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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: April 22, 2014
SUBJECT: Framework for Statewide School Discipline Plan

PURPOSE:

To provide an overview of the statewide plan to disseminate information and provide technical assistance to Maryland's local school systems in the area of school discipline.

BACKGROUND:

The Maryland State Board of Education is committed to creating a world-class education system where students graduate college and career ready. In addition to supporting academic initiatives and interventions, the Board realizes that to accomplish this goal, it must also continue to work in conjunction with stakeholders statewide and partners nationally to create environments that are safe, welcoming, and conducive to teaching and learning.

After reviewing a considerable amount of research and working closely with stakeholder groups across the State for the past several years, the State Board of Education adopted new regulations regarding student discipline at its January 2014 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Adoption of the new regulations was the first step in the Board's overall plan to support Maryland's school systems as they develop and implement policies to ensure safe, welcoming learning environments for their students and families. In the coming months, the Board will adopt Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline and hear reports on Best Practices in Student Discipline and the scale-up of positive behavioral interventions and supports.

Following release of the report *School Discipline and Academic Success: Related Parts of Maryland's Education Reform* in July 2012, the State Board directed the State Superintendent to appoint a workgroup to review and recommend changes to the types of offenses and responses to those offenses listed in the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline. The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide a *framework* for local boards to consider in establishing local district codes of conduct and new discipline-related policies. Though the new discipline regulations

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require local school boards to review and revise their discipline policies and regulations by the 2014-2015 school year, the Board recognizes that with local plans in effect for the coming school year, this is a continuing process of refinement of policies.

The Report on Best Practices and the scale-up report on positive behavioral interventions and supports are designed to provide districts with additional resources to affect positive change in student behavior and to share best practices in working with students when discipline challenges arise.

In order for school systems to be successful in implementing their discipline policies, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is developing a strategic plan for identifying challenges faced by local districts, developing an action plan for meeting identified challenges, providing ongoing technical assistance on best practices to meet the challenges, and following up to ensure progress. As part of this process, MSDE will review data and identify resources to assist local districts. Additionally, MSDE will provide technical assistance on the new regulations, the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline, and the best practices identified in the Board Report.

Attachment I is a table of remaining reports related to school discipline and proposed timelines for presentation to the State Board. **Attachment II** is the DRAFT Framework for a Statewide School Discipline Plan.

ACTION:

Accept the Framework for Statewide School Discipline Plan.

