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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *lmlowery*

DATE: August 26, 2014

SUBJECT: MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee

PURPOSE:

To provide the State Board of Education a status update on the Medical Advisory Committee of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and the steps taken to ensure the health and safety of over 113,000 Maryland students who participate in high school athletics.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In recent years the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and MPSSAA have convened several task forces and committees to assist in the development of new policies, resources, and required forms regarding traumatic brain injuries/concussions, heat acclimatization and sudden cardiac arrest in the interest of student-athlete safety and injury prevention.

The MPSSAA has established a single Medical Advisory Committee composed of family practice physicians, neurologists, orthopedists, dermatologists and certified athletic trainers; additional members will be added as deemed necessary. This Committee will provide ongoing monitoring of current Maryland and national initiatives and consultation with MPSSAA on new initiatives based on the most medically sound practices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The MPSSAA remains engaged in the ongoing education of coaches, parents, and students for the well being of all participants. Expert and timely evaluation of new medical information, practices, and research related to interscholastic athletics is critical. The establishment of the standing Medical Advisory Committee will enable MPSSAA to proactively advocate for the health and safety of Maryland's student-athletes.

ACTION:

Information only.