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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.

DATE: July 24, 2012

SUBJECT: SEED School of Maryland Report

PURPOSE:

The Maryland Code Annotated, Education Article § 8-701 *et seq.* authorized the Maryland State Department of Education to contract with a qualified operator to establish a *Public Residential Boarding Education Program* for at-risk youth. The public boarding school was charged with serving disadvantaged, at-risk youth in grades 6-12. In August 2007, MSDE entered into a 5-year contract with the SEED Foundation and the SEED School of Maryland, Inc. The contract was based, in part, on the experience of the SEED Foundation which successfully operates a public boarding school program in Washington, DC, known as the SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. ("SEED DC").

SEED Maryland is designed to provide a rigorous education and to prepare eligible students for college. The SEED School of Maryland opened in August 2008 with its first cohort of 80 sixth grade students; the first class is expected to graduate from SEED high school in 2015. All SEED students enter in 6th grade and the school continues to add a grade each year until it will serve students through grade 12. For the coming school year, SEED expects to enroll 388 students in grades 6 to 10 representing 19 local school systems (LSS). According to enrollment projections about 90% of the 2012-2013 students will come from four Maryland school systems.

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 table below reports the enrollment, grade level, and General Fund projections for SEED MD through 2015.

SCHOOL YEAR	GRADES SERVED	9/30 ENROLLMENT	GENERAL FUND \$ PROJECTIONS
2007-2008	Planning Year	--	--
2008-2009	6 only	80	2,000,000 (actual)
2009-2010	6 & 7	160	4,000,000 (actual)
2010-2011	6, 7, & 8	240	6,000,000 (actual)
2011-2012	6, 7, 8 & 9	308	7,700,000 (actual)
2012-2013	6, 7, 8, 9 & 10	Up to 388	9,700,000 (actual)
2013-2014	6,7,8,9,10 & 11	Up to 400	10,000,000 (+ inflation factor)
2014-2015 1 st Graduation	6 to 12	Up to 400	10,000,000 (+ inflation factor)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SEED Maryland is charged with periodic reporting to the Maryland State Board of Education. Over the course of each school year, the contract stipulates certain deliverables as well as requires semi-annual progress reports to the State Board. The MSDE-appointed monitor for the SEED contract is Dr. Rhona Fisher. The www.seedschoolmd.org website provides the following description of the program:

The SEED School of Maryland is a statewide, college-preparatory, public boarding school. SEED presents deserving students from across the state with an extraordinary opportunity to receive a tuition-free education that prepares them for success in college and beyond.

The SEED model integrates a rigorous academic program with a nurturing boarding program and provides students with a safe and secure environment, 24 hours a day/5 days a week. SEED students live on our beautiful, 52-acre campus from Sunday evenings until Friday afternoons. As we opened in 2008, our school will serve 388 students in the upcoming school year to include grades 6 – 10, and we will grow to serve 400 students in grades 6 – 12.

[The] school is one of two schools of its kind in the nation, both of which were opened by **The SEED Foundation**. The SEED model has proven outstanding success – 94 percent of SEED graduates go on to four-year colleges and universities.

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SEED Maryland is publicly funded and receives approximately \$36,000 per student. This includes an allocation for the instructional program of approximately \$11,000 for each student that is based on 85% of the state and local per pupil expenditure from the sending school system. An additional \$25,000 per student in State General Funds is allocated to support the costs of transportation, administration, and boarding.

The Board has requested an update from the SEED School of Maryland on how the school is progressing in its fifth year under contract to Maryland. Data to be provided

- Performance on the Maryland School Assessments (MSA) (**See Attachment**)
- Comparisons between progress and other factors at the SEED School of Maryland and the originating SEED D.C. School.

The SEED School of Maryland's leadership team expected to present includes: Dr. Khalek Kirkland, Head of School; Jallon Croskey, Director of Academics, Nedra Davis, Admissions and Parent Relations Manager, and Pyper Davis, the SEED Foundation and Board of Trustees.

ACTION:

For information only.

LML/rsf

Attachment

The SEED School of Maryland
Tracking MSA¹ Results by Year & by 6th Grade Cohorts

MSA				
% Proficient/Advanced in				
READING				
	Year 1 2009	Year 2 2010	Year 3 2011	Year 4 2012
9/30 Enrollment	80	160	240	308
ALL Students	81.7	73.8	75.1	64.9
Grade 6	81.7	75.9	75.3	67.4
Grade 7	na	72.1	72.4	66.3
Grade 8	na	na	80.6	61.0
Grade 9	na	na	na	No MSA
Special Education	55.6	61.1	42.1	29.4

MSA				
% Proficient/Advanced in				
MATHEMATICS				
	Year 1 2009	Year 2 2010	Year 3 2011	Year 4 2012
9/30 Enrollment	80	160	240	308
ALL	52.1	52.3	55.7	65.7
Grade 6	52.1	63.3	49.3	81.9
Grade 7	na	41.2	71.1	53.1
Grade 8	na	na	45.2	62.3
Grade 9	na	na	na	No MSA
Special Education	33.3	27.8	36.8	31.3

Source: www.mdreportcard.org as of 7/10/12

¹ The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is administered annually to students in Reading and In Math in grades 3 to 8. High school students take the Maryland High School Assessments as end-of-course tests. SEED is a single point of entry school with all students starting in 6th grade so that SEED 'grows' a grade each year.