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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: June 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Lead Higher Update

PURPOSE:

To provide information on Maryland's selection as the second state to partner with the *Lead Higher* Initiative to close equity gaps for lower income students and students of color in its high schools' most rigorous courses.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Lead Higher, through Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), invited states to compete for a statewide initiative to close access gaps and increase Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) access. Through a competitive national process, *Lead Higher* chose Illinois as the first state; Maryland, as runner up, will be the second state to commit to closing its gaps by 2020.

Maryland has led the nation in success on the Advanced Placement exams for ten consecutive years, with 31.7 percent of Maryland seniors earning a score of 3 or higher on one or more exams. More than half of all Maryland high school graduates take at least one AP exam while in high school, and that tally has nearly doubled over the past decade. Although Maryland's success rate is the highest in the country, it is not enough. Maryland's low income students in the Class of 2015 were underrepresented in the AP program. While 42.8 percent of Maryland seniors were eligible for free or reduced-price meals they only comprised 30.9 percent of AP test takers, and 16.5 percent of those who received a grade of 3 or better.

The State has received several federal grants to build AP programs and pipelines and to increase the participation of underrepresented students. However, Maryland has not engaged in a statewide effort to close access gaps to existing AP and IB programs. By analyzing data in each Maryland school, Equal Opportunity Schools has identified 16,000 "missing students" - lower income students and students of color who would be included in AP or IB programs if they fully reflected the schools' diversity.

As a *Lead Higher* state, Maryland will partner with EOS with the following objectives:

1. Close the statewide race and income participating gap in AP/IB by 2019-20.
2. Raise AP/IB performance by spring 2020-21.
3. Develop systems and structures for the State to sustain and improve upon these results in future years.

Two Maryland school systems, Montgomery County and Howard County, have already identified schools which will participate.

EOS will provide onsite technical assistance to analyze data, create a strategy to reach and recruit students, providing ongoing planning support, data tools, and enrollment tracking.

MSDE will continue to identify and engage school systems and schools in the pilot cohort for the 2017-18 school year and facilitate community of practice convenings for participating and interested school systems to share best practices, accelerate the work, and identify additional opportunities for state support.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The *Lead Higher* Initiative is a consortium created in April 2015, and includes EOS, College Board, International Baccalaureate, and lead philanthropic partner, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It launched this statewide challenge at the White House's "Next Generation High School Summit" in November 2015. As a *Lead Higher* state, Maryland will partner with Equal Opportunity Schools to reflect student diversity in AP and IB courses while maintaining the quality of those programs.

ACTION:

For information only.



Lead Higher Maryland Launch Conversation

Goals for Today

Purpose

1. To build understanding of the Lead Higher state project being undertaken in Maryland
2. To address and discuss board questions
3. To develop board support for the commitment to reflect the state's diversity at the highest levels of K-12, while maintaining AP/IB success



640,000 low-income students and students of color are missing from challenging classes in their school each year.

