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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: December 10-11, 2009
SUBJECT: 2009 Bridge to Excellence Master Plan Updates

PURPOSE:

To provide an overview of the 2009 Bridge to Excellence Master Plan Updates for all local school systems (Attachment).

BACKGROUND:

The *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* required each local school system to develop and implement a five-year comprehensive Master Plan to be updated annually. The initial plans were submitted by local school systems on October 1, 2003 to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for review and approval. During the 2004 legislative session, the General Assembly expanded the scope of the Annual Updates to include a detailed summary of how the local board of education's current year budget and increases in expenditures over the prior year are consistent with the goals, objectives, and strategies detailed in the Master Plan. During the 2007 legislative session, Annual Updates to the Master Plan were extended for an additional two years through 2009.

The 2009 Annual Update was submitted to the Department in two stages. The applications for federal No Child Left Behind formula grants and Maryland's Fine Arts Initiative were submitted on August 15th. The content portion of the Update, including a summary of progress toward federal and State standards, was submitted on October 15th.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2009, school systems are in the seventh year of Master Plan implementation. In the current Annual Update, school systems have conducted a thorough and detailed analysis of performance relative to federal and State standards. In the Updates, school systems have sufficiently identified areas where progress being made.



Members of the State Board of Education
December 10-11, 2009
Page 2

Additionally, school systems have developed programs, practices, and strategies to address challenges and, through their budgets, have demonstrated alignment between system priorities and resource allocations.

The Department, through seven Master Plan review panels and over one hundred reviewers internal and external to MSDE, has completed the review of the 2009 Annual Updates and the attached report reveals what was found as a result of the in-depth review. All 24 school systems are recommended for approval. The original Master Plans and all subsequent updates are posted on MSDE's DocuShare web site at <http://docushare.msde.state.md.us/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-7622>.

ACTION:

This report is for informational purposes only. No action is required.

Attachments

NSG:WJS:kw