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TO: Members of the State Board of Education  
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*  
DATE: January 26, 2010  
SUBJECT: Overview of Certification

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to provide the State Board with an overview of education certification in Maryland and provide answers to two questions: “What it is?” and “Why do we have it?”

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The State Board of Education has expressed its desire to review and learn about Maryland’s requirements for the certification of teachers and other education professionals. Furthermore, the Board chose to undertake this review and examination over a three month period and dedicate time for this purpose on the agendas of the January, February, and March 2009 meetings of the State Board. The Board asked that the review begin at the January meeting with a presentation by staff that would provide an overview of current certification requirements and a general history related to their adoption.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Maryland, like every other state, has certification (termed licensure in some states) requirements for educators. Since the first legislative decree for certification in Maryland in 1826, certification regulations have been developed to address evolving issues from the creation of the provisional certificate in the post-World War II era to the current initiative for alternative approaches to meet the increased demand for effective educators.

Staff from MSDE’s Division of Certification and Accreditation along with a representative of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) will provide an overview of Maryland’s certification requirements. The presentation will include information on the legal authority for certification, the different routes and types of certification, including a comparison of Maryland Approved Traditional Programs and Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Programs, and the role of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board. In addition to the presentation, each Board member will be provided with a resource notebook (attached) containing key documentation or links to key documentation that will provide important background material to aid in understanding the development of certification in the state.

**ACTION:**

This item is presented for purposes of information and discussion only.

NSG: jhe

Attachments