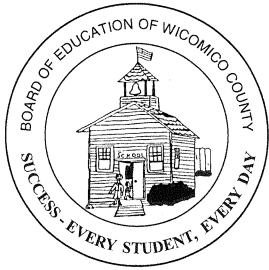


BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WICOMICO COUNTY

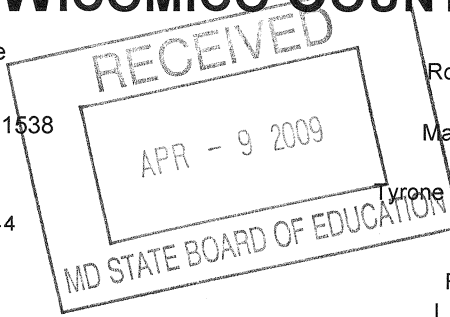


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Superintendent of Schools

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April 8, 2009

RE: Wicomico County Maintenance of Effort Waiver Request Superintendent's Response

Dear Executive Director South:

Please accept the attached materials on behalf of the students, parents, guardians, and staff of the Wicomico County Public Schools regarding this important action. The Wicomico County Executive has filed an application on behalf of the County Council to have the State of Maryland waive the statutory requirement to provide \$577,056 for Maintenance of Effort (MOE), leveraging \$5,759,130 in State funding. His request also proposes cutting Board of Education funding an additional \$1,422,944 for a total reduction of \$2,000,000, as of this writing. The full county budget will be submitted to the County Council April 15th, enabling more detailed discussion and consideration.

The principle of Maintenance of Effort is critical to the local-state government partnership of funding our schools, placing similar obligations and opportunities on all. It assures the people of Maryland that their tax supports and educational expectations are being fairly balanced. The loss of these funds will hurt children and degrade the educational progress made in recent years. Waiving MOE requirements also sets a negative precedent.

We are keenly aware of the difficult economic situation our county is in at this time. We are in this together and are ready to do our part. Options are available whereby a local solution can be created that solves the challenge closer to home with the potential of a higher level of satisfaction. We wish to collaborate locally to make the best things happen for our community, rather than operate within a MOE Waivered budgeting process. I'm confident that we can craft a solution with the County Executive and his team that will address county financial challenges and provide the school system the needed money to qualify for the State funds. Thank you.

Respectfully,

John E. Fredericksen, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools