



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 24, 2023

Sent via Electronic Communications

Mr. Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear State Superintendent Choudhury,

Thank you for your reply to our April 20 letter, wherein we expressed our deep concerns about the change in the publication of student and school data recently uncovered by Project Baltimore on Fox 45 television.

We remain concerned and have further questions about MSDE's publication of school test results. MSDE's enhanced deidentification measures in reporting standardized test scores are well outside the federal requirements to protect student privacy.

1. Why is MSDE exceeding the federal requirements to protect student data?
2. Previously when the population of students tested fell between 10 to 30 students, MSDE has been required to publish the scores and school data. Why has that been changed? The number of students tested in a particular grade level falls below 30 in many schools. Kirwan will reduce class sizes even further.
3. Using the new requirement mentioned above, proficiency test data is not available and will no longer be accessible to the public for multiple school populations.
4. Why has MSDE removed the column called "proficient count?"
5. Why is MSDE not applying the same enhanced deidentification measures on highly performing schools?
6. Why is MSDE going back and changing historical data?

The MSDE changes underway removes an entire column of proficient count and hides all the data for a school if the testing group is less than 30 students and/or fewer than five percent of students scored proficient. The newly revised reporting measures make the data essentially useless for parents, students, lawmakers, and school systems, especially in low-performing schools where this data is critical in improving student learning and achievement.

April 24, 2023
State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury
Page Two

Our constituents continue to express concerns. Unfortunately, the recent changes by MSDE only raise their frustrations and ours.

As mentioned in our previous letter, parents want school-level data to know about and make decisions for their children's education. MSDE's recent enhanced changes only make it more difficult to understand how schools are doing. We agree.

We look forward to hearing your answers to our questions.

Sincerely,



Lauren Arikan
District 7B



Robin Grammer, Jr.
District 6



Ryan Nawrocki
District 7A



Brian Chisholm
District 31



Nicholaus Kipke
District 31



Kathy Szeliga
District 7A



Mark Fisher
District 27C



Matthew Morgan
District 29A