the school is to adequately prepare students for success in college. The school has been under contract with the Maryland State Department of Education for four years:

| FY YEAR | GRADES SERVED | ENROLLMENT AS OF 9/30 |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 2008 | Planning Year | |
| 2009 | 6 only | 80 |
| 2010 | 6 & 7 | 160 |
| 2011 | 6, 7, & 8 | 240 |
| 2012 | 6, 7, 8 & 9 | Up to 308 |
| 2013 | 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 | Up to 388 |
| 2014 | 6,7,8,9,10 & 11 | Up to 400 |

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The MSDE appointed Project Monitor for the SEED contract is Dr. Rhona Fisher. Activities in place include scheduled quarterly meetings with SEED and the Department's internal workgroup to address issues that are part of operating a public secondary school in Maryland. Over the course of the school year, the contract stipulates certain deliverables as well as requires semi-annual progress reports to the State Board. The contract also requires the school to provide written quarterly progress reports to MSDE. The school receives 85% of the local and state *Per Pupil Expenditure* from the sending school system for each SEED student (about \$10,000 per student for the instructional program) as well as \$25,000 per student from State funds to go towards transportation, administration, and boarding costs.

The Board has requested an update from the SEED School of Maryland on how the school is progressing in its fourth year under contract to Maryland. Issues raised include:

- **Staff Turnover** during each of its 3-years of operating the school (after the initial year of planning) including number by year, position title, and reason for leaving;
- **Student Attrition** since the opening of the school by year, by grade level, by LEA and reason for leaving;
- **Preparations for the 2011 Maryland School Assessment (MSA)** and SEED leadership is determining student readiness, especially given the performance last year in which SEED did not make AYP (See Attachment);
- **Percentage of identified special education students** at SEED (each school year) and the programs and interventions they participate in. How many students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) have left SEED since it opened in 2008?
- **Plans to ensure that 8th grade SEED students are ready to enter the 9th grade** next year; how SEED will assess student readiness; and progress in SEED's plans for its high school curriculum; and
- A copy of SEED's **Quarterly Progress Report for January 2011**.

The SEED School of Maryland's leadership team expected to present includes: Eric S. Adler, Co-Founder and Managing Director of the SEED Foundation; Jerry Kountz, Head of School; Jallon Croskey, Director of Academics; and Nedra Davis, Admissions and Parent Relations Manager.

ACTION:

For information only, no action is required.

NSG/rsf

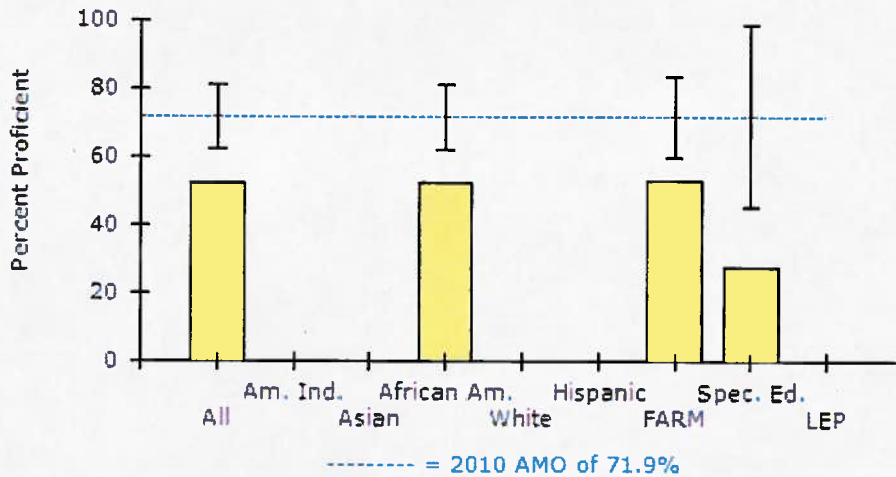
Attachment

2010 Maryland Report Card

Adequate Yearly Progress

The SEED School of Maryland : The Seed School Of Maryland (ID:1000)

