

In this issue

September Employee of the Month	1
Inclusive Education	1
State Board Actions: August	2
Maryland Charity Campaign	3
Maryland College Application Campaign	3
Welcome Back, Maryland!	4
MSDE's 2018 Accomplishments	5
Say Hello	6



VOLUME 1
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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT MSDE

THE MSDE **PULSE**

Special points of interest >>>

- 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- BACK TO SCHOOL IN MARYLAND
- STATE BOARD ACTIONS



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to recognize our September 2018 Employee of the Month:

Kerrie Handakas



Kerrie Handakas , September 2018

Kerrie Handakas is a Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Specialist for the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Kerrie was nominated by three of her peers/ co-workers. Below is a brief summary of the nominations for Kerrie and why she was selected for this award:

Kerrie often steps up to assist in the absence of a supervisor. She goes above and beyond by always assisting others with their work while still managing to complete her own work. Kerrie often sends out reminders to our team of upcoming due dates to help us stay in compliance. She has various creative strategies for meeting goals and she willingly shares her techniques with others.

Kerrie is always willing to take the time to help and does so with a very positive attitude. By keeping everyone up to date and aware of policies and deadlines, she helps make sure we are all successful.

Kerrie is the ultimate team player and role model and she promptly, efficiently and joyously assists with any concern someone may have. Kerrie also projects an extremely positive attitude regarding DORS to everyone she comes into contact with, she goes the extra mile to help others.

Kerrie has assisted our team with multiple assignments. She has provided innovative solutions to problems in completing various tasks and has an amazing ability to keep other team players motivated and cohesive which allows us to work more effectively as a team in meeting the goals and mission of MSDE!

Kerrie's coworkers consider themselves fortunate to have her by their side.

Well deserved Kerrie!

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION → Process to Practice

Through a competitive application and interview process, the **Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services** has been selected as the only technical assistance state by the **TIES Center**. The TIES Center is the national center on inclusive practices and policies. Its purpose is to create sustainable K-8 educational systems that support full participation, engagement, and learning for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities so that they can fully engage in general education classrooms and other general education settings.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATION FORM](#)

State Board Meeting Actions: August 28, 2018

The following actions were taken at the August 28, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:

- Granted permission to publish amendments to Regulations .01-.05 and .07-.10, repeal Regulation .06, and adopt new Regulation .11 under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.01.05 Appeals to the State Board. The amendments include: (1) updating the delivery methods for filings before the State Board; (2) eliminates references to the library system because they are now an independent State agency; (3) limits the number of pages of an appeal to 15; (4) requires appeals to be filed in hard copy only; (5) directs that a response to an appeal may be made by Motion to Dismiss or by Memorandum in Response to the Appeal; (6) directs that a waiver of transcription costs may be sought from the State Superintendent of Schools; (7) allows the State Board to extend time periods for filings except for the time period for filing an appeal or motion for reconsideration; (8) establishes time periods for filing and limiting the maximum length of a motion or response to 15 pages; (9) eliminates the “mailbox rule” and establishes procedures for asserting no receipt of timely notice and placing the burden to prove timely notice was sent to the party who was responsible for ending the notice; (10) describes cases to be sent to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) allowing Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) to hear additional testimony or receive additional evidence if there is good reason the party did not offer it before; (11) limits oral argument to 10 minutes per side; (12) requires parties to file a copy of the OAH transcript with the State Board; (13) allows the State Board to decide appeals on the record without hearing oral argument unless otherwise required; (14) establishes how cases will be resolved if a majority of the voting members are not in concurrence; (15) directs appeals to the circuit court in the jurisdiction in which the local board resides; and (16) establishes procedures for removal of a local board member.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to Regulation .04 Length of School Year under COMAR 13A.02.01 Local Boards of Education. The amendments enable the Maryland State Department of Education to monitor local school systems’ make-up recovery plans on a timely basis and update the Maryland State Board of Education on the make-recovery plans, if needed.
- Granted permission to adopt the repeal of Regulation .06 Educational Programs for Pregnant Girls under COMAR 13A.08.01 General Regulations. Regulation .06 is out-of-date and the provisions of the regulation are covered in Maryland statute and other COMAR regulations.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to Regulation .11 Disciplinary Action under COMAR 13A.08.01 General Regulations. The purpose of these amendments is to prohibit suspension or expulsion of students in prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, or second grade, with certain exceptions, per State law.
- Approved the 2019 State Board of Education meeting dates

The following Opinions and Orders were rendered:

- *Megan Bremer v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – compensation dispute – Opinion No. 18-25*
- *Monica K. v. Prince George’s County Board of Education – student expulsion – Opinion No. 18-26*
- *Frederick Classical Charter School, Inc. v. Frederick County Board of Education – denial of funding – Opinion No. 18-27*
- *Mr. and Mrs. David E. v. Harford County Board of Education – student expulsion – Order No. OR18-06*
- *Ebony H. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – mistreatment/school safety – Order No. OR18-07*



Join Us....



