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VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 14



A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT MSDE

# THE MSDE PULSE

## Special points of interest >>>

- MSDE CONNECTIONS SUMMIT
- 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



## Maryland Family Engagement

Check out Maryland Family Engagement's new website for resources, events, news, and more! The *Maryland Families Engage* website was designed to help build a community of support for those who care for and work with young children. [Visit the new resource here.](#)

For a "how to" guide, watch Steven Hicks, Assistant State Superintendent of Early Childhood, explain how to use this new website [Click Here!](#)

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to recognize our June 2018

Employee of the Month:

Nancy Hauswald



Nancy Hauswald, June 2018

Nancy Hauswald is the Regional Coordinator in the Education Systems Branch, Division of Career and College Readiness. Nancy was nominated by her Supervisor, Mary O'Connor.

Continue reading for a summary of Nancy's nomination and why she was selected for this award:

Nancy is responsible for providing technical assistance concerning Career and Technology Education (CTE) to twelve local school systems and six community colleges. Her duties include assisting them with grant proposals for Perkins funding, filing reports, budget amendments and other paperwork, and she is also responsible for answering questions that arise as these institutions provide CTE programs to their students.

Nancy cares deeply for her customers in local school systems and community colleges, and advocates for them every day, keeping them informed of changes and potential problems, and demonstrates immediate responsiveness to their phone calls and emails.

Nancy was recently recognized during the Division of Career and College Readiness CTE Awards Ceremony, held in April. The annual event highlights teachers, administrators, career and technology student organizations, businesses, and volunteers from across the State who improve CTE for all students.

This was a touching tribute to Nancy whose extensive knowledge, empathy, and

enthusiasm has made a huge impact on CTE programs.

Nancy's efforts benefit both MSDE and MSDE's customers. Her diligence to details and outreach to schools ensures that proposals, reports, monitoring visits, etc., are all completed in a timely manner. Her customers benefit by knowing that there is always a friendly and informative person they can contact, who will respond quickly and accurately, and will advocate for them should it be needed. They know that there are no questions or complaints that Nancy will not willingly listen to and answer.

Well deserved, Nancy!

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATION FORM](#)

# State Board Meeting Actions: May, June and July 2018

## **The following actions were taken at the May 22, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:**

- Granted permission to publish emergency and proposed actions to amend Regulation .03 under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.14.06 Child Care Subsidy Program. The amendments update the child care subsidy income eligibility levels resulting in more low-income families and children being served.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care, COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers, COMAR 13A.17 Child Care—Letters of Compliance; and COMAR 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes. The State Board approved amendments to regulations under these subtitles at their December 5, 2017 meeting that included: (1) background clearances; (2) child abuse and neglect information; (3) reasonable accommodations; (4) medical information for child care providers and staff of child care centers; (5) reasons to deny an applicant/application and health and safety training requirements for staff; (6) lead testing; (7) counting students; (8) swimming pool security; (9) care of children; (10) child discipline; and (11) reasons and procedures to suspend a registration or license. Due to the schedule of the General Assembly, the depth of the amendments to regulations, and an additional request, the regulations were returned to the State Board. The present change included adding “within 90 days of employment” to the Basic Health and Safety training requirement. This will allow providers 90 days to complete the training while working in a child care program.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to Regulations .03 and .04 under COMAR 13A.02.02 Emergency Plans, which incorporates by reference the MSDE Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools to accommodate students, staff, and visitors, with disabilities on public school grounds, in accordance with the federal American with Disabilities Act.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to Regulation .04 under COMAR 13A.05.02 State Administration, which governs the identification of significant disproportionality under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

- Approved a request from Allegany County Public Schools to open for pupil attendance prior to Labor Day for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Approved a request from Baltimore City Public Schools to waive the post-Labor Day school start date and the June 15 school end date for the following schools for the 2018-2019 school year:
  - ⇒ Baltimore Collegiate School
  - ⇒ City Springs Elementary/Middle School\Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy
  - ⇒ KIPP Harmony Academy
  - ⇒ Lille May Carroll Jackson School
  - ⇒ New Song Academy
- Approved a request from Baltimore City Public Schools to waive the post-Labor Day school start date for the following schools for the 2018-2019 school year:
  - ⇒ Harford Heights Elementary
  - ⇒ James McHenry Elementary/Middle
  - ⇒ Mary Rodman Elementary
  - ⇒ Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE)
  - ⇒ Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle
- Recognized Maryland’s 2018-2019 local Teachers of the Year (see photo) who will represent their school systems in the State’s Teacher of the Year program and competition for Maryland and National Teacher of the Year.

