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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*  
**DATE:** March 23, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Teacher Certification Discussion

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to provide time for the State Board of Education to continue its discussion of educator certification in Maryland.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In response to Board member interest, the State Board of Education has undertaken a review and examination of Maryland's requirements for the certification of teachers and other education professionals. Specific time was dedicated for this purpose on the agendas for the January and February Board meetings. The discussion of certification this month is the third in a three-month sequence. The Board requested that the focus of this third meeting be a discussion of what is working as well as consideration of any changes that may be appropriate to the current certification structure.

Topics for discussion and for which recommendations may be put forth include, but are not limited to the following in addition to any direction the Board may provide:

**Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Programs**

- Options for expanding current eligibility requirements for applicants to enter a Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Program (MAAPP)
- Development of guidelines for candidates in such areas as Technical Education and ESOL for which, like elementary education, there is no major content
- Possible State-based expert development of required teaching outcomes for Computer Science certification to present to ETS for test development so that MAAPPs can provide teachers for this continuing area of shortage (currently not possible due to lack of regulation-required test)

**Certification**

Proposed study committee to consider the following:

- Development of a two-tiered system of license and certification
- Possible removal of the continuing course work requirement for advanced professional certification
- The suggestion of a "test out" component for reading for approved programs in higher education
- A required professional development plan directly related to teacher effectiveness and student growth

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Leaders in education, from across Maryland and from the Department, with expertise and experience in their fields of endeavor have provided information about teacher certification and preparation in Maryland during the last two Board meetings. Today's agenda item is devoted to a discussion based on information gleaned from presentations, discussion, and reference materials over your past two meetings with consideration of potential changes to the current certification and preparation structure as well as next steps for exploring refinement.

**ACTION:**

This item is presented for discussion only.

NSG: jhe