



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

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

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

**DATE:** September 27, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Recognition of *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) Schools*

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to recognize the six Maryland Public Schools that have been designated as 2015 *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) Schools*.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The Maryland State Department of Education focuses on improving all levels of student achievement, including the achievement of students who are advanced /gifted and talented. Building on a strong foundation of gifted and talented education programs and services currently offered in our schools, in 2010 we began recognizing those schools that are models of excellence.

The Maryland State Department of Education and the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education initiated the *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Awards Program* to recognition elementary, middle, and high schools that offer superior gifted and talented programs aligned with the objectives and criteria of the *Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines*. In particular, the Council annually welcomes applications from schools that serve high percentages of students traditionally underrepresented in advanced programs, including students who are culturally or linguistically diverse or living in poverty.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Since the inception of the EGATE schools program, 39 schools from 10 of Maryland's 24 school systems have earned the EGATE designation. The 2015 EGATE schools were recognized with Governor's proclamations at a February 2016 reception, proudly display the EGATE banner, and serve as models for other schools seeking to achieve EGATE status. The 2015 EGATE schools are:

- Prince George's County Public Schools
  - Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer
  - Mary Cay Ricci, Supervisor of Advanced and Enriched Instruction (PreK-12)

- *Calverton Elementary School* -- Monique Sloan, Principal
- *Kenmoor Middle School* -- Maha Fadli, Principal
- *University Park Elementary School* -- Toi Davis, Principal
- Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Dr. Sonia Brookins Santelises, Chief Executive Officer
  - Dennis Jutras, Coordinator of Gifted and Advanced Learning (PreK-12)
    - *Hamilton Elementary/Middle School* -- Patricia Otway-Drummond, Principal
    - *Hampstead Hill Academy* -- J. Matthew Hornbeck, Principal
- Washington County Public Schools
  - Dr. Clayton M. Wilcox, Superintendent
  - Dr. Jessica Reinhard, Supervisor of PreK-12 Advanced Programs
    - *Fountaindale Elementary School for the Arts and Academic Excellence* -- Dr. Theresa Williamson, Principal

Each EGATE school submitted a comprehensive application which provided documentation from the past fifteen months of twenty-one different criteria under four program objectives from the *Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education Program Guidelines*. Maryland State Department of Education personnel and members of the State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education conducted celebratory visits to these schools in May.

The 2016 EGATE Application has been shared with all local school superintendents, assistant superintendents for instruction, and gifted and talented education program coordinators. Submissions are due by December 2, 2016.

**ACTION:**

Recognize the six Maryland Public Schools that have been named 2015 *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) schools.

KBS:bdr