EOS's National Impact

23
states

350
schools

33,000
students

75%
stable/+
scores

Maryland's Expected Impact

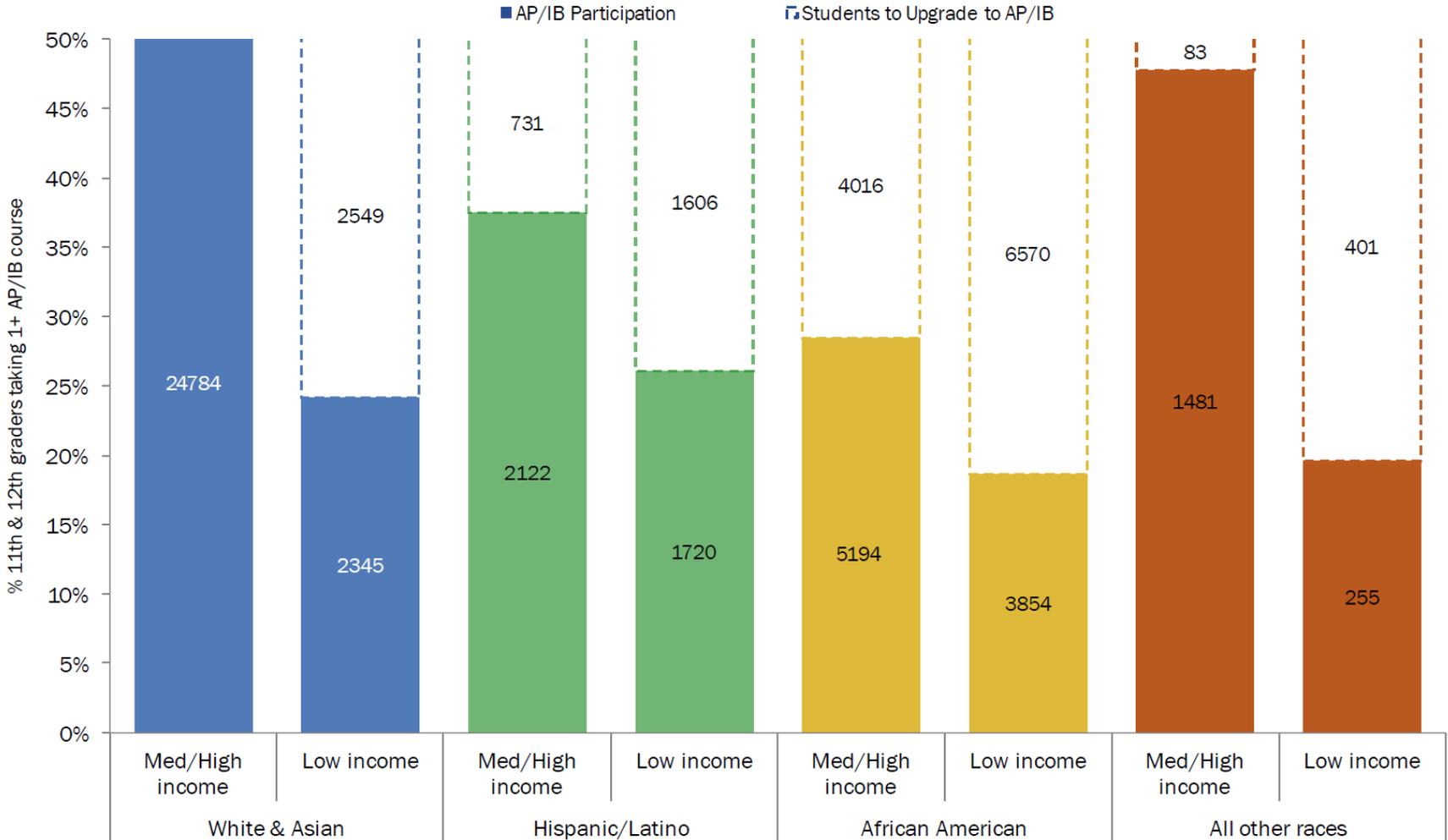
16,000+
students per year
found

29,600+ new college
graduates created in a
decade

Transform possibilities for
historically under-served
students +
their contributions to
economy and society

State of Maryland

Percent 11th/12th grade AP/IB participation by Race and Income
 Approximately 15956 underrepresented students to add to achieve AP/IB equity



All calculations are based on a benchmark participation rate of 50%

EOS Timeline | Founding to Today

Lead Higher 

Google.org



My BROTHER'S KEEPER

2010

2012

2013

2013

Spring 2015

Winter
2016



The Education Trust



“Finding America’s Missing Students”

Lead Higher

My Brother's Keeper Announcement



“Spending \$100 million to break down AP class barriers”



“How one high school is closing the AP gap”



“EOS and its partners to increase enrollment of low-income and minority students in advanced courses”



“We applaud the commitment of Equal Opportunity Schools...”
- John King



“Groups Pledge \$100 Million to Expand Access and Equity to AP, IB Courses”



“Expanding Opportunity Works”
- Broderick Johnson, chair of MBK task force





The next generation of high school students will be the most diverse in American history. Currently, less than 1% of our high schools are equitably including low income students and students of color at the highest academic levels. We can change this. And in so doing, enable students of every background to succeed in our most rigorous classes and set us on a path to economic vitality and a thriving democracy. That's where you come in.

Lead Higher Selects Maryland

Illinois Chosen To Close Equity Gaps in Top Courses, Maryland Selected & Commits for 2017 Launch

Mar 15, 2016, 16:02 ET from [Equal Opportunity Schools](#)

"Maryland demonstrated its commitment to equity and opportunity from a broad and diverse group of state and district leaders; a commitment to equity in addition to a longstanding and widespread commitment to success and opportunity in their AP/IB programs; and a strong, existing community of practice among district leaders and the MSDE," Saaris said.

"Education is my administration's number one priority," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Maryland has great schools and world-class universities, but the gap between the good schools and the underachieving schools is among the worst. Partnering with innovative programs like Lead Higher will help to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed."

"While Maryland's success rate on AP exams is the highest in the country, it is not enough," said Jack Smith, Interim State Schools Superintendent. "Persistent gaps still exist and all 'missing students' must have access to rigorous content and success on

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 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

Writing

44

Math

46

Critical Reading

48



 Indicates comparability to current AP

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.

Framework for Collaboration

- **March 9, 2016 – State final selection publicly announced in coordinated press release**
- **April 2016 – District and state MOUs executed**
- **Summer 2017 – Launch meeting with state and district partners, hosted by state**
- **August 2017 – School site visits by EOS begin with some state shadowing**
- **Fall 2017 – EOS district data analysis, w/ state shadowing to seed state process for 2017**
- **Winter 2018 – State reviews EOS district analyses and sets up spring district support visits**
- **Spring 2018 – Second district cohort finalized**
- **Summer 2018 – EOS and state collaboratively write multi-year plan to close gaps statewide**
- **2019-20 – Target statewide gap closure – become first in nation to fully reflect student diversity, talent, and success at the highest academic levels of the K-12 system**



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Lead Higher 