



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • msde.maryland.gov

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS/ICN*

DATE: July 26, 2016

SUBJECT: *Maryland Public Schools Standards for Telecommunications Distribution Systems*
– Proposed Discontinuation

PURPOSE:

To request the State Board of Education approve the discontinuation of the requirement that major capital projects comply with the telecommunication standards.

BACKGROUND:

In 1999, the State Board of Education issued standards for telecommunications systems that must be addressed in major school capital projects. The *Maryland Public School Standards for Telecommunications Distribution Systems* were developed for the Technology in Maryland Schools (TIMS) program which operated in early 2000 and was managed by the Public School Construction Program. The *Standards* were last revised in 2002.

Article §2-205 of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides for the State Board of Education, upon recommendation of the State Superintendent of Schools, to establish standards and guides for planning and constructing school building projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As instructional technology has changed, the *Standards* have become outdated. The wired and wireless technology currently being installed by school systems supersedes the requirements and nature of the *Standards*. Each local board of education is responsible for determining the best technology, including telecommunications distribution systems, for existing and new school buildings. Discontinuation of the standards will ensure that school systems have the flexibility they need. Local superintendents were notified in September 2015 of the intent to discontinue the *Standards*. The Department received no objections or comments on the proposal.

Members of the State Board of Education
July 26, 2016
Page 2

ACTION:

I request approval to discontinue the requirement for school building projects to comply with the *Maryland Public School Standards for Telecommunications Distribution Systems*.