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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: March 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Maryland High School Graduation Task Force

PURPOSE:

To inform the State Board of the purpose, members and structure, timeline, and work to date of the Maryland High School Graduation Task Force.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

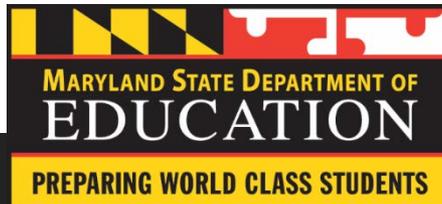
MSDE will provide the following information:

- Purpose of the Task Force
- Members of the Task Force
- Description of how Task Force meetings are structured
- Overview of Task Force work-to-date
- Timeline for Task Force deliverables

ACTION:

No action is necessary, for discussion only.

Maryland High School Graduation Task Force



Maryland State Board of Education
March 20, 2018

Update: Maryland High School Graduation Task Force

- Task Force purpose
- Task Force membership and staff
- Meeting structure
- Discussions to date
- Timeline

Task Force Purpose

To make recommendations to the State Superintendent and Maryland State Board of Education on:

- Credit and program requirements for graduation (number of credits, subject area(s), and other requirements)
- Assessment requirements for graduation
- Options for awarding high school diplomas

All recommendations will consider current research, data, and policies on the impact of credits, assessments, and diploma types on college and career readiness and other outcomes.

Task Force Membership and Staff

- Task Force members represent 24 organizations (see handout)
 - Organizations were invited by MSDE and chose their own representative
 - List of organizations and representatives is publicly available via meeting minutes
- Meetings are co-chaired by Dr. Carol Williamson and Dr. Dara Shaw
- Members serve on one of three committees aligned to the Task Force areas of study
- Committees are facilitated by MSDE staff, representing a variety of offices and divisions
- Meetings are three hours and occur bi-weekly, January to June 2018 (12 total: 5 completed, 7 future)

Meeting Structure

- Task Force and committees began by establishing large “guiding questions” and smaller “micro questions,” and then requested research, data, and additional information so that they could turn their questions into recommendations
- Each meeting, participants are given the requested information, organized thematically and in a variety of formats
 - Pre-readings are sent in advance of each meeting
 - Task Force staff populates a “resource library” of vetted, organized sources
 - Task Force staff organizes presentations or panels, or invites guests, to provide requested information
- Each meeting, the committees use the provided resources and their own research to answer their “micro questions”
- Communal time is built into the Task Force schedule to allow committees to share promising recommendations, areas of overlap, or challenging questions
- All Task Force resources, including agendas and meeting notes, are available to all participants, and the public: <https://bit.ly/gradTF>

Discussions to Date

- Task Force has studied and discussed:
 - Current Maryland policies, laws, and regulations
 - Maryland and national K-12, postsecondary, labor, and cross-sector data (demonstration and hands-on activity)
 - Needs of employers, two-year, and four-year institutions (panel discussion)
 - Competency- and proficiency-based education (panel discussion)
- Committees have studied and discussed:
 - Research linking coursework, assessments of various types and content areas, and diploma endorsements to graduation and post-high-school outcomes
 - Equity and access considerations of different types of coursework requirements and assessments
 - Potential to personalize requirements in consideration of student goals, LEA flexibilities, and employer/postsecondary education requirements and perceptions
 - Ways to use requirements to ensure a “meaningful” senior year

Task Force Timeline

- January: Orientation to the task
- February, March, April: Build base of knowledge; develop recommendations and rationale
- May, June: Share and finalize recommendations and rationale; develop report
- July: Present recommendations to State Superintendent and State Board
- August: State Board and Superintendent discussion
- September: Share recommendations with public
- October, November: Consider Board, Superintendent, and public comments
- November: Modify or develop new regulation

Agencies Represented on the High School Graduation Task

Maryland Association of Boards of Education
Maryland Association of Community Colleges
Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals
Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals
Maryland Association of Student Councils
Maryland Business Roundtable
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Department of Human Services
Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Maryland English Language Learning Family Involvement Network
Maryland Governor's Office
Maryland Higher Education Commission
Maryland Independent College and University Association
Maryland PTA
Maryland School Counselor Association
Maryland State Board of Education
Maryland State Department of Education
Maryland State Education Association
Maryland Teacher of the Year
Office of the Attorney General
Parent
Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland
Special Education State Advisory
University System of Maryland