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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. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: April 23, 2013
SUBJECT: Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant: Progress Report

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide progress regarding the implementation of the *Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant* from January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

Maryland has received one of nine *Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund Grant (RTTT-ELC)* award for a total of \$50 million over four years. The *Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge* program is co-managed by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

MSDE has been designated as the lead agency to coordinate a multi-agency approach to submitting Maryland's state plan. The current Governor's State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education, functioned as the lead team for this project, established a core working group, and worked with staff at MSDE, namely the Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD) and the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS), to coordinate all aspects of submitting a competitive State Plan.

Maryland's progress report on the 10 thematic projects (ATTACHMENT), reflects the scope of work that was submitted to and approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is designed to improve the school readiness results from 81 percent in 2010 to 92 percent in 2015, the last year of the grant. In addition, it strives to reduce the readiness gap for low income children, English language learners, and young children with disabilities.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS:

Both lead divisions, the Divisions of Early Childhood and Special Education/Early Intervention Services, have embarked on implementing the ten projects which are broken down into 698 specific tasks which have been outlined in Maryland's approved Scope of Work (SOW). As of March 31, 2013, 57 percent of all tasks have been completed or have been initiated on time. 43 percent of the tasks will commence by April 2013 or later. While some tasks had to be extended, for which the U.S. Department of Education gave approval, all projects are currently on time.

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ACTION:

For information only.

Attachment

