



TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: July 18, 2017

SUBJECT: Update: *Lead Higher* Initiative

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the implementation of the *Lead Higher* initiative to close equity gaps for lower income students and students of color in Maryland's Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In 2016, *Lead Higher*, through Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), chose Maryland through a competitive national process as the second state (after Illinois) to commit to closing access gaps by 2020.

Six local school systems have selected 22 schools for participation in the 2017-18 cohort. EOS will provide onsite technical assistance to analyze data, create a strategy to reach and recruit students, and provide ongoing planning support, data tools, and enrollment tracking.

MSDE will continue to identify and engage school systems and schools to participate in order to close the statewide race and income participation gap in AP/IB by 2019-20 and raise AP/IB performance by spring 2020-21.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The *Lead Higher* initiative for states was created in April 2015 by a consortium that includes Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), College Board, International Baccalaureate, and lead philanthropic partner, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. As a *Lead Higher* state, MSDE, in partnership with EOS, will strive to reflect student diversity in AP and IB courses while increasing performance in those

programs. Participation in this program supports the Superintendent's and Board's mission to ensure equitable opportunities for all students to access rigorous programs.

ACTION: For information only.

Lead Higher

State Board Meeting
July 18, 2017

Lead Higher

Purpose: Reflect student diversity in AP and IB courses while maintaining quality of the courses

- Identify “missing students” in the state who can succeed
- Provide resources to upgrade and support students in AP/IB courses

Lead Higher: Objectives

- Close the statewide race and income participation gap in AP/IB by 2019-20
- Raise AP/IB performance by spring 2020-21
- Develop systems and structures to sustain and improve upon these results

Lead Higher

- Cost: \$54,000 per school
- Support:
 - Match funding from Equal Opportunity Schools
 - MSDE grants
- Final cost to Year 1 LEAs:
\$17,000 per school

Lead Higher Onsite Services

- Customized data analysis to evaluate size/ causes of enrollment gaps, schools' strengths, and effective options to close gaps
- Tools and guidance to build stakeholder support
- Identify missing students; technical assistance for reaching and recruiting students

Lead Higher Onsite Services

- Data tools for enrollment tracking
- Collaborative Achievement Plan, pedagogical and support strategies to improve quality and achievement in advanced courses
- Collaboration with leadership for sustainability

Student Insight Card



Monica Williams

Rising 12th grader

EDUCATIONAL GOAL: Advanced degree

CAREER INTERESTS: Computer science

TRUSTED ADULT : Ms. Brazelton

SUBJECT INTERESTS: Math/Science

TEACHER REC'S:



GRADE POINT AVERAGE: 2.6

Indicators of AP Readiness

- Feels classes not preparing her for college
- Willing to take AP
- Has Growth Mindset, Grit, Academic Strategies

AP Access Barriers

- Not sure how to get signed up for AP
- No staff encouragement to take AP
- Parents did not attend college

Test Scores v. Other AP Students



★ Indicates comparability to current AP students

Monica's Comments

I struggled with grades early in high school because I was bullied by my classmates and I couldn't do my work, but now no one can stop me from reaching my future goals. I'm going to be the first in my family to graduate college.

2016-17 Pilot

Montgomery County Public Schools

- 4 high schools
- 460 missing students added to AP/IB courses for 2017-18
- Goal for 2017-18 cohort: 1,000 low income students, African American students, and Hispanic/Latino students to be identified and enrolled

Participating LEAs: 2017-18

- Baltimore County 4 schools
- Calvert County 2 schools
- Dorchester 2 schools
- Montgomery County 7 schools
- Prince George's County 3 schools
- Washington County 4 schools