



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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March 4, 2011

Dear Superintendents of Schools:

We are pleased to announce that a *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)* introductory workshop will be conducted on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at the Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center in Ellicott City, Maryland. You and the following members of your staff are cordially invited to join us for this event: Director of Pupil/Student Services; Director of Special Education; Supervisor of Pupil Personnel/Social Workers; Supervisor of Guidance; School Psychological Services representative; representatives of potential *PBIS* schools; and other key members of your staff.

This event is a continuation of the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) partnership with the Sheppard Pratt Health System (SPHS) and the Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence to provide support to the *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)* Initiative. *PBIS* is a proven strategy that is making a dramatic difference in the way many of our schools do business and is highly successful in creating educational environments that are safe, drug free, and conducive to learning. We are extremely proud of the success experienced by the schools that have implemented *PBIS*.

