



COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY
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THOMAS G. DUNCAN
R. ANDREW HOLLIS
LAURA E. PRICE

April 27, 2011

Anthony South, Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Mr. South,

Talbot County Maryland submitted a request on April 1, 2011 for a waiver from the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements for public school funding for fiscal year 2012 in the amount of \$1,800,000. As mentioned in our waiver request letter, this request was submitted based on the uncertainty of State funding for FY 2012. Now that the State budget information for FY 2012 has been determined, we have been able to complete our budget projections for the next fiscal year.

The County Council is quite pleased that the Talbot County Board of Education is slated to receive an additional \$314,476 in overall State funding for FY 2012 and our understanding is that none of this increase is in the State portion of the Foundation Program under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools. Our interpretation of the statute is that any reduction in State funding for a local board of education due to a County not funding to a Maintenance of Effort level applies only to this Foundation Program. Accordingly, as Talbot County Board of Education will not be receiving an increase in the State portion of the Foundation Program funds for FY 2012 under ED § 5-202, a waiver to avoid a reduction in State funds is no longer necessary.

Additionally, the Talbot County Charter requires our annual budget and appropriation ordinance to be passed by the Council on or before June 1 of each year, and the final scheduled Talbot County Council meeting prior to this date is May 24. As the State Board of Education schedule referred to in your email of April 14 calls for the public hearing on waiver requests to be held on May 24, and the Board no doubt would need additional time to form an opinion and announce a decision on our waiver request, the County Council necessarily must come to a resolution on this matter prior to the State Board making their decision on our waiver request.

Therefore, we respectfully withdraw our waiver request from the MOE requirement for public school funding for FY 2012. If any additional information is required, please contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

Dirck K. Bartlett, President

cc: Monica Heinsohn, President, Talbot County Board of Education
Dr. Karen B. Salmon, Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools
The Honorable Richard F. Colburn
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt
The Honorable Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio