



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*  
**DATE:** June 21, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Maryland Professional Development School (PDS) Network Award

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to present an award from the Maryland Professional Development School (PDS) Network to Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick to acknowledge her implementation and support of the Professional Development School model for teacher preparation in Maryland.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Under the leadership of Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Maryland has become a national model for Professional Development Schools, using the Maryland Professional Development School Standards. Maryland Professional Development School stakeholders serve in leadership positions in the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) and Maryland has been chosen as one of eight states in an Alliance to implement the recommendations of *the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation, Partnerships, and Improved Student Learning*. Maryland's strong emphasis on clinical preparation in Professional Development Schools has positioned Maryland to provide guidance to other states in the Alliance.

Since the adoption of the Maryland Higher Education Commission Task Force Report in May 1995, the *Redesign of Teacher Education in Maryland* has guided the work of teacher preparation in Maryland. A key element of the *Redesign* and the *Performance Indicators Based on the Redesign of Teacher Education* is the requirement that full-time teacher candidates are prepared in specially designed Professional Development Schools. Currently, there are 413 Professional Development Schools in Maryland, representing partnerships that include all 23 Institutions of Higher Education and the 24 local school systems.

The Maryland Professional Development School Network, coordinated by the Program Approval and Assessment Branch in the Division of Certification and Accreditation, provides opportunities for all stakeholders to learn from and with one another in order to support teacher effectiveness and student achievement. The Maryland Professional Development School Network includes representatives of Institutions of Higher Education, local school systems, and individual schools.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This award from representatives of Maryland institutions of higher education, local school systems, and individual Professional Development Schools recognizes Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick's contributions to state and national Professional Development School work.

NSG: jes

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