LML:WJS

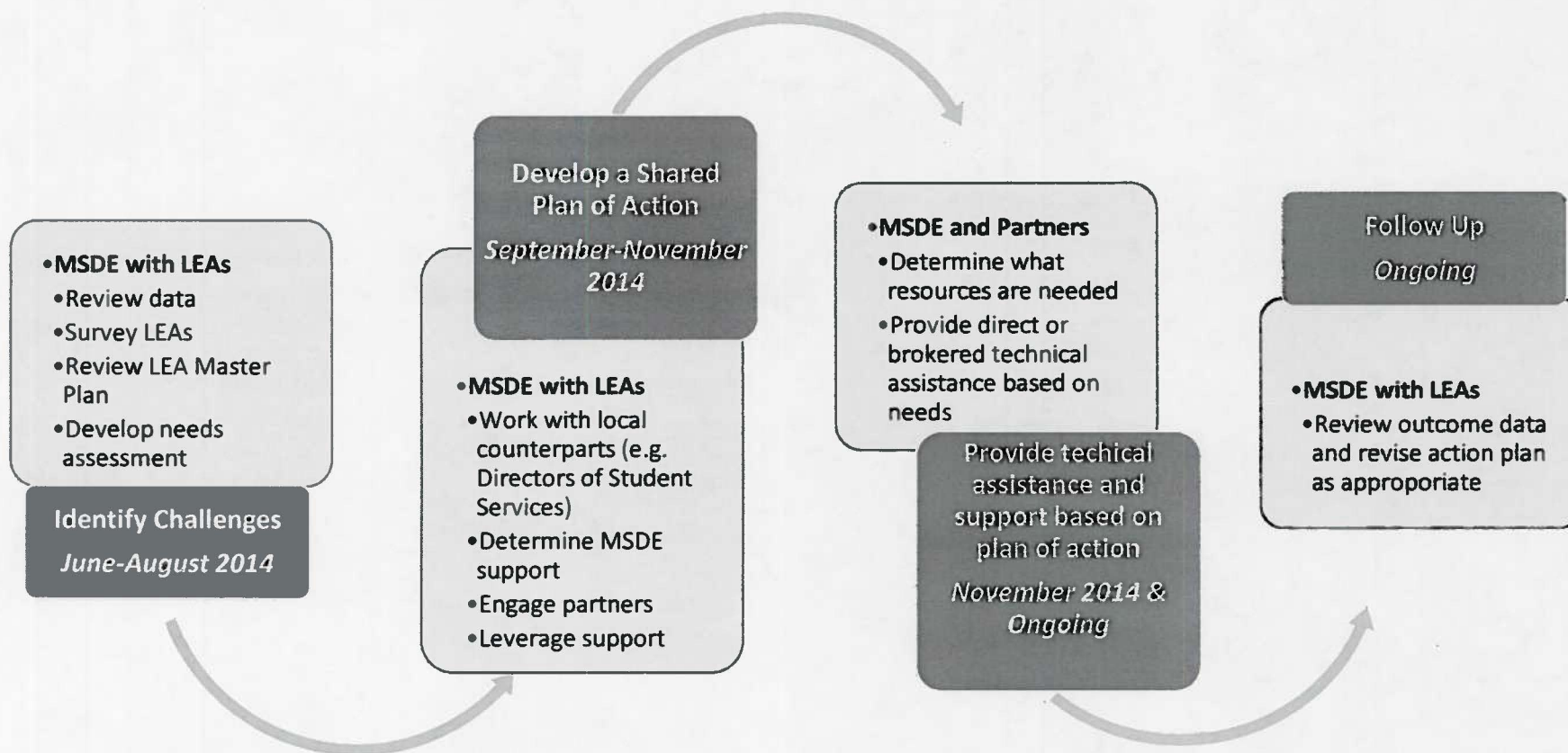
Attachments

ATTACHMENT I: State Board Presentations on School Discipline

Name of Report	Proposed Presentation	Description
Student Records Manual	June 23, 2014	The Code of Maryland Regulations requires schools to have systems of information on enrollment, attendance, and promotion. Each local education agency may collect additional information. The purpose of this manual is to provide instructions and sample forms to assist in the maintenance of this information. The forms were designed to incorporate all requirements necessary to earn a Maryland diploma. The Manual is periodically updated to reflect changes in State laws and regulations.
Best Practices in Student Discipline	July 22, 2014	The State Board reviewed the Report on Best Practices in School Discipline and requested additional material that more specifically addresses practices, outcomes of those practices, and practical information about how a practice becomes a “Best Practice” and why they should be considered by administrators dealing with specific behavioral incidents. A small workgroup is coming together to respond to the Board’s requests.
PBIS Scale Up	July 22, 2014	There has been an assumed logic to presenting the specifics of “Scaling up Maryland’s PBIS Initiative” after the broader “Report on Best Practices” is approved. As a result, the PBIS Maryland Partnership will also be presented in July. This report will be updated to include funding opportunities and national trends that will be highlighted in the presentation.

Name of Report	Proposed Presentation	Description
Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline	September 23, 2014	<p>Following release of the report <i>School Discipline and Academic Success: Related Parts of Maryland's Education Reform</i> in July 2012, the State Board directed the State Superintendent to appoint a workgroup to review and recommend changes to the types of offenses and responses to those offenses listed in the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline. The Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline are mandated by the Annotated Code of Maryland which state that the State Board of Education shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Establish guidelines that define a State code of discipline for all public schools with standards of conduct and consequences for violations of the standards; and (2) Assist each county board with the implementation of the guidelines.

ATTACHMENT II: DRAFT Framework for Statewide School Discipline Plan



Note: MSDE will review data and work to identify resources on an ongoing basis to support this framework. Additionally, MSDE will provide ongoing technical assistance on the school discipline regulations, the Guidance on a State Code of Conduct, best practices, and disproportionate/discrepant impact on minority students and students with disabilities.