# THE MSDE PULSE

## A Monthly Insight in to the Happenings at MSDE

## Volume 1 Issue 22

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## Best of Maryland arts education festival

## A quick recap of this year’s festival:

The Second Annual Best of Maryland Arts Education Festival went off without a hitch last month in the beautiful neighborhood of Mt. Vernon in Baltimore.

Despite stormy skies, art students, educators and curious on-lookers filled Mt. Vernon with their shining smiles and stunning performances.

This year’s festival doubled in size when compared to last year, with over 600 participating students, who shared everything from theatre, to dance, to digital art— and almost everything in between!

The day-long event honored and celebrated the impact of arts education in Maryland, with special contributions and partnerships with the Office of Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance, and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts.

The day wouldn’t have been possible without the help of our world-class venue partners, which included Baltimore Center Stage, Walters Art Museum, Peabody Conservatory, Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, and Saint Ignatius Church. Opening and closing ceremonies for the event took place at the centerpiece of Mount Vernon, the Washington Monument.

The opening ceremony also featured a special performance selection from the musical *Come From Away* thanks to a partnership with the Baltimore Hippodrome Theater.

Another major contributor to this event was all of the MSDE staff who volunteered to keep things running! A huge thank you to all volunteers, students artists and educators who made this possible!

Please follow these links to view a [festival photo album](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yQp1X-7RyftIGO1nU9UZQxtnSOCvZSp2) and [this video slideshow](https://youtu.be/rQRa_J842T4).

We can’t wait for next year!

## Way 2 Work Maryland

[Way2Work Maryland](https://www.way2workmd.net/) is an innovative partnership between DORS, and the Center for Transition & Career Innovation at the University of Maryland who collaborate. This program in centered around the implementation of a Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) grant specific to work-based learning experiences for students with disabilities.  
  
The project is designed to enroll 400 students with IEPs or 504 plans who are two years prior to exiting the program in a randomized controlled trial.  Half of the participants are randomly assigned to the treatment condition (Way2Work), and the other half to the control, or services as usual.  So far, there have been 401 students enrolled to date in 8 different counties (Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Cecil, Harford, Worcester, Charles, & Anne Arundel).    
  
The goal of Way2Work is to improve the academic and career success of students with disabilities in Maryland through work-based learning experiences. The University of Maryland will follow enrolled students for two years post high school to determine if work-based learning experiences had an impact on their careers.  Maryland is one of 5 states implementing this   project.  Data from these projects will be shared nationally and provide information for evidence based practices!

## May is Mental Health Month

Mental Health Month, or Mental Health Awareness Month, has been observed during the month of May since the 1950’s.

Over the years this movement has developed into a social campaign to educate the public on Mental Health and help to end the negative stigmas and stereotypes that are often associated with Mental Illness.

Each year Mental Health America (MHA) provides the public with themes, events and ideas on how to get involved. As part of Mental Health Month MSDE would like to share these wonderful resources as a small way of starting the conversation and raising awareness for Mental Health!

This year’s theme for Mental Health Month is #4Mind4Body, which focuses on aspects of mental health outside of the brain. This theme is based on a holistic approach to mental health— when we talk about health, the body must be seen as a whole, not just as specific parts of health. This theme preaches the method of making use of tools and resources that benefit minds and bodies together.

Some examples of tools and tricks to use in coordination with mental health are:

 [Proper diet and nutrition](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/fitness-4mind4body-diet-and-nutrition)

 [Exercise](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/fitness-4mind4body-exercise)

 [Proper Sleep Schedules](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/fitness-4mind4body-sleep)

 [Stress](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/fitness-4mind4body-stress)

 [Maintain a work/life balance](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/4mind4body-work-life-balance)

 [Creating Social Connections](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/4mind4body-social-connections-and-recreation)

For more information and resources on everyday tasks you can use to improve your mental health visit the [MHA Website](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may).

\*\*Green *is the official color for Mental Health Awareness! Make sure to show your support by wearing the color* Green!

## State Board Actions: April

### *The following actions were taken at the April 2019 State Board of Education meeting:*

 Recognized Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent, Somerset County Public Schools, on his selection as the 2019 Maryland Superintendent of the Year.

 Granted approval to continue with the current distribution of the Star Rating System and review of the data and analysis on an annual basis.

 Approved permission to publish amendments to Regulation 02 under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.04.12 *Program in Mathematics*. The amendments define the process that local school systems can use to demonstrate evidence of alignment of curriculum to Maryland College and Career Ready Standards.

