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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

**DATE:** March 22, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Great Teachers and Leaders - Maryland Educator Effectiveness Academies

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to provide the Maryland State Board of Education with an overview of the Great Teachers and Leaders section of Maryland's Race to the Top grant. In addition, staff will provide a focus on one key component of this section -- Maryland's Educator Effectiveness Academies.

**BACKGROUND:**

Each month, the Maryland State Board of Education is apprised of the ongoing efforts that comprise Maryland's reform agenda as set forth in Maryland's winning Race to the Top grant. The focus of this month's attention is the Educator Effectiveness Academies.

This initiative is described in the Great Teachers and Leaders section of the grant. This section was weighted with more points than any other section, and Maryland was awarded 126.2 out of the 138 points possible.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

There are a number of components to the Great Teachers and Leaders section of the Race to the Top grant. The first subsection deals with alternative preparation programs. The second section deals with a statewide system of teacher and principal evaluation. It also includes a discussion of tiered certification. The third subsection deals with the equitable distribution of teachers and leaders and contains a variety of important initiatives for Maryland. The fourth subsection deals with effective teacher and principal preparation programs. The fifth and final subsection deals with support systems for teachers and principals. There are a number of professional development components to this section. They will be reviewed, with an emphasis on the Educator Effectiveness Academies.

The Educator Effectiveness Academies are professional development experiences designed to support the State's transition to higher standards and expectations for teachers and principals. The academies will be implemented during the next four years 2011-2014, beginning this June.

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The content for these learning experiences will include the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum; the new formative, interim, and summative assessments; and Universal Design for Learning. The Educator Effectiveness Academies for the 2011-12 school year will be a five-day experience. Three days in the summer will take place in regional sites and the follow-up days will be offered online for asynchronous access.

Approximately 6,000 educators will participate representing every school in the State and selected members of every school system's Central office staff. School teams will be comprised of the principal and one staff member from the content areas of mathematics, STEM, and reading/English Language Arts.

These academies will be taught by Master Teachers who have been chosen by a panel composed of representatives from local school systems and MSDE staff. Through our Race to the Top grant, teacher/participants and Master Teachers will receive a stipend for participating and/or for teaching.

The expected outcomes for the 2011-12 academies are as follows:

1. Develop knowledge of the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Standards and Framework.
2. Develop an understanding of the relationship between Maryland's vision of STEM and the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Framework.
3. Provide feedback, modifications, and additions to curriculum work completed in 2010-2011.
4. Analyze the Academy content presented to identify prerequisite skills needed and appropriate strategies for scaffolding instruction.
5. Create a one-year study plan that will guide school staff in delivering the Academy content.

**ACTION:**

For information only, no action required.

NSG/jf

Attachments