# THE MSDE PULSE

## A Monthly Insight in to the Happenings at MSDE

## Volume 1 Issue 18

### In this issue:

* Maryland’s Blue Ribbon Schools
* State Board Actions: December
* [MSDE’s Winter Wonderland](#_MSDE’s_Winter_Wonderland)
* [Maryland’s New Report Card](#_MARYLAND’S_MILKEN_EDUCATOR)
* [Say Hello](#_Say_Hello_>>>)
* [Best Wishes](#_Best_Wishes_>>>)
* [Customer Service Corner](#_Customer_Service_Corner)

# Maryland’s Blue Ribbon Schools

**Six Schools Receive Clue Ribbon Recognition**

This year, six Maryland public schools were selected and recognized as 2018-19 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools. All six were selected as an Exemplary High Performing School, one of the U.S. Department of Education’s two categories.

The schools were honored in a ceremony held in Annapolis by Governor Larry Hogan and Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools.

 All six schools will have the chance to apply to be a National Blue Ribbon School and will receive monetary prizes, gifts, office supplies and school supplies.

The schools are:

 **Pinewood Elementary School, Baltimore County**

 **Mount Harmony Elementary School, Calvert County**

 **Urbana High School, Frederick County**

 **Clarksville Middle School, Howard County**

 **Glenarden Woods Elementary School, Prince  George’s County**

 **Ocean City Elementary School, Worcester County**

##  State Board Actions: December

### *The following actions were taken at the December 4, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:*

 Granted permission to repeal Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) 13A.04.05 Education that is Multicultural and granted permission to publish new 13A.01.06 Educational Equity. The new educational equity regulations establish equity as a priority for the Maryland State Department of Education and all local school systems.

 Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.03.02.08 Grading and Reporting with the following nonsubstantive changes: (1) text has been amended to add the term “public” as a modifier of “school” to clarify that the regulation requiring each school system to recognize and accept any and all credits a student earns in school, means “public schools” only; and (2) text was amended to change “30 days” to “45 days” as the timeline for making grade changes and to add “For a change of grade for the 4th marking period, the timeline would begin on the first day of school in the new school year”.

 Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.06.07.01-.10 Student Transportation with nonsubstantive changes. Crime of second degree assault was added as a discretionary reason for a local school system supervisor of transportation to disqualify a school vehicle driver, a school vehicle driver trainee, or a school vehicle attendant from employment in those positions. Employment disqualification for second degree assault is within the discretion of the supervisor of transportation and is not an automatic reason for disqualification.

 Granted permission to adopt regulations under COMAR 13A.06.09 Maryland Early Literacy Initiative. These new regulations are designed to carry out the provisions of HB 1415, which establishes the Early Literacy Initiative, a competitive grant program for up to 50 qualifying schools (Title I) to develop an evidence-based early literacy program in the school to work with participating students to meet literacy proficiency targets by the end of the eighth grade or other literacy targets as determined by the Department.

 Approved Baltimore City Public Schools’ conditional waiver to open schools on February 18, 2019 (Presidents’ Day), if needed for the 2018-2019 school year.

 Approved the formation of a Task Force on Student Discipline Regulations to examine the impact of reforms in the state’s student discipline regulations and guidelines adopted by the State Board in 2014

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## *The following Opinions and Orders were rendered:*

* *Lelah and Leone A. v. Prince George’s County Board of Education – early K entry – Opinion No. 18-40*

 *In the Matter of Education Article Section 4-201 – Petition for Declaratory Ruling – Opinion No. 18-41*

 *Phil N., et al. v Anne Arundel County Board of Education – varsity field hockey team vandalism – Opinion No. 18-42*

 *Jonathan and Danielle P. v. Calvert County Board of Education – early K entry – Opinion No. 18-43*

 *Lee Thomassen v. Baltimore County Board of Education – teacher termination – Opinion No. 18-44*

 *Latin Schools of America, LLC v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – denial of charter school application – Order No. OR18-10*

 *Herbi and Yvonne M. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – early K entry – Order No. OR18-11*

 *Beverley G. Kelley v. Queen Anne’s County Board of Education – request for reconsideration – Order No. OR18-12*

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found by following [this link](http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default-2023.aspx).

# MSDE’s Winter Wonderland Luncheon

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For the fourth year in a row the Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Rewards and Recognition held MSDE’s Winter Wonderland Luncheon. This luncheon is held each year as a way to enhance organizational climate, encourage employee engagement, teamwork and spread some holiday cheer!

