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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. *Lillian M. Lowery*

DATE: May 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Update on School/Student Discipline Initiatives

PURPOSE:

To provide an update to the members of the Maryland State Board of Education on the status of various school/student discipline initiatives underway.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In your July 2012 report, *School Discipline and Academic Success: Related Parts of Maryland's Education Reform*, the Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE) called on the Department to convene two groups. One dealt with best practices in school discipline and the other was to continue the work on revising the **Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline** which was put on hold while the Board completed its study of school discipline.

Moreover, at your January 22, 2013 meeting, you instructed the Department to convene a time-limited workgroup to offer input into the regulations withdrawn at that meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Best Practices in School Discipline Workgroup

The Best Practices in School Discipline Workgroup has met three times as a large group to date: November 16, 2013, January 25, 2013, and February 27, 2013. This workgroup is being co-chaired by Dr. Sally Dorman, School Climate and Safety Lead, MSDE, and Ms. Janice Briscoe, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Workers, Prince George's County Public Schools. Attachment I contains a membership roster. The workgroup has spent the bulk of their first meetings reviewing the literature and having presentations from across the State on best/promising practices in school discipline. A formal literature review is being conducted by doctoral students in the School Psychology Program at the University of Maryland and will be incorporated into the final report to the Board. The workgroup members have developed an outline for their final report, which covers policy/research, multi-tier supports for students, and professional development for school staff, including school resource officers. From this outline, three subgroups will embark on reviewing and further developing the three areas of the report.

This subgroup work is currently underway and is expected to go on through May 2013. A draft report will be presented at the last large workgroup meeting on August 16, 2013. After editing by the group, the final report is due to MSDE senior staff in October 2013. The final Board report will be completed by January 1, 2014.

Committee Revising the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline

The Committee revising the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline has met four times to date: November 27, 2012; January 29, 2013; February 26, 2013; and April 29, 2013. This committee is being co-chaired by Mr. Robert Murphy, School Completion Specialist, and Ms. Katherine Rabb, Open-Society Institute—Baltimore. Attachment II contains a membership roster. The charge to this group is to update the guidelines that were adopted by the MSBE in January 1997 as mandated by the 1996 Maryland General Assembly.

Once the Committee completes its work, local school systems will be asked to provide feedback to the draft; a tentative due date for this feedback is scheduled for September 2013. Revised guidelines are planned to be presented for consideration at your December 2013 meeting.

School Discipline Regulation Workgroup

The School Discipline Regulation Workgroup has met three times to date: April 9th, April 26th, and May 7th of 2013. This Workgroup is being co-chaired by Dr. D'Ette Devine, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, and Ms. Diana Morris, Director, Open Society Institute—Baltimore. Attachment III contains a list of the members. The charge to the Workgroup is to discuss and recommend amendments to:

1. The timelines contained in the section of the regulatory proposal dealing with appeals;
2. The 10 day return to school regulation dealing with when a student would be precluded from returning to school after the 10th day;
3. The regulations that addresses the conduct for which expulsion and extended suspension is appropriate;
4. The minimum education services regulation to address delivery of minimum education services to students suspended from 1-3 days.

Once their work is completed, staff at the Department will use their recommendations to bring forth revised regulations for your consideration. This is planned as an agenda item at your June 2013 meeting.

All of this work is aligned under the umbrella of the “Courageous Conversations About Discipline: Creating a Positive School Climate for All” conference held on December 14, 2012, where the Department initiated an ongoing conversation with stakeholders and local school system personnel around trends in student discipline both at a national and State levels. Through the generosity of the Open Society Institute—Baltimore, these dialogues will continue through regional conferences that

Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
May 21, 2013
Page 3

will be held and planned to implement the work of all three committees. Moreover, there is horizontal alignment between the Best Practices Workgroup and the Committee rewriting the **Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline**. If the MSBE decides to adopt regulations regarding student discipline, these will be incorporated into the work of the two aforementioned committees.

ACTION:

For information and discussion.

Attachments (3)

School Discipline Best Practices Workgroup

Name	LEA/Organization
Lauren Abramson	Community Conferencing Center
Jessica Albrech	University of MD (research)
Sherrilyn Backof	The Rosedale Center
Susan Barrett	PBIS Maryland
Catherine Bradshaw	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
David Beard	Advocates for Children & Youth
Janice Briscoe (Co-Chair)	Prince George's County Public Schools
David Burton	Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)
Jon Carrier	Maryland Association of School Resource Officers (MASRO)
Theo Devine	Baltimore Teachers' Union
Judy Docca	Maryland County Board of Education (MABE)
Virginia L. Dolan	PBIS Maryland State Leadership Team
Brad Engel	Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Meghan Finney	University of MD (research)
Rhona Fisher	Maryland State Department of Education
Alexi Nunn Freeman	Advancement Project
Barbara S. Grochal	University of Maryland School of Law
A. Blaine Hawley	Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals
Nicole Joseph	Maryland Disabilities Law Center
Leah Kang	Advancement Project
Katrina Debnam	Johns Hopkins University
Heather Lageman	MSDE Division of Instruction
Megan Lucy	Advocates for Children and Youth
Debra S. Munk	Public School Superintendents' of Maryland (PSSAM)
Diane Powell	Prince George's County Public Schools
Katherine Rabb	Open Society Institute
Elizabeth Ray	Maryland State Educators Association
Donna Riley	MSDE Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Carl Roberts	Public School Superintendents' of Maryland (PSSAM)
Mike Rudinski	Maryland Association of School Resource Officers (MASRO)
Jean Satterfield	MSDE Division of Certification and Accreditation
Meghan Senisi	Maryland Association of Secondary School