2010 AYP Mathematics Proficiency



AYP Met
 AYP Met with Safe Harbor
 AYP Not Met

NOTE: 2011 AMO will be 78.9%

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2010 AYP Mathematics Proficiency

| | | Percent Proficient | Number Proficient | Test Takers | Confidence Interval |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| All Students | 2010 | 52.3 | 78 | 149 | 62.5 - 81.3 |
| African American | 2010 | 52.1 | 75 | 144 | 62.4 - 81.4 |
| White (not of Hispanic origin) | 2010 | na | na | na | na |
| Hispanic | 2010 | na | na | na | na |
| Free/Reduced Meals | 2010 | 53.2 | 50 | 94 | 60.1 - 83.7 |
| Special Education | 2010 | 27.8 | 5 | 18 | 45.0 - 98.8 |

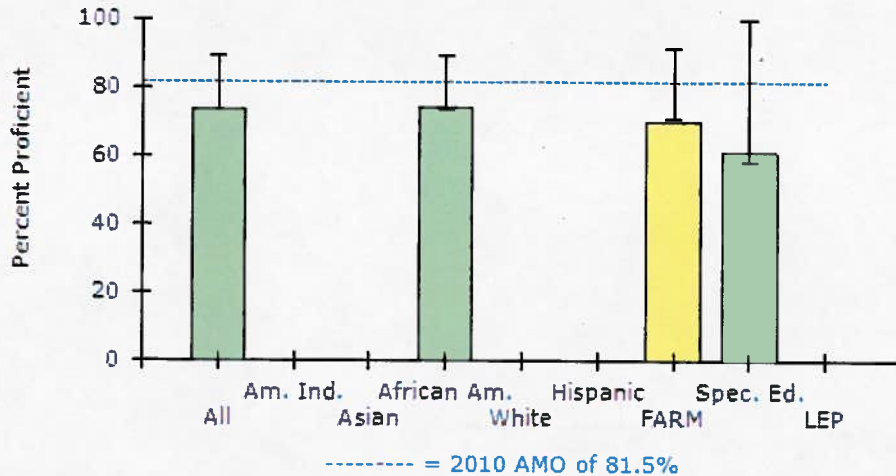
For 2010 SEED served students in grades 6 and 7 and needed to meet the Annual Measureable Objective (AMO) of 71.9% OR the percent proficient within the Confidence Interval of 62.5 - 81.3% for ALL students. The percentages of students proficient, *highlighted in yellow*, were NOT within the Confidence Interval, which is a statistical measure to help ensure fair and equitable AYP decisions for groups with different numbers of students. This means that SEED students in the ALL, African American, FARMS, and Special Education categories did not make AYP for the 2009-2010 School Year. Note that Confidence Intervals vary by number of students in each subgroup.

2010 Maryland Report Card

Adequate Yearly Progress

The SEED School of Maryland : The Seed School Of Maryland (ID:1000)

2010 AYP Reading Proficiency



■ AYP Met
 AYP Met with Safe Harbor
 ■ AYP Not Met

NOTE: 2011 AMO will be 86.1%

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2010 AYP Reading Proficiency

| | Percent Proficient | Number Proficient | Test Takers | Confidence Interval |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| All Students | 73.8 | 110 | 149 | 73.4 - 89.6 |
| African American | 74.3 | 107 | 144 | 73.3 - 89.7 |
| Hispanic | na | na | na | na |
| Free/Reduced Meals | 70.2 | 66 | 94 | 71.3 - 91.7 |
| Special Education | 61.1 | 11 | 18 | 58.3 - 104.7 |

'--' indicates no students in the category. 'na' indicates too few students for AYP rules.

For 2010 SEED served students in grades 6 and 7 and needed to meet the Annual Measureable Objective (AMO) of 81.5% OR the percent proficient within the Confidence Interval of 71.3 - 91.7% for FARMS. FARMS students, *highlighted in yellow*, did not fall within the Confidence Interval, which is a statistical measure to help ensure fair and equitable AYP decisions for groups with different numbers of students.