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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: April 26, 2011
SUBJECT: Recognition of *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) Schools

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to recognize the five Maryland Public Schools that have been designated as 2010 *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) Schools.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Maryland's education reform agenda focuses on improving all levels of student achievement, including the achievement of students who are advanced /gifted and talented. Building on a strong foundation of gifted and talented education programs and services currently offered in our schools, in 2010 we began recognizing those schools that are models of excellence.

The Maryland State Department of Education and the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education have initiated the *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Awards Program*. This recognition program honors elementary, middle, and high schools that offer gifted and talented programs aligned with the objectives and criteria of the *Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines*
<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/giftedtalented/criteria>

In particular, the Council welcomed applications from schools that serve high percentages of students traditionally underrepresented in advanced programs, including students who are culturally or linguistically diverse or living in poverty.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2010, the inaugural year of the *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Awards program*, members of the State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education reviewed 14 EGATE applications from school systems across the state. From this pool, we identified five schools which submitted applications that documented the ways in which their gifted and talented education programs met the four EGATE objectives and supporting criteria from the *Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines*. The EGATE schools were recognized with Governor's proclamations at a February, 2011 reception in Annapolis, proudly display the EGATE banner, and serve as models for other schools seeking to achieve EGATE status.

These EGATE schools are being recognized today:

1. *Halls Cross Roads Elementary School*, Harford County Public Schools; Gwen Benjamin-Jones, Principal
2. *Montgomery Blair High School*, Montgomery County Public Schools; Darryl Williams, Principal
3. *Kenmoor Middle School*, Prince George's County Public Schools; Maha Fadli, Principal
4. *Emma K. Doub Elementary School for Integrated Arts and Technology*, Washington County Public Schools; Dr. Elizabeth Donohoe, Principal
5. *Fountaindale Elementary School for the Arts and Academic Excellence*, Washington County Public Schools; Dr. Theresa Williamson, Principal

Each EGATE school submitted a comprehensive application which provided documentation from the past fifteen months of twenty-one different criteria under four program objectives from the *Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education Program Guidelines*. Maryland State Department of Education personnel and members of the State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education will be conducting celebratory visits to these schools in May.

The 2011 EGATE Application has been already shared with all local school superintendents, assistant superintendents for instruction, and gifted and talented education program coordinators. Submissions are due on December 2, 2011.

ACTION:

Recognize the five Maryland Public Schools that have been named 2010 *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) schools.

NSG:jp