School Discipline Best Practices Workgroup

	Principals (MASSP)
Nick Silvestri	Maryland School Psychologists' Association
Valerie Smirlock	MSDE Division of Early Childhood
Sharon Stephan	Center for School Mental Health, University of Maryland
Frank Stetson	MSDE Division of Academic Reform and Innovation
Bill Strein	University of MD (research)
David Stouvenour	ASCD (Maryland)
Maura Taylor	Maryland State Educators Association
Stanley Truman	Montgomery County Public Schools
Lynsey Carlene Weston	University of MD (research)
Rosanne Wilson	Howard County Public Schools
Buzz Williams	Maryland Association of School Hearing Officers
John Woolums	Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)
June L. Zillich	Public School Superintendents' of Maryland (PSSAM)

Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Conduct Workgroup

Name	LEA/Organization
David Beard	Advocates for Children & Youth
Catherine Bradshaw	Johns Hopkins University
Shirley Brandman	Montgomery County Public Schools
Benjamin Brauer	Allegany County Public Schools
Janice Briscoe	Prince George's County Public Schools
Andrew Burke	MD State Education Association
Vicki Carter	Somerset County Public Schools
Jessica Clark	ACLU-Maryland
Carol Costello	Washington County Public Schools
Craig Cummings	Howard County Public Schools
Thomas Davis	Worcester County Public Schools
Theo Devine	Baltimore Teachers Union
Barbara Dezmon	MD State NAACP Education Committee
D'Ette W. Devine	Cecil County Public Schools
Carla Diffenderfer	Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Judy Docca	Montgomery County Board of Education (MABE)
Lynne Duncan	Talbot County Public Schools
Brad Engle	Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Kim Finger	Wicomico County Board of Education
Alexi Nunn Freeman	Advancement Project
Ann Geddes	MD Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health
Rebecca Gibson	Montgomery County Public Schools
Fred Grant	Worcester County Public Schools
Kim Green	Allegany County Public Schools
Pamela Hardy-Cyran	Department of Juvenile Services, Education Services Unit
Jeana Jacobs	Prince George's County Public Schools
Nicole Joseph	MD Disability Law Center
Ruthanne Kenney	Carroll County Public Schools
Heather Krystofiak	Frederick County Public Schools
Leah Kang	Advancement Project
Phillip Lauver	Garrett County Public Schools
Mike Lewis	Department of Juvenile Services, Western Region of Education
Rita Lowman	MD PTA
Virginia Knowlton Marcus	MD Disability Law Center
Michael J. Martirano	St. Mary's County Public Schools
Renee McLaughlin	Somerset County Public Schools
Elise Pas	Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

Attachment II (Revised)

Katherine Rabb	Open Society Institute
Dale Rauenzahn/Dr. Alan Hill	Baltimore County Public Schools
Charles Ridgell	St. Mary's County Public Schools
Donna Riley	Maryland State Department of Education
Carl Roberts	Public School Superintendents' Association of MD
Darlene Spurrier	Kent County Public Schools
Patricia Vaira	Charles County Public Schools
Bebe Verdery	ACLU-Maryland
Jane Walker	MD Coalition
John Wollums	MD Association of Boards of Education

School Discipline Regulation Workgroup

Name	LEA/Organization
Lauren Abramson	Community Conferencing Center
Jennifer Barmon	Office of the Public Defender
Gary Bauer	Carroll County Public Schools
David Beard	Advocates for Children & Youth
Jessica Clark	American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland
Lynn A. Cullins	PIMA 2008 Finalist
D'Ette Devine	Cecil County Public Schools
Theo Devine	Baltimore Teachers' Union
Lauralyn Geiser	PIMA 2012 Finalist
Debbie Glinowiecki	Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP)
Rhonda Holmes-Blankenship	Maryland Teacher of the Year 2013
Verjeana Jacobs	Prince George's County Board of Education
Byron Johns	Montgomery County MD NAACP Chapter
Nicole Joseph	Maryland Disability Law Center
Maleeta Kitchen	Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP)
Rita Lowman	Maryland PTA
Jeffrey Macris	PIMA 2010 State - Winner
Nina Marks	Former Student Member, Maryland State Board of Education
Kelly Meissner	The Parents' Place of Maryland
Diana Morris	Open Society Institute – Baltimore
Diane Powell	Prince George's County Public Schools
Eric Schwartz	Charles County Board of Education
James Short	Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)
Stanley Truman	Montgomery County Public Schools
Warner I. Sumpter	Somerset County Board of Education
Patricia Williams	Parent, Albert Einstein High School