

# Wicomico County, Maryland

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RICHARD M. POLLITT, JR.  
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May 18, 2011

Mr. Anthony L. South, Executive Director  
Maryland State Board of Education  
Nancy Grasmick Building  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland, 21201

Dear Mr. South:

After a great deal of consideration and reflection, Wicomico County respectfully withdraws our request for a waiver of the Maintenance of Effort standard for public school funding for Fiscal Year 2012. We were scheduled to present our appeal to the Maryland State Board of Education on Tuesday, May 24, 2011. Accordingly, we will not meet with the State on that date.

Withdrawal of the requested waiver does not indicate that Wicomico County will reach the MOE level of funding in the next fiscal year. In fact, we will not. The conditions that we described in our waiver application remain but I have decided to forego the waiver process for a variety of reasons.

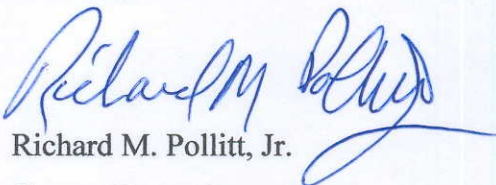
In these times of unprecedented obstacles, support to the superior education of our young people is the most distressing challenge of all. While I deeply believe most Maryland jurisdictions have a strong commitment to doing our duty by our children, the precarious state of our economy, further exacerbated by an antiquated system of public school funding, points to a troubling future for local school funding. Rather than encourage county support beyond MOE to the Adequacy standard of funding, the current system actually discourages providing anything more than the minimum.

I urge the State Board of Education to become a full partner in substantive negotiations with the Maryland Association of Counties, the State Legislature and our local boards of education to develop a formula for funding public education that acknowledges the respective

conditions of the various jurisdictions and provides the means to assure that every child, regardless of their location, has access to the finest school system in the nation. Let's make that Number One ranking for Maryland apply to all of us.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to a renewed sense of team as we apply heart and soul to a vigorous new effort to do right by our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.  
County Executive

cc: Wicomico Board of Education  
Wicomico County Council  
Maryland Association of Counties