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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: September 19, 2017

SUBJECT: Recognition of *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) Schools

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to recognize the ten Maryland Public Schools that have been designated as 2016 *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) Schools.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Maryland State Department of Education focuses on improving all levels of student achievement, including the achievement of students who are gifted and talented. Building on a strong foundation of gifted and talented education programs and services currently offered in our schools, in 2010 we began recognizing those schools that are models of excellence.

The Maryland State Department of Education and the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education initiated the *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Awards Program* to recognize schools that offer superior gifted and talented programs aligned with the objectives and criteria of the Maryland *Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines*. In particular, the Council annually welcomes applications from schools that serve high percentages of students traditionally underrepresented in advanced programs, including students who are culturally or linguistically diverse or living in poverty. Since the inception of the EGATE schools program, 44 different schools from 10 of Maryland's 24 school systems have earned the EGATE designation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2016, ten schools earned the EGATE designation. Three of the ten schools also earned the EGATE award in 2011 and reapplied at the conclusion of their five-year recognition period. The 2016 EGATE schools were recognized at a reception in February 2017. They have been awarded a joint MSDE/ GT Advisory Council Citation, received a Governor's proclamation, given an EGATE banner, and now serve as models for other schools seeking to achieve EGATE status. Many of these schools also participated in the 2017 Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education Showcase and Networking Event, designed to provide the opportunity for all state schools to interface and share with current EGATE schools in order to improve GT education throughout the state.

The 2016 EGATE schools are:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of Schools
Donald Counts, Coordinator, PreK-12 Advanced Learning

- *Crofton Elementary School* – Jazmin Lawhorn, Principal
- *Piney Orchard Elementary School** – *Karen Bailey, Principal*
- *Severna Park Elementary School* – *Lorie Barnes, Principal*

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Baltimore City Public Schools

Dr. Sonja Santelises, Chief Executive Officer
Dennis Jutras, Coordinator for Gifted and Advanced Learning (PreK-12)

- *Cecil Elementary School* – Aleesha Manning, Principal
- *Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School* – Job Grotzky, Principal
- *Thomas Jefferson Elementary/Middle School* – Danielle Davis, Principal

Charles County Public Schools

Dr. Kimberly Hill, Superintendent of Schools
Ann Taylor, Content Specialist for Gifted and Differentiated Services

- *Dr. James Craik Elementary School**– Michelle Beckwith, Principal
- *William B. Wade Elementary School** – Kevin Jackson, Principal

Montgomery County Public Schools

Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Meredith Casper, Director of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction

- *Chevy Chase Elementary School* – Jody Smith, Principal

Prince George's County Public Schools

Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer
Theresa Jackson, Supervisor of Talented and Gifted Programs

- *Whitehall Elementary School* – Prentice Christian, Principal

*2011 EGATE Schools

Each EGATE school submitted a comprehensive application which provided documentation from the past 18 months addressing 21 different criteria under four program objectives from the *Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education Program Guidelines*. Maryland State Department of Education personnel, representatives of the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education, and several State Board of Education members conducted celebratory visits to these schools in May.

Submissions for the 2017 EGATE Application are due by December 1, 2017, with applications and portfolios being reviewed in early December.

BOARD ACTION:

Recognize the ten Maryland Public Schools that have been named 2016 *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education* (EGATE) schools.