This year’s celebration was a huge success due to the dedication and hard work of all the Standing Committee members, volunteers and the contributions of employees!

The MSDE team enjoyed holiday tunes, treats, festive decorations and even a special performance by the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School jazz band from Baltimore City!

The Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Rewards and Recognition would like to thank all those who helped organize, volunteered time, donated food/beverage items or participated in the luncheon!

Thank You!

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## Introducing Maryland’s New Report Card

MSDE has been working hard to help improve school accountability. The 2018-19 Maryland School Report Card provides educators and parents with the most complete picture of school and school system performance in State history.

The redesigned Report Card includes a broad selection of performance indicators to help measure how schools are doing. In addition to student success and growth on State tests in English Language Arts and mathematics, the Maryland Report Card factors in progress in achieving English language proficiency for English Learners, chronic absenteeism, preparation for postsecondary success, access to a well-rounded curriculum and graduation rate.

 In future years,  the Report Card will Include the results of a student and faculty survey. The Report Card also includes information about schools throughout the State. Users can view information about their neighborhood school, and also track performance of schools throughout Maryland.

The new Maryland Report Card, based on the ESSA accountability plan, represents a quantum leap from previous versions of the Report Card in place for the past two decades. The changes were set in motion by the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in 2015. ESSA succeeded the No Child Left Behind Act in governing state school improvement plans.

The Maryland Report Card website and the School Report Cards are designed to spark conversation, ideas, and solutions for Maryland schools. Teachers and administrators should use these tools to inform and target improvements. The Report Card can help parents and stakeholders ask questions of school and district leaders, especially about their plans to improve the results.

## Say Hello >>>

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

**Hazar Biddle,** Education Program Specialist I (MSDE - Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement & Professional Learning)

**Alicia Bravo**- Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region VI/Germantown)

**Tanya Filson** - Education Program Specialist I (MSDE - Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement & Professional Learning)

**Brooke Finneran**, Administrative Officer III (Interagency Commission on School Construction)

**Paula Harri**s, Education Program Manager II (MSDE - Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement & Professional Learning)

**Tarik Harris**, Staff Specialist III (MD Center for School Safety)

**Yvonne Henderson**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (MSDE - Division of Early Childhood)

**James H**ott, Staff Specialist III (MD Center for School Safety)

**Nick Imhoff**, Staff Specialist III (MSDE - Division of Business Services)

**Frederick Knox**, V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region III/Park Avenue)

**Phyllis Lubin**, Office Secretary III (MSDE - Juvenile Services Education)

**Kimberly Mart**i**n**, Special Education Teacher (MSDE - Juvenile Services Education)

**Ronald Pierce**, Staff Specialist III (MD Center for School Safety)

**Kim Po**well, Education Program Manager I (MSDE - Division of Early Intervention & Special Education Services)

**Cindy Randall**, Accountant Supervisor II (MSDE - Division of Business Services)

**Simone Richardson**- V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region VI/Lanham Office)

**Lisa Robinson**, Special Education Teacher (MSDE - Juvenile Services Education)

**Michael Rudinski**, Staff Specialist III (MSDE - Division of Business Services)

**Sunil Thomas**, Accountant Supervisor (MSDE - Division of Business Services)

**Beth Toth**, Special Education Teacher (MSDE - Juvenile Services Education)

### Best Wishes >>>

Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!

* **Patricia Girvin**- Administrative Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)
* **Ursula Hastings**, MSDE - Division of Early Childhood Development
* **Peter Scilia**, MSDE - Juvenile Services Education
* **Dana Sullivan**, MSDE - Division of Early Childhood Development
* **Sharon Taylor**-Johnson, MSDE - Division of Curriclum, Instructional Improvement & Professional Learning
* **Anna Toye**, MSDE - Juvenile Services Education

## Customer Service Corner

Improving Customer Service Starts With You!!!!!!

Our goal last year for Customer Service Survey responses was an 80% satisfaction rate. We met that goal with a satisfaction rate of 80.9%!

This year, our goal has been increased to 81.5%. We need to step up our customer service efforts a bit more to reach the new goal! The current Year-to-Date results are as follows:

Question 1, Overall, how satisfied are you with the customer service provided? Calendar year-to-date: 80.9% of respondents indicated they were Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied.

Question 2, The state made it easy for me to handle my issue. Calendar year-to-date: 78.2% of respondents indicated they Strongly Agreed or Agreed

As you can see, we still have some work to do to achieve our 81.5% goal. Be sure to SMILE - They can hear it in your Voice!