

# Agenda

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## **Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools**

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/commissiononassessments/index.html>

December 17, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Low House Office Building

Room 145

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

1. Welcome
2. Review and approve November 17 minutes
3. Update on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Charge 6)
4. Presentation and discussion about time students spend taking mandated assessments (Charge 1)
5. Format and content of future Commission meetings – how to ensure that all tasks delineated in law are addressed
6. Future meetings and locations

### Future Meeting Dates:

January 11, 2016 – 1:00 – 3:00 – Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis

February 8, 2016 – 1:00 – 3:00 – Howard County Public Schools, 10910 Clarksville Pike,  
Ellicott City

## Commission's Charge

The Commission shall:

- (1) survey and assess how much time is spent in each grade and in each local school system on administering local, State, and federally mandated assessments;
- (2) review the purpose of all local, State, and federally mandated assessments administered by local school systems, whether summative or formative, and determine whether some assessments are duplicative or otherwise unnecessary;
- (3) review and analyze the local school systems' and the Department's interests in requiring assessments and attempt to develop a statewide approach to administering assessments;
- (4) determine whether the current local and State schedules for administering assessments allots enough time between administering a formative assessment and receiving the results of the formative assessment to meaningfully inform instruction; (5) survey and assess if the testing windows implemented by the local school systems and the State have any negative ancillary effects on instruction, materials and equipment use, and school calendars;
- (6) consider the implications for the State if changes were to be made to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that would allow for more flexibility in administering assessments;
- (7) make recommendations on:
  - (i) how local school systems and the State can improve the process in which local, State, and federally mandated assessments are administered and used to inform instruction;
  - (ii) if the Commission finds that the allotted time for administering assessments is resulting in reduced instruction time, the most efficient and effective methods to ensure that adequate time is allotted to both administering assessments and instruction; and
  - (iii) which developmentally appropriate elements, if any, should be included in an assessment administered to kindergarten students; and
  - (iv) any other relevant issue identified by the Commission; and
- (8) ensure that any recommendation retains the ability to compare student achievement across local school systems, the State, and the nation.