

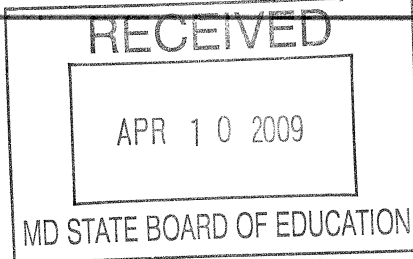


Maryland State Teachers Association
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Clara Floyd, President
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April 9, 2009

James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.
President
Maryland State Board of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201



Dear Mr. DeGraffenreidt:

In accordance with the procedures established by the Maryland State Board of Education on March 25, 2009, pursuant to Section 5-2-2 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and COMAR 13A.02.05.04, the Secretaries and Assistants Association of Anne Arundel County (SAAAAC), an affiliate of the Maryland State Teachers Association, hereby submit our **OPPOSITION** to the March 31, 2009, request for a waiver from the State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement by the Anne Arundel County Board of County Commissioners to the State Board of Education.

Anne Arundel County public schools have been making clear progress towards improving the quality of education the students of our county receive. Rising MSA scores, increasing AP and SAT scores, increasing graduation rates are examples of recent successful reforms that require ongoing funding. The request for a waiver from the MOE requirement could not have come at a worst possible time. This waiver request if granted will cause a setback in the noticeable progress that AACPS has made in the aforementioned critical areas.

Currently, AACPS employees are "pitching in" and covering vacant positions in an attempt to reduce spending. If a further reduction in funding becomes reality, it is possible that a smaller staff will not be able to meet the diverse and special needs of the AACPS student population, thus risking setbacks in student progress.

We join our colleagues in declaring that the county has additional capacity in both its property tax and individual income tax which could be raised to meet its requirements to public education.

We stand in **OPPOSITION** to the March 31, 2009, request for a waiver from the State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement by the Anne Arundel County Board of County Commissioners to the State Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Deborah Schafer
President
Secretaries and Assistants Association of Anne Arundel County

Bradley Darjean
MSTA UniServ Director - SAAAAC