....A LITTLE – HELP A LOT



It's that time of year! The Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is approaching quickly! The MCC is a workplace charitable giving program that offers State Employees and eligible Retirees the opportunity to contribute to charities using the convenience of payroll deduction. Currently, more than 800 charities participate in the campaign. This campaign is an opportunity to reach out and touch the lives of those in need. Help make a meaningful difference across the State of Maryland by *giving a little and helping a lot!*

Join us Tuesday, October 16th for our MCC Kick Off Event! This year's event will feature educational, medical, environmental and military based charities to name a few! Door prize items and a drawing will be held, we will also be collecting paper pledge forms at this time, stop by to learn more!

TIME AND LOCATION INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING

The Maryland College

Application Campaign



Follow us on Social Media #MDCOLLEGESTRONG

Instagram: [@mdcollapp](#)

Twitter: [@mcacampaign](#)

Facebook: [Maryland College Application Campaign– MCAC](#)

The Maryland College Application Campaign (MCAC) is well underway! The MCAC is a statewide effort to increase post-secondary access through the dissemination of ideas, development of practices, and technical assistance for implementation of college application campaign events. The purpose of the MCAC is to help high school seniors navigate post-secondary admissions process, and to ensure each participating high school senior submits at least one admission application. MSDE in partnership with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and College Goal Maryland (CGMD) support participating schools to help seniors and families with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application process by holding FAFSA Completion Events. The college campaign supports all students, particularly unaccompanied homeless youth, foster care youth, students with disabilities, students in the juvenile education system, and home school students. The program is part of the American College Application Campaign (ACAC) sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE).

Join us on social media! Post a selfie and let us know "Why should students pursue postsecondary education?" Be sure to use #WHYAPPLY #MDCOLLEGESTRONG and tag [@MdPublicSchools](#) and [MCAC](#) in your posts!

Welcome Back, Maryland! #BackToSchoolMD



Maryland schools are officially back in session! Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, kicked off the first day of school by welcoming Governor Larry Hogan, Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh, parents and students to Waugh Chapel Elementary in Anne Arundel County. Students and their families were greeted by the Governor and State Superintendent and excitedly posed for photos while on their way to classes.



Simultaneously, schools across the State took to Social Media to share how they celebrated the new year! Through using #BackToSchoolMD schools and counties were able to post photos and videos of Maryland public schools students, staff and families gearing up for their best school year yet! For more photos visit the MSDE Twitter Page [@MDPublicSchools](https://twitter.com/MDPublicSchools)

This year is an exciting year for Maryland schools! Welcome back, Maryland!

[Follow this link for a video recap of Waugh Chapel Elementary's First Day of School!](#)



Shining the Spotlight... >>> A monthly highlight from MSDE's NEW 2018 Accomplishments Document

To View The Complete Maryland State Department of Education Accomplishments Publication Visit:
marylandpublicschools.org/2018accomplishments

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION IN MARYLAND
ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS 2018



BECAUSE OPPORTUNITY BELONGS TO EVERYONE



MSDE CLASSIFIEDS



WHAT'S NEW?

Say Hello >>>

Who's new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!

Kofo Abegunde, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Stephanie Applekamp, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Linthicum Office)

Anna Aversa, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Ryan Brown, School Psychologist (Juvenile Services Education)

Shara Boykins, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Tamaqua Caesar, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Cathi-Anne Cooke, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Waldorf)

Peter Collins, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Tara Corona, Education Program Specialist I (Office of Leadership Development and School Improvement)

Lilian Cox, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

Margaret D'Agosaro, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Pamela Darien, Administrative Specialist III (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

Luke Dillon, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement and Professional Learning)

Davina Douglas-Rogers, Special Education Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

Amir Francois, Education Program Specialist II (Office of Research)

Christopher Franz, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Brej'ae Green, Administrative Aide (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

Zachary Hands, Designated Admin Manager IV (Office of the State Superintendent)

Susan Harmann, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Childhood)

Richard Henry, Executive Director (Office of Compliance and Monitoring)

Carla Hicks, Fiscal Services Administrator (Division of Business Services)

Ronald Komatz, School Psychologist (Juvenile Services Education)

Elizabeth Kuhn, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Angela Leach, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

Michelle Masser, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Jason Mayernick, Special Education Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

Megan Mchargue, V. R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Amanda Mertens, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Zachary Morris, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Ginnea Morton, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

Quiana Muse, Education Program Specialist II (Office of Compliance and Monitoring)

Jody O'Banner, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy)

Heather Peart, V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region V/Columbia Office)

Madeline Pfaff, V. R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Lisa Pino, Executive Associate II (Office of the Deputy for Teaching and Learning)

Brett Richards, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

Tawanna Robinson, Fiscal Accounts Clerk II (Division of Business Services)

Terrell Sample, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy)

Leslie Sessom-Parks, Staff Specialist III (Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs)

Vern Shird, Administrator III (MSDE/DORS/Headquarters/Procurement)

Dawn Showers, Special Education Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

Christin Smith, Academic Science Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

Darnell Speight, Agency Procurement Specialist Supervisor (Division of Business Services)

Leah Spivey, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/OBVS/Argonne Drive)

Tonee Strickland, Rehab. Center Residential Adv. II (MSDE/DORS/Workforce Technology Center)

Juan Tituana, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Information Technology)

Porsha Washington, Agency Budget Specialist II (Division of Business Services)

Christine Wathen, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Leonardtwn)

Anne Wheeler, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

Lee Xian, Accountant Advanced (Division of Business Services)