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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: August 26, 2008
SUBJECT: Status Report on High School Assessments

PURPOSE:

To provide State Board members with a brief status report on the High School Assessment.

BACKGROUND:

Several enhancements to the High School Assessments have now been implemented, including the implementation of the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation, the administration of the Mod-HSA for identified students with cognitive disabilities, and the introduction of the Combined Score Option. Federal approval for improvements in the calculations of the Adequate Yearly Progress measure under No Child Left Behind will also be implemented with the reporting of the 2008 results.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Student Results. MSDE sent the individual student scores for the Spring 2008 High School Assessments to Maryland school systems in late July with the expectation that individual parents and students should be notified by August 8 of each student's result. The Mod-HSA (Modified High School Assessment), administered this spring for the first time for a defined group of students with significant cognitive disabilities was administered along with the regular HSAs. Because this was the first administration of the new assessment, individual student results were sent to school systems a little later, in mid August, with the expectation that these results would be provided to individual parents and students before the 2008-2009 school year starts. There was concern that parents and students be informed of their individual results in advance of the school year so they could plan to take advantage of fall remediation opportunities, Bridge Plan options, and upcoming assessment opportunities.



Reporting. Local school systems have their current results and are reconciling their files with what they know of each individual student's progress toward meeting the HSA testing requirement for graduation, including the student's highest HSA scores. MSDE is currently working with local school systems to produce a record of the status of all students in terms of their performance by the end of grade eleven on the HSAs to date.

The information to be reported back to MSDE will give a clear picture of their students' progress toward graduation as of the end of grade eleven and will identify students who have either passed the assessments or met the assessment requirement using one of the alternative routes (Combined Score Option, Mod-HSA, or Bridge Plan for academic validation). This information will be compiled and provided to the State Board as soon as all files are up to date.

Adequate Yearly Progress. The HSA status will be used by Maryland beginning with the 2008 HSA administration for Adequate Yearly Progress determinations. This will be a significant improvement over the previous method since it takes advantage of federal rules permitting school systems to use the student's highest score in AYP calculations rather than their first test administration.

ACTION:

For information only; no action is required.