



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

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**TO:** Interested Citizens  
**FROM:** Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*  
**DATE:** October 31, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** FYI from October 28, 2014 State Board of Education Meeting

At the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education, the following actions were taken:

- Authorized the State Superintendent to draft amendments to the regulations for High School Graduation which would provide that all students who take the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests in Algebra I and English 10 in school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 will not be required to pass the tests in order to graduate high school. The students would still be required to pass their courses in these subjects. The regulatory proposal is to be presented to the State Board at its next meeting on December 16, 2014.
- Granted "Permission to Publish" proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.03.04 Test Administration and Data-Reporting Policies and Procedures. These amendments were proposed in response to the Regulatory Review that was recently conducted. Included among the amendments is the elimination of the reference to the Maryland School Assessments in reading and mathematics and the addition of the PARCC Assessments along with the elimination of the reference to the GED and the addition of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in school year 2014-2015. The proposed amendments also update COMAR 13A.03.04.03 to allow for the electronic archival of paper documents.
- Granted authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to notify the Comptroller to withhold 10% of the November State aid payment and each subsequent installment for any school system that is not in full compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in §5-114 of the Education Article.
- Approved the *Maryland Teacher Staffing Report: 2014-2016* declaring: (1) all content areas identified in the Report along with mathematics as critical areas of shortage; (2) all counties (with the exception of Allegany) and Baltimore City as geographical areas of projected shortages of certified teachers; (3) a shortage of teachers who are male as well as teachers who are members of minority groups; and (4) a shortage of the non-classroom professional positions of library/media specialist and speech/language pathologists. The declared critical shortage areas provide the basis for offering certain financial incentives to persons pursuing education or employment in the identified areas of shortage.



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Meeting materials, Opinions and Orders can be found at [www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard).

The next regular meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. This meeting will be held at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required. Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.