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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: December 17-18, 2008
RE: *Maryland State Department of Education Federal Priorities for Pre-K-12 Education for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is to request the State Board’s approval of the *Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Federal Priorities for Pre-K-12 Education for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress* and to authorize the State Superintendent to submit MSDE’s Federal Priorities to the Governor’s Washington Office.

BACKGROUND

Each year, MSDE is asked to submit to the Governor’s Washington Office its *Priorities for Pre-K-12 Education* for consideration during the upcoming session of the United States Congress. The Governor’s Office reviews each State agency’s *Federal Priorities*, makes a determination as to those that are of the highest priority for the State as a whole, and combines them into one *Maryland Federal Priorities* document. The Governor formally presents the document to the Maryland Congressional Delegation.

Last year, and in years past, MSDE’s *Priorities for Pre-K-12 Education* have been due to the Governor’s Washington Office in late January and the Governor has presented the *Maryland Federal Priorities* to the Maryland Delegation in February. Going into the FY 2010 appropriations cycle, the Governor’s Washington Office has indicated they would like to allow more time for review of the priority proposals. In addition, they would like to allow adequate time in which to vet them with staff of Leadership and Appropriators among Maryland’s Congressional Delegation. Therefore, they recently requested receipt of each agency’s Federal Priorities by December 19, 2008.

Further, the Governor’s Washington Office advised the Department that early drafting of these priorities is necessary earlier than in prior years in order to ensure that Maryland will have adequate input in the President-elect’s budget proposals. Congress will have to change some of its internal and external procedures in order to acclimate to a new Administration, so the *Federal Priorities* must be prepared early. In addition, early



submission of the *Federal Priorities* will facilitate discussions as to larger budgetary priorities with the President-elect's budget transition team staff as well.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached document was prepared with input from the members of the MSDE Executive Team and their respective staff, as well as consideration to federal issues that have been raised by members of the State Board. At the direction of the Governor's Washington Office, the Priorities are grouped in 4 categories: Reauthorization Requests; Bill or Report Language Requests, Programmatic (Budget) Requests; and Project Requests.

While we are uncertain as to when reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will occur, recommendations have been developed and are included in the attached document for your consideration and approval.

ACTION

State Board approval of the *Maryland State Department of Education Federal Priorities for Pre-K-12 Education* for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress and authorization to submit the *Priorities* to the Governor's Washington Office is requested.

Attachment