

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

October 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: 2021 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan

**Background**

Under the *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* (BTE), enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2002, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Maryland are required to annually submit a comprehensive plan that links school finances to decisions concerning school improvement. BTE is a standards-based approach to public school financing. BTE requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to set academic content and student achievement standards, ensure that schools and students have sufficient resources to meet those standards, and hold schools and school systems accountable for the performance of all students and all racial/ethnic and special services groups. By design, the legislation requires school systems to integrate state, federal, and local funding and initiatives into the plan.

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law as a replacement to the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). Building on the many great aspects of NCLB, the new law focused on equity, accountability, innovation, assessments, and access to high-quality preschool. Under the new law, states and LEAs were afforded more control over accountability goals, interventions and supports, assessment options, and standards.

During the 2017–2018 school year, the new ESSA provisions went into effect with the approval of the Maryland ESSA Consolidated State Plan on January 16, 2018. In 2018–2019, a new Maryland State Report Card was launched, which now includes data on growth, progress of English Language Learners in achieving proficiency, post-secondary readiness, and access to a well-rounded curriculum. In the future, it will include science, social studies, and climate surveys.

**Changes to the Annual Update**

In 2019, all Maryland local school systems transitioned to the new Local ESSA Consolidated Strategic Plan for accountability, reporting, and school improvement. School systems were

required to submit a plan to improve outcomes for all students. The plan included goals, objectives, and strategies/evidence-based interventions to promote academic excellence among all students to address areas of focus based on the analysis of state standardized data. Reported strategies addressed any disparities in achievement for students requiring special education services and students with limited English proficiency.

Since schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, local districts were not required to submit a plan for 2020. This year, MSDE is returning to full submissions and requiring school systems to use an equity lens for the identification of disparities and the response to those identified disparities. In addition, as a result of the lack of state assessment data during the pandemic, local school systems were asked to develop a plan based on their local assessment data in the 2020-2021 school year.

The following is a summary of the contents of the Local ESSA Consolidated Strategic Plan:

- Annual Update:
  - Executive Summary—Summarizes progress Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is making in accelerating student performance and eliminating the achievement gap
  - Areas of Focus—Analyzes local assessment data and reports strategies to address any disparities
  - Needs Assessment—Describes processes used to determine areas of focus through an equity lens
- Title I Part A—Improving Basic Programs
- Title I Part D—Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II Part A—Systems of Supports for Excellent Teaching and Learning
- Title III Part A—English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement
- Title IV Part A—Student Supports and Academic Enrichment
- Fine Arts
- Data Tables

### **Recommended Resolution**

WHEREAS, The *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* requires local school systems to submit annual updates of their strategic plan to the Maryland State Department of Education, to include prior-year revenues and expenditures with the annual update; and

WHEREAS, On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* was signed into law to replace and update the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*; and

WHEREAS, On January 16, 2018, the U.S. Department of Education approved Maryland's *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* plan; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Public Schools' submission of the 2021 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan fulfills all of the required components; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve Montgomery County Public Schools' final submission of the 2021 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan.

MBM:SSS:egp