



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

DATE: June 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Common Core Curriculum Frameworks

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide members of the Maryland State Board of Education with an overview of the development process for the new Maryland Common Core State Curriculum and, in particular, to review the first phase of that work, development of the reading/English Language Arts and mathematics curriculum frameworks.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2010, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted the national Common Core Standards. These standards form the foundation of Maryland's new curriculum which will be ready for full implementation in the 2013-14 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

After the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core Standards, content experts from across the state, higher education representatives, and MSDE staff conducted an analysis to identify gaps between Maryland's present State Curriculum and the new Common Core State Standards. A Gap Analysis tool designed by Achieve was used to compare the two curricula. Excellent, good, weak, and no matches were identified. During the present school year, writing teams, comprised of educators from local school systems, members of the higher education community, and MSDE staff worked together to analyze the Common Core standards and identify the skills and content knowledge that would lead to students' acquisition of each standard. The excellent matches of skills identified during the gap analysis were included, as well.

The results of this development work are the creation of the Maryland Common Core Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts and Mathematics. During this summer, approximately 6,000 educators will participate in the Educator Effectiveness Academies, and one component of the academy experience will be to provide input on the Frameworks. Because the Frameworks are comprised of the "building blocks" for the full curriculum, gathering broad input is critical. The Frameworks are presently posted on mdk12.org for wide review.

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The next phase of the curriculum work will be developing the curriculum Toolkit which will include lesson plans, lesson units, intervention and enrichment modules, and multi-media resources.

ACTION:

The Maryland State Board of Education is asked to accept the Frameworks as draft documents which will be finalized after the 6,000 educators in the summer academies have provided feedback. The Frameworks will drive continued development of the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum.

NSG:mc

Attachments