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Statement Addressing Misleading News Reports on MSDE's Methods for Reporting Student Data

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would like to address the continuously inaccurate reports by a single local news outlet. In a news story that aired on May 3, the report implied that MSDE changed its method for suppressing and reporting data without making a public announcement about the change. The piece also indicated that in previous years, whenever changes were made to the data reporting standards, there was a public announcement made to explain the changes and the reasoning behind them.

The current agency administration applied existing data suppression methods to the 2022 Maryland Report Card data that have already been in place going back to [Maryland's Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) plan](#) (See page 10) which was approved in 2018. Stakeholders and members of the Maryland State Board of Education were engaged as part of the development of the ESSA plan. The development of the ESSA plan also incorporated extensive regional engagement across the state of Maryland including surveys in multiple languages. Information on how extensive stakeholder feedback and public engagement was incorporated into the ESSA plan can be found [here](#).

To assist with the understanding of MSDE's data reporting methods, the department has developed additional materials summarizing its data suppression requirements. That document can be accessed [here](#) and within previous statements released by MSDE. Additional information can also be found in the previously released statements and correspondence on the matter which are listed below:

4.25.2023 - [Statement on Maryland Report Card Assessment Data](#)

4.20.2023 - [Response to Fox 45 MCAP Data Reporting](#)

3.8.2023 - [Response to Inquiries by Fox 45 News](#)

MSDE is entrusted with student data across the state, and we hold that responsibility to our students to the highest standard. MSDE also values transparency and trust and knows that it is imperative for the public to have access to complete and accurate information. MSDE continues to strive towards reporting as much information as possible to support decision-making while at the same time protecting the

personally identifiable information (PII) of our students as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

MSDE asserts that it will inform the public and stakeholders as the department implements necessary changes to its procedures for reviewing and reporting student data. The department has made no changes to its procedures for reviewing and reporting student data which were developed under the state's approved ESSA plan and meets requirements from the U.S. Department of Education. The notion that new suppression methods were applied to the 2022 MD Report Card is false and inaccurate. The current administration continues to utilize the procedures from the prior administration for reporting student data which were adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education under ESSA in 2018.