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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *lmlowery*

DATE: April 23, 2013

SUBJECT: Anti-Bullying and School Safety

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to bring a student perspective to the issue of school safety in order to provide insight on how to directly impact students and to make the State Board of Education aware of the efforts that the Baltimore County school system has taken to create safer school environments.

BACKGROUND:

In an effort to spread awareness of bullying and promote an atmosphere of respect for one another throughout the system, Baltimore County Public Schools launched the first countywide Anti-Bullying Day on March 1, 2013. The Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, comprised of BCPS high school students, worked from November 2012 until May 1, 2013 with Dr. Dallas Dance and other BCPS staff in the organization of this event.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Two members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board will present the planning, action, and effects of the inaugural countywide Anti-Bullying Day. They will also share their concerns about bullying and school safety from a student's viewpoint, as well as discuss the effect on a state level. The Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools and his Student Advisory Board believe that school safety must first begin at the level of the student. Programs that support positivity in schools and encourage students to understand the repercussions of negative behavior, such as a county wide Anti-Bullying Day, create better school environments and can prevent school violence perpetrated by students.

ACTION:

No action required; for information and/or discussion only.