

MARYLAND Education Bulletin

News from the Maryland State Department of Education

June 28, 2012

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**A few words
from Interim
State
Superintendent
of Schools
Bernard J.
Sadusky**

This marks my final week as Interim State Superintendent of Schools. People have asked me if I've been counting the days until my contract ends. Nothing could be further from the truth. It has been a privilege to serve in this position, and I've enjoyed every day working with local school systems in our joint effort to strengthen Maryland's public schools.

In my role, I've had the chance to visit scores of schools. There is no question: this has been the best part of the job. Maryland has a dedicated cadre of creative and energetic teachers and principals working with our students. Our schools are ranked first in the nation, and it is those educators who deserve the lion's share of the credit.

I've been a teacher, principal, local superintendent, and staff member of the Maryland State Department of Education in my many years in public education. The result: I've seen our schools and our classrooms at every level, and I like what I've seen.

I appreciate the support I've received over the past year, and know you will extend that same support to Dr. Lillian Lowery, who becomes Maryland State Superintendent of Schools next week. Thank you for the work you do every day to help prepare high school graduates who are career and college-ready. There is no more important job.

* * *

Maryland schools benefit from great public and legislative support, but in these difficult economic times we count on assistance from corporations and foundations to help further strengthen our programs. A case in point is the PNC Foundation, which

BOARD MOVES CLOSER TO NEW DISCIPLINE REGULATIONS

The Maryland State Board of Education this week took another step toward revising student discipline regulations, with an eye on reducing the amount of class time lost to suspension.



State Board members have been working for more than a year on revising student discipline regulations.

Board members say that instruction lost to out-of-school suspension and expulsion has serious consequences to learning as students move through the system, and are intent on new regulations. "We are driving toward making principled decisions in the

disciplinary process," said State Board President James DeGraffenreidt.

The State Board has been studying the discipline issue for more than a year, inviting various stakeholder groups to testify and publishing a report on discipline that has garnered scores of comments. Board members have found that student learning can be disrupted by lengthy suspensions during which educational services might not be provided. Those disruptions can result in a student falling behind academically, and may lead to that student dropping out.

"Every student who stays in school and graduates, college and career ready, adds to the health and wealth of the State of Maryland and improves the global competitiveness of this country," DeGraffenreidt said in a memo to the Board. "It is that simple. It is that important."

recently awarded MSDE a \$25,000 grant to support financial literacy education in Maryland public schools. The funds will provide up to 110 teachers with scholarships to attend special training in personal financial literacy education.

Financial literacy education is now a requirement in Maryland schools. The Maryland State Board of Education requires local school systems to provide financial literacy instruction to all students in grades 3-12.

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Calendar

July 13-14 – State PTA Conference, Timonium

July 24 – State Board Meeting, Baltimore



VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Dorchester Career & Technology Center

June 13, 2012

Dorchester Career & Technology Centers celebrated its first full year of operation on April 26th. See the center, and hear from its students, teachers, principal and Dorchester County Superintendent Henry Wagner.



VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

News from the Board

May 22, 2012

May Board News celebrates all the Maryland Teachers of the Year! Also, the latest on Race to the Top, a discussion on school discipline, and the Superintendent's Report -- including the winner of the 2012 Parent Involvement Matters award.

In the News

Maryland Teachers Schooled this Summer on Curriculum
WBAL-TV

Board member Madhu Sidhu said both parents and students hold significant responsibility when it comes to correcting student discipline issues.

“Where is the parent in this?” Sidhu asked her fellow board members. “How do we get the student to commit? How do we get the parent to commit? It is not in here.”

The Board is likely to discuss and act on new regulations at its July 24 Board meeting. Should the full Board approve new regulations, they would be published in the Maryland Register and open to public comment before the Board could make them final.

FEDERAL GRANT WILL BOOST MARYLAND'S EDUCATION DATABASE

The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences this month announced that Maryland is one of 24 new grantees in a program designed to boost educational data systems.

Maryland will receive \$3.9 million over the next three years through the competitive Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant program. In developing the multi-agency grant proposal, the Maryland State Department of Education collaborated with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Office of the Governor, the Maryland Department of Labor and Licensing, the University System of Maryland, and the Maryland State Longitudinal Data Center and Advisory Board.

Over the past several years, Maryland has been expanding its preK-12 longitudinal data system and its higher education data warehouse. The additional funding will provide resources to continue the enhancement to Maryland's education data systems and to provide information and training on education initiatives, curriculum alignments and workforce programs.

“Robust information on individual student achievement is critical if we are to continue to improve schools for all students,” said Interim State Superintendent Bernard Sadusky. “This grant will help us link the pieces that have been built, allowing

Regional Effectiveness Academies Begin in Howard
Baltimore Sun

Prince George's Freshman Finish First Year of High
School and College
Washington Post

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us to pinpoint where our students are and to help
them chart where they are going.”

Maryland received a \$5.7 million grant in 2006 to
launch the longitudinal data system, a \$6 million
federal grant in 2009 to continue the work, and \$5
million as part of Race to the Top to enhance the
Maryland Higher Education Commission data
collection and storage and to develop a brand new
P20 Workforce data system.

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