
WCEA

**WICOMICO COUNTY
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

1302 Old Ocean City Road • Salisbury, MD 21804-4537
410-749-2491



Mr. Anthony South
Executive Director
Office of the Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

May 7, 2010

Dear Mr. South:

The Wicomico County Education Association does not support the waiver request made by Wicomico County. The county has a revenue tax cap which prevents the County Council from levying the taxes necessary to properly support public education while simultaneously refusing to offer alternatives to the citizenry, which they have the power to do. They used the Thornton Funding as an excuse to supplant their percentage of educational funding. In their waiver document, Wicomico County identified the reason for decreasing funds as the revenue tax cap; however, they refuse to do anything that would be politically unpopular. So, if they are not going to be part of the solution, they have self-identified as part of the problem and are trying to pass the buck to someone else, namely the State Board of Education.

Wicomico's request for a 25% waiver exceeds the next highest request by over 16%. Granting the waiver would condone Wicomico's abdication of fiscal responsibility to public education, setting into motion vast and far-reaching ramifications that may never be remedied, even by a massive capital infusion.

The Wicomico County Council's unwillingness to properly fund public education is incomprehensible and violates the county's charter. Progress in closing the achievement gap will be wiped out. Federal and state funding could be jeopardized; programs will have to be cut, class size will have to increase. There is no way that Maryland's first class standing in the country can be maintained without first class funding.

Sincerely,

Linda Eberling
President, WCEA