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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: December 5, 2017

SUBJECT: Every Student Succeeds Act

Since the submission of Maryland's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State Plan on September 15, 2017, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has received communication from a number of policy organizations that are reviewing state plans. Some of the organizations provided a written document to check for accuracy; other organizations asked factual questions about the content of the plan. We have responded to the factual assertions of each of the inquiries asking for clarification or corrections to information. The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Alliance for Excellent Education, and Bellwether Education Partners provided a written document for review.

As the Board knows, many measures of the accountability system, including weights of indicators or measures, inclusion of student group performance in the summative rating, etc. were the direct result of meeting the requirements of the Protect Our Schools Act.

The organizations along with the general topic of their review are:

- Center on Education Policy – Survey on state ESSA implementation
- Thomas B. Fordham Institute – Review of ESSA state plans
- Education Commission of the States – State's accountability system in COMAR
- National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) – Definition of inexperienced and ineffective teachers; timelines and interim targets
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) – How states plan to use accelerated learning, specifically dual enrollment, in their accountability systems.
- Alliance for Excellent Education – Snapshot of ESSA plans from an equity perspective
- Bellwether Education Partners – Review of ESSA state plans

At this time, states that submitted Consolidated State Plans in September are awaiting feedback from the U.S. Department of Education. Maryland will need to respond thoroughly to the feedback which may include changes to the plan, enhancement of the plan, and/or clarifications. Some information may not warrant revision or response. At this time, no revisions to the plan can be submitted.

We will continue to analyze and be responsive to organizational reviews of Maryland's ESSA Plan. Thank you for your guidance and support.