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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: March 24, 2009
SUBJECT: Update on Estimated Graduation Status from Local School Systems

PURPOSE:

To update State Board of Education members on current information regarding the HSA requirement status of students expected to graduate from Maryland public high schools in the spring of 2009.

BACKGROUND:

The Class of 2009 is the first group of students needing to meet the HSA requirement in order to graduate with a Maryland diploma. In January 2009, the State Board requested a data collection directly from schools reflecting the progress of 2008-2009 seniors toward meeting high school graduation requirements, with particular emphasis on the HSA requirement. The information used for this update will include the January test results just made available to school systems as well as information schools have relative to Bridge Plan completion.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At this date, no student has met all requirements for graduation, as they are currently enrolled in their courses that will give them their final credit requirements. However the vast majority of students have already met the HSA requirement, and according to local school systems, most of these students are also on track to complete their remaining credit requirements by the end of the school year.

In an effort to provide the Board with the most updated information available, school systems were asked to conduct a data collection directly from their schools. They were asked to provide their most current data on numbers of senior students meeting the HSA graduation requirement as of March 13, 2009. Because schools are being asked to make predictions and judgments, many are taking a conservative path and over-identifying students at risk of not meeting requirements. They routinely do this to keep pressure on marginal students so they do, in fact, finish on time. Also, routinely, some students not finishing on time will finish during the summer or in the next academic year. Annually, Maryland has around 300 students receiving diplomas in the summer.



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The data are due to MSDE the evening of March 20, 2009. After the local reports are compiled and analyzed, MSDE staff will present State Board members with a summary of findings by school and subgroup.

Senior students not yet meeting the HSA graduation requirements will have another opportunity to take and pass the tests, or achieve the combined score option of 1602 in April, 2009. They also continue to work on Bridge Plan projects, and some will be eligible for waivers.

ACTION:

For information only. No action required.