

# Wicomico County, Maryland

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May 21, 2012

Mr. Anthony L. South  
Executive Director  
Maryland State Board of Education  
Nancy Grasmick Building  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595

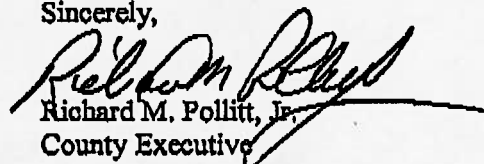
Dear Mr. South:

Please accept this letter as official confirmation that Wicomico County has decided to withdraw our request for an "Agreed To" waiver of the Maintenance of Effort standard for school funding for Fiscal Year 2013. In fact, recent actions taken by the Maryland Legislature during the Special Session make any waiver of our MOE obligations unnecessary. Our hearing before the State Board of Education was scheduled for tomorrow, May 22, 2012. Consequently, we will not be attending.

Having our MOE standard re-based under the terms of the State legislation, I am now able to proceed with my original budget to the Wicomico County Council. That budget provides the full amount originally requested by our local Board of Education, not only achieving MOE but adding more than \$500,000 in new funding, as well. It also allows funding for our new and much-needed Bennett Middle School construction project and provides money for other school-related capital projects. Acknowledging our local Board's position that their original budget will meet the needs of our school children for the coming year and considering the progress with long-delayed capital projects, I am pleased and confident that Wicomico County will do its duty to public education next year even in an economic climate of extreme challenge.

I appreciate your attention and all that you do in support of public education in Maryland.

Sincerely,

  
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.  
County Executive

cc: Wicomico County Council  
Wicomico County Board of Education  
Executive staff

*"Building Bridges - Building Community"*