## **The following Opinions and Orders were rendered:**

- *Chris K. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – student discipline – Opinion No. 18-16*
- *Kathy Tamburo v. Baltimore County Board of Education – damages and calculations – Opinion No. 18-17*
- *Mandy V. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – residency – Opinion No. 18-18*

## **The following actions were taken at the June 20, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:**

- Agreed to further amend regulations under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.06.07 Student Transportation. This regulatory action will be brought back to the State Board for permission to republish.



***Tiffany Moran, 2018-2019 Allegany County Teacher of the Year, is recognized in front of her colleagues and family during the May 2018 State Board Meeting.***

- Agreed to further amend Regulation .08 Grading and Reporting under COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland to add language that each local education agency will recognize any secondary school credit earned in any other local education agency in Maryland. This regulatory action will be brought back to the State Board for permission to publish.
- Agreed to convene a Joint Conference Committee with the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) to discuss amendments to COMAR 13A.12.04.03 Superintendents.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.03.04 Test Administration and Data-Reporting Policies and Procedures. The proposed amendments (1) clarify that “local school system” includes special schools and non-public schools that use tests administered on behalf of the State Board of Education; (2) prohibits the use of electronic devices (unless used for testing or administrative purposes) in testing rooms during testing; and (3) clarifies that local school systems must designate a Local Accountability Coordinator and a School Test Coordinator and outlines general duties of each. **(Cont’d Next Page)**

- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.08.04 Student Behavior Interventions to add and clarify definitions and strengthen provisions which require a continuum of behavior interventions to be a part of a student's Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.04 Options for Obtaining Initial Maryland Certification. The proposed amendments provide both a direct pathway for initial certification for those individuals who have achieved National Board Certification as well as those content experts seeking an adjunct teacher certification.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.12.03.04 Pupil Personnel Worker. The proposed amendments allow pupil personnel candidates the ability to use their experience as a specialists (e.g., school counseling, social worker) in lieu of teaching experience.
- Approved a request from The SEED School of Maryland to open for pupil attendance prior to Labor Day for the 2018-2019 school year.

**The following Opinions and Orders were rendered:**

- *Rita Bailey. v. Somerset County Board of Education – non-renewal of bus driver contract – Opinion No. 18-19*
- *Louis Long v. Calvert County Board of Education – employee termination – Opinion No. 18-20*
- *Kristine Lockwood v. Howard County Board of Education – lack of standing – Order No. OR18-03*

**The following actions were taken at the July 24, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:**

- Granted permission to publish the proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.06.07.01-.10 Student Transportation. This regulation was brought before the State Board on June 20, 2018 requesting adoption. Based on discussion and recommendations of the State Board at the June meeting, further revisions were made to 13A.06.07.07 School Vehicle Driver and Trainee Disqualifying Conditions and Termination and 13A.06.07.08 School Vehicle Attendant Qualifications and Disqualifications to remove the second-degree assault automatic disqualification and to add

language that second-degree assault should be addressed in the regulation and should be held to higher scrutiny.

