



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

August 10, 2017

Mr. Andrew R. Smarick  
President, State Board of Education  
Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595

Dr. Karen B. Salmon  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595

Dear Mr. Smarick and Dr. Salmon:

The Legislative Policy Committee has received the Draft Consolidated State Plan required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act in accordance with Chapter 630 of 2014. We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

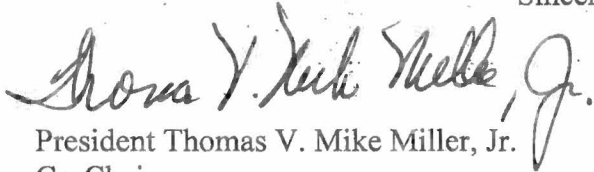
We have identified several issues in the draft plan that we believe merit further attention, including: (1) a lack of specificity in some elements of the plan; (2) the identification of schools in need of comprehensive (CSI) and targeted support and improvement (TSI); (3) the distribution of funds for CSI and TSI; (4) requiring specific local intervention; and (5) the lack of a methodology for comparing schools with similar demographic characteristics. Please see the enclosed legislative analysis written by the Department of Legislative Services for more detail.

Further, enclosed please find advice from the Office of the Attorney General regarding whether the identification of the lowest-performing schools must include both academic and school quality indicators, in compliance with Chapter 29 of 2017 (Protect Our Schools Act). In light of the conclusion of the Office of the Attorney General that "the better reading... [of the law] is that the State Board must consider both types of factors" and with an understanding that the General Assembly passed legislation with the intention for all indicators to be used in the identification of all CSI and TSI schools, we are confident that the State board will make the necessary adjustments to the plan.

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We urge the State board to address these concerns in the final plan that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

Sincerely,



President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
Co-Chair  
Legislative Policy Committee



Speaker Michael E. Busch  
Co-Chair  
Legislative Policy Committee

Enclosures

cc: Members, Legislative Policy Committee  
Mr. Warren Deschenaux  
Ms. Victoria Gruber  
Ms. Alexandra Hughes  
Mr. Jake Weissmann  
Ms. Tiffany Clark  
Ms. Mary Gable  
Ms. Miya Simpson