 Approved permission to publish amendments to Regulations .02 under COMAR 13A.04.14 *Program in English Language Arts/Literacy*. The amendments define the process that local school systems can use to demonstrate evidence of alignment of curriculum to Maryland College and Career Ready Standards.

 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*. These amendments were originally published in the *Maryland Register* on February 15, 2019. During the 30-day open comment period, substantive changes were identified. As a result, the State Board granted permission to withdraw and republish the amendments. The amendments include: (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; (12) adding “within 90 days of employment” to the Basic Health and Safety training requirement.

 Approved Howard County Public Schools’ request to waive one-day of the 180-day instructional requirement for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

 Yolanda Cooper v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – back pay – Opinion No. 19-17

 Nikol E. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – student grade/credit dispute – Opinion No. 19-18

 William Kelly Ford v. Prince George’s County Board of Education – teacher harassment – Opinion No. 19-19

 Key Systems, Inc. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – bid protest – Opinion No. 19-20

 Elizabeth Kelley v. Harford County Board of Education – boundary exception – Order No. OR-19-02

 In the Matter of the Maryland Public Ethics Law – petition for declaratory ruling – Order No. OR-19-03

In the Matter of Request for Removal of Wayne Foote – removal of Board member – Order No. OR-19-04

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found by [clicking this link.](http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default-2023.aspx)

All State Board of Education meetings are held at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required.

Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.

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### *Employee Recognition 2019*

Each year MSDE sets aside one week dedicated to recognizing each and every staff member who continue to go above and beyond the call of duty for our Maryland schools!

Huge thanks to our wonderful Human Resources team and The MSDE Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Recognition and Rewards for organizing and executing this exceptional program! In case you missed it—check out some highlights and photos from the week’s awards and events!

Each year, MSDE holds an awards ceremony recognizing MSDE employees who have served 25, 30, 35, 40 and even 45 years of service! Each employee was honored by State Superintendent Dr. Salmon during a ceremony held in the State Board Room. Thank You and Congratulations to our honorees!

This year, our staff were also treated to special giveaway items (lapel pins) designed by our Office of Communications. Members of the executive team also served up some smiles with our annual Ice Cream Social!

These are just a few ways MSDE likes to recognize all you do! Thanks for your hard work!

### Say Hello >>>

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

**Alicia Alcarese**, V.R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Region V/Towson Office)

**Erika Anderson**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Childhood)

**Dana Ansari**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Assessment, Accountability and Information Technology)

**Sheila Bell-Buckner**, V.R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/OBVS/Suitland)

**Bennie Berry**, Academic English Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Johanna Brown**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Kya Brightson**, V.R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Region V/Towson)

**Chanda Burton**, Administrative Officer II (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

**Eden Cabiness**, Administrative Specialist II (Interagency Commission on School Construction)

**Hsin-Yuan Chen**, Ph.D., Education Program Specialist II (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

**Rachel Demma**, Education Program Manager I (Division of Early Childhood)

**Melissa Desi**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

**Shelley Downs**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

**Tewdros Ghebremarian**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Information Technology)

**Antoinette Harvey**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Karla Henriquez**, Education Program Specialist II (Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval)

**Charles Hunter**, Academic English Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Ernest Jackson**, Academic Substitute Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Jeyan Jebaraj**, Education Program Specialist I (Maryland Center for School Safety)

**Cheryl Johnson**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Sharice Lane**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

**Charles Mandracchia**, Academic Science Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Kenya Massey**, Administrative Officer II (Juvenile Services Education)

**Monique McDowell**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy)

**KeVonya Moment**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Patrick O'Brien**, Academic Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Josephine Odukayo**, Agency Budget Specialist Lead (Division of Business Services)

**Beverly Olivierre**, Staff Specialist IV (Division of Early Childhood)

**Tim O'Quinn**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Assessment Accountability and Information Technology)

**Jeanette Mason**, V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Linthicum)

**Karina Paton**, Guidance Counselor (Juvenile Services Education)

**Michael Plummer**, Education Program Specialist II (Juvenile Services Education)

**Jason Ritter**, Academic CTE Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Leslie Sessom-Parks**, Section Chief (Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs)

**Kim Eubanks Smith**, Psychologist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

**Asa Smith**, Academic CRD Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Amanda Somers**, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Linthicum)

**Dana Stewart**, V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region VI/Lanham)

**Tilise Swinson-Merit**, Office Secretary III (Juvenile Services Education)

**Shara Trueheart**, Office Clerk II (Juvenile Services Education)

**Vanessa Williams**, Procurement Specialist II (Division of Business Services)

**Jennifer Woodard**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)