



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

July 14, 2014

Mr. Michael M. Sanderson
Executive Director
Maryland Association of Counties
169 Conduit Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Sanderson:

The Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act (SB856 of 2002) requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to contract with a public or private entity to conduct a study of the adequacy of education funding, including a study of school size, in the State. The 2007 and 2012 Special Sessions further refined the work required in the contract adding a review of the Supplemental Grants issued in FY 2008 and an update of the Geographic Cost of Education Index using the most current methodology.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the State is unique in that it is a comprehensive study incorporating a number of smaller, related studies that impact education funding in Maryland. The selected consultants will work with a Stakeholder group to ensure the study is thorough and reflective of the distinctive characteristics of Maryland and its public schools. The stakeholder group will provide a forum for the consultants to share progress on the work of the studies and for the members of the stakeholder group to provide insight on critical issues.

On behalf of Secretary T. Eloise Foster and Executive Director Karl Aro, I would like to invite you, or your designee, to join the Adequacy Study Stakeholder Group. Current plans are for the group to meet quarterly through the next two years. Please return the attached form indicating your agreement to serve on this stakeholder group to Donna Gunning by July 31, 2014. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at the Maryland State Department of Education headquarters in Baltimore. A formal meeting notice will be sent to your designee in early August.

I look forward to working with you on our shared goal of improving achievement for all Maryland students.

Sincerely,

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

LML/dg

Enclosure

Adequacy Study Stakeholder Group

Appointment Acceptance

Yes, _____, will serve as a member of the Adequacy Study Stakeholder Group.

Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

Signature

Organization

Date

Please return by **July 31, 2014** to:

Ms. Donna Gunning, Program Manager
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Email: dgunning@msde.state.md.us or
FAX: 410-333-2232