



August 31, 2016

Dr. Karen Salmon
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education

Dear Superintendent Salmon,

With the passage of the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA), our state is considering the metrics to be used for state accountability and public reporting requirements. Your team at the Maryland State Department of Education has convened an ESSA stakeholder committee to review the law and assist in the development of Maryland's ESSA plan. One component of that plan will be considering various models for calculating **student growth** as one academic indicator of school quality.

We, along with members of our staff, have met with representatives from SAS to discuss various ways to calculate student growth to more holistically meet the requirements of ESSA. SAS proposes to collaborate with MSDE and Maryland districts to pilot a student growth and projection reporting system for the purpose of informing the ESSA stakeholder committee, MSDE, and Maryland State Board of Education's decision-making process. SAS EVAAS for K-12 will provide diagnostic, proactive, and reflective tools to individual school districts to help Maryland be successful in achieving its goal of recognizing schools for their impact on student learning gains, and not test scores alone. This pilot can help inform the development of Maryland's consolidated state plan for ESSA through the experiences of the local school systems.

We are eager to partner with MSDE and explore a pilot of SAS' system and potential cost-sharing of such an innovative project.

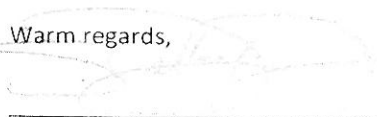
What do the districts and SAS need from MSDE to make this successful? We need MSDE to be an active participant, including working with SAS to send statewide assessment data for the modeling.

MSDE's involvement is critical for several reasons:

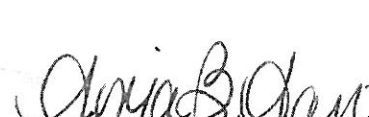
1. Involving MSDE will allow for different growth expectations to be used in the modeling, such as a statewide comparison group.
2. Involving MSDE also allows for a statewide web application to be built that the State could use to view results of all schools' and districts' impact on student learning growth, as well as student projections to college readiness.
3. Having Maryland act as a central hub will **significantly** lower costs for local jurisdictions.
4. MSDE's partnership will enable for better data quality, faster delivery, and provide valuable feedback to state leaders.

As we face tight deadlines to implement this system for the 2016-2017 school year, we would greatly appreciate a response by September 13th.


Warm regards,



Dr. S. Dallas Dance
Superintendent
Baltimore County Public Schools



Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer
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