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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: February 24, 2009
SUBJECT: *2007 Maryland Adolescent Survey*

PURPOSE:

To provide an overview of the findings of the *2007 Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS)* (ATTACHMENT I).

BACKGROUND:

Approximately every two years, Maryland's sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders are surveyed to determine the nature, extent, and trends of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use among adolescents. The *2007 MAS* was administered in December 2007 in all 24 local school systems.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The *2007 MAS* presents the latest findings regarding ATOD use by Maryland's adolescents and compares State and local findings with national findings and trends. The survey also provides data about: protective factors; adolescents' knowledge about the consequences of ATOD use; parenting and peer influences; impaired driving among twelfth graders; and how safe adolescents feel at school, going to or from school, and in their neighborhoods.

Participants were drawn from the sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades in Maryland's public elementary, middle, and high schools, using a multi-stage, stratified cluster sampling procedure. This method allows the generalization of results for each grade at both the local jurisdiction and State levels. The survey was completed by 33,057 adolescents and represents 12 to 14 percent of the State's enrollment at each surveyed grade level that resulted in an 84% overall response rate. The MAS provides "objective data," meaning that the data is not influenced by emotion, surmise, or personal opinion. This definition is consistent with the need to have concrete information to assess problems and programs. Data from the survey are used routinely by State and local agencies and prevention professionals to plan and evaluate ATOD prevention and intervention programs.



In 2007, ATOD usage levels (last 30 days) decreased from 2004 for most substances and increased for only a few as indicated below:

- Adolescents in all surveyed grade levels reported a decrease in the use of alcohol and cigarettes. Marijuana usage decreased in grades eight, ten, and twelve and remained the same among sixth graders;
- Twelfth graders reported a decrease or no change in last 30-day usage of other drugs for every substance except prescription drugs;
- Tenth graders reported a decrease or no change for every substance except LSD and cocaine (other than crack);
- Eighth graders reported a decrease or no change in use for every substance; and
- Sixth graders reported the same usage level for most other drugs but higher usage levels for methamphetamines, amyl/butyl nitrates, and heroin.

Adolescents continue to report that ATOD are more available off of school property than on school property. Similarly, adolescents who use alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana report that these substances are safer to consume than students who do not use them.

While the continued decrease in usage trends is encouraging, the findings of the 2007 MAS still show that adolescents have tried and continue to use many substances. It is also important to note that substance use rates among Maryland's adolescents are consistent with national use trends as reported in the 2007 *Monitoring the Future Study* conducted by the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

ACTION:

For information and discussion.

NSG:PS:crt

Attachment – http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/707B5FB5-9A0C-4A06-A741-92D16DC7B2E7/18944/MAS2007FinalReport_revised111808.pdf

MAS 2007 Transmittal to MSBE-Feb 2009