- Granted permission to publish the promulgation of new COMAR 13A.12.01.08-1 Adjunct Certificate. The new regulatory language provides LEAs the ability to request an adjunct certificate for individuals with highly specialized content expertise (e.g. engineers, physicists, medical providers, artists) interested in teaching on a part-time basis in the classroom as a teacher of record. The regulation establishes the eligibility criteria for the issuance of the certificate, requires the LEAs to provide specific support and professional development to an individual who holds an adjunct certificate, and establishes the limitations of the certificate.
- Granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.06.09 Maryland Early Literacy Initiative. This new regulation is designed to carry out the provisions of HB 1415, which establishes the Early Literacy Initiative, a competitive grant program for up to 50 qualifying schools (Title I) to develop an evidence-based early literacy program in the school to work with participating students to meet literacy proficiency targets by the end of the eighth grade or other literacy targets as determined by the Department.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.03.02.08 Grading and Reporting, which requires each local school system to develop a written policy on grading and reporting and to file its policies annually with the State Superintendent of Schools. The proposed amendment requires school systems to recognize and accept all credits a transfer student earns toward graduation in any other school system in Maryland and describes requirements that local school systems must incorporate into their grading and reporting policies.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.06.03.06 Interscholastic Athletics in the State – Classification, which amend the section regarding how schools are classified for parity and equitable participation in interscholastic athletics.
- Granted permission to adopt COMAR 13A.07.11 – Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training, which includes language as required in the legislation but also requires that the annual training for certificated school personnel include understanding and responding to student mental health, student trauma, student safety, and other topics related

to student social and emotional well-being. Local Superintendents are required to submit annual documentation by school, on the type of training, the number of certificated school personnel trained, the dates of the training, and the materials used for the training.

- Granted permission to publish the amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.05 General Requirements for Professional Certificates to eliminate the basic skills test requirement for those individuals seeking certification who do not hold a bachelor's degree (i.e., specialized professional areas and professional technical education candidates).
- Adopted a qualifying score of 149 for the revised Praxis subject assessment for certification in the area of Computer Science, effective July 1, 2018.
- Approved a request from Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc. to waive the service learning graduation requirement for the Goodwill Excel Center.

**The following Opinions and Orders were rendered:**

- *Alexander and Arlene A. v. Harford County Board of Education – student suspension – Opinion No. 18-21*
- *Shahla F. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – student transfer – Opinion No. 18-22*
- *Coldstream Homestead Monteello Community Corporation, et al. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – school closing – Opinion No. 18-23*
- *Angela Wakhweya v. Prince George's County Board of Education – student suspension – Order No. OR18-04*
- *Gregory Sutton v. Somerset County Board of Education – employee termination – Order No. OR18-05*

**Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at:**

**<http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx>**

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.



# Welcome to MSDE, Amalie Brandenburg!



Congratulations and welcome Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy State Superintendent of Finance and Administration. Amalie officially joined the MSDE team as of August 1, 2018.

Ms. Brandenburg comes to MSDE from Anne Arundel County, where she served as an Education Officer in the office of County Executive Steve Schuh. Prior to joining County Executive Schuh's administration, Amalie was a board member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education where she focused on budgetary revisions and communicating the economic benefits of a strong school system.

Amalie originally achieved her undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park. After completing her undergraduate degree, Ms. Brandenburg worked as a District Representative and Service Sales Engineer for Nalco Chemical Company for several years and then went on to achieve an MBA from University of Maryland. Recently, Ms. Brandenburg was accepted into the MS program in the School for Business Leadership at Wilkes University and will begin her work in this program shortly.

Amalie has four children (three boys and one girl) that range in ages 6 to 15. Her children attend Benfield Elementary School, Severna Park Middle School and Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County. Ms. Brandenburg prides herself on her dedicated involvement with her children's schools and can generally always be found at PTA meetings or on a sports field, cheering her kids on. Amalie says her involvement in her children's schooling is what ultimately piqued her interest in education.

Ms. Brandenburg is excited to take on her new role and is looking forward to supporting education from a business and engineering standpoint, and is excited to use her skills for the betterment of Maryland education. Amalie is grateful for the warm, welcoming and supportive environment her new colleagues at MSDE have provided during her transition into this role.

Through a multitude of education, experience, knowledge and her ability to think outside of the box, Ms. Brandenburg is sure to make an excellent addition to the MSDE team. We are excited to see what she will achieve in her new role! Welcome to the team, Amalie!

## MSDE's Safety Section: Hurricane Preparedness

According to the National Weather Service, for 2018 The Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1 and will run until Nov. 30. However, most of these storms hit during peak hurricane season, which is between August and October according to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

For this hurricane season, scientists are predicting a slightly above-average Atlantic hurricane season. They are forecasting 12 named storms of which, six will become hurricanes and two will reach major hurricane strength (wind speeds of at least 111 mph).

Staying safe during the hurricane season starts with a simple step: Have a plan. People can plan for hurricanes using a simple guide, accessible at [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov). Plans need to be worked out for all family members and shared with loved ones.

### Emergency supplies:

People living in hurricane prone areas (Maryland does have a history of hurricanes) need to have a stash of emergency supplies, ideally placed in multiple locations throughout a dwelling. According to Ready.gov, a basic disaster kit should include:

- ⇒ A gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- ⇒ A three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ⇒ A battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- ⇒ A flashlight with extra batteries
- ⇒ A first aid kit
- ⇒ A whistle to get help
- ⇒ Dust mask
- ⇒ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for sanitation
- ⇒ A wrench or pliers for turning off busted pipes
- ⇒ Maps
- ⇒ A non-electrical can opener for food
- ⇒ Cellphone chargers

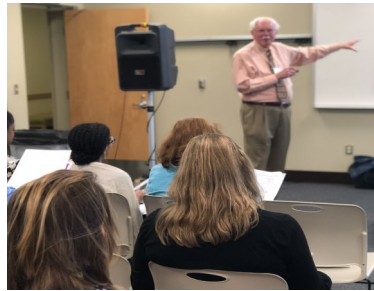
You can also find data on surrounding areas that have been designated as flood zones by visiting [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov) and searching for "Flood Map". This will assist you in understanding areas that are at higher risk for storm surge if you reside near water.

- Gabriel Rose, Director of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management



# MSDE's 2018 Connections Summit

MSDE's Office of Accountability, in partnership with Regional Education Laborites (REL) Mid-Atlantic, recently hosted a two-day Summit that attracted more than 400 data-driven educators and leaders from across the State. The 2018 Maryland Connections Summit, held last month at Towson University, highlighted the crucial role data plays in all aspects of education, especially decision-making. The Summit provided a forum for attendees to share best practices, current research and local initiatives from each school system.



These tips and techniques allow for better interpretation and analysis of data, allowing for more accuracy, which in turn helps to strengthen learning. The Summit's keynote speaker, Elizabeth Farley-Ripple, exemplified this theme by discussing the challenges and road-blocks many educators can encounter when attempting to interpret the meaning behind data and how to combat those challenges.

Other Summit presentations revolved around the use of data to influence decision making, data security, using data to address chronic absenteeism, and much more. The Summit provided educators and leaders alike with the opportunity to break outside the confines of a normal professional development session, and get up-close and personal with data, research, policy, and practice. [Click here for a video recap of the 2018 Maryland Connections Summit.](#)





To View The Complete Maryland State Department of Education Accomplishments Publication Visit:  
[marylandpublicschools.org/2018accomplishments](http://marylandpublicschools.org/2018accomplishments)

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

# A bright future does not belong to the few. It belongs to all of us.



The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is unwavering in pursuing the goal of equity and excellence for Maryland students. It is this goal that propels us to support and enhance ongoing initiatives, as well as pursuing new innovations. All of our resources are being leveraged to produce results, ranging from the launching of major initiatives to the commitment of making small improvements in operations every single day.

Early childhood education is key to a student's success. We deliver early intervention services to children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families from birth through age four. Children benefit from MSDE licensing and supports to childcare providers and centers. Judy Centers served 15,401 children ages birth to five years old. Maryland EXCELS (Excellence Counts in Early Learning Age Care) recently added its 300th early childhood program in Level 5, the highest level of quality. Over 250 educators attended the MSDE/Ready At Five School Readiness Symposium, Supporting the Whole Child: Social and Emotional Learning.

Good teachers are essential to student achievement. The MSDE supports the effort to bring quality teachers to Maryland. Local systems have benefited from our commitment to evidence based practices. We are providing training, program evaluation, staff expertise and professional development on a regional basis.

We have received approval of Maryland's Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Plan from the United States Department of Education and will be implementing the plan in the 2018 - 2019 school year. Our communications office will be working with all stakeholders to assist with understanding the MSDE Accountability Report Card and plan.

Important initiatives have been implemented to include: the Lead Higher initiative resulting in 1,100 more students

of color and low income signing up to take Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) courses next year compared to this year. Career and Technology offerings have expanded across the State. A plan for improving local implementation of Gifted and Talented identification and services is being developed. Focus on improvement of low performing schools continues through root cause analysis, professional development and analysis of data to identify and target areas of need, in order to improve student achievement across the State. This year MSDE applied for and received over \$100 million in grants—Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy, Javits Gifted & Talented and Charter School—all of these grant funds are available to local school systems.

The events of the past year have increased public awareness about the importance of safety policies and mental health resources in our schools, and confirm our commitment to these areas. I am confident that the MSDE is positioned to positively impact these challenges.

Please take a few minutes to review our accomplishments during the 2017 – 2018 school year. I am confident that we are progressing in the right direction. Our momentum is accelerating, but we do not work in isolation. I am encouraged by what I have observed during my visits to each of the 24 school systems this year. Working together with all of our stakeholders, we are opening the doors to new ideas and ways of thinking that elevate and enhance student achievement.

Looking forward, the dedicated staff of MSDE will continue this journey with enthusiasm, guided by the goal of student success and driven by the promise and potential in every one of Maryland's students.

**KAREN B. SALMON, Ph.D.**  
MARYLAND STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

# MSDE CLASSIFIEDS



## WHAT'S NEW?

**Say Hello >>>**

**Who's new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!**

**Molly Abend**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement and Professional Learning)

**Wendy Baysmore-Dantzler**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Childhood)

**Jasmine Blackwood**, Administrative Specialist III (Division of Early Childhood)

**Brenda Buckler**, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region VI/Waldorf Office)

**Chrishawn Calloway-Small**, Special Education Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Heather Callahan**, Vocation Rehabilitation Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Argonne Drive)

**Valerie Carpenter**, Program Manager III (Division of Business Services)

**Roslyn Coleman**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Childhood)

**Sakina Cooper**, V. R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Annapolis)

**Antoinette Daughtry**, Office Services Clerk (MSDE/DORS/Headquarters/Procurement)

**Robert DeWitt**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Region III/Gaslight)

**Geimma Diaz**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Maurice Ellis**, Stock Clerk I (Division of Business Services)

**Leona Fitzgerald**, Administrative Specialist III (Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs)

**Isonia Gayle**, Office Clerk II (MSDE/Disability Determination Services)

**Emily Gordon**, Education Program Supervisor (Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy)

**Kim Johnson-Ball**, Administrative Program Manager III (Agency Equity Officer)

**Nicole Johnson**, Staff Specialist IV (Division of Early Childhood)

**Patricia Kafka-Shreves**, Administrative Specialist (Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy)

**Jason C. Kahler**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Career and College Readiness)

**Onassis Kent**, Management Associate (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

**Donald Kuhn**, Staff Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Workforce Technology Center)

**Deborah Langer**, Staff Specialist III (Division of Early Childhood)

**David Manning**, Office Clerk II (MSDE/DORS/Workforce Technology Center)

**Amy Marvin**, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Salisbury Office)

**Kathi McConnell**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

**Kelly Meissner**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

**Charlie Mitchell**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Childhood)

**Robin Mohler-Boulden**, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Salisbury Office)

**Patrick Molloy**, Academic Teacher SPC (Juvenile Services Education)

**Brittany Morrison**, Academic Resource Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Nia Noakes**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Latasha Quarterman**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Louis Small, Jr.**, Carpenter Trim (MSDE/DORS/BSS/Facilities/Maintenance)

**Davina Ragin-Hopkins**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Brandon Riesett**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement and Professional Learning)

**Abigail Rogers**, Academic Teacher APC (Juvenile Services Education)

**Jenelle Simpson**, Agency Budget Specialist II (Division of Business Services)

**Nora Thomas**, Office Secretary III-50% (MSDE/DORS/Towson Office)

**Levette Trusty-Woodrum**, Human Services Specialist IV (Division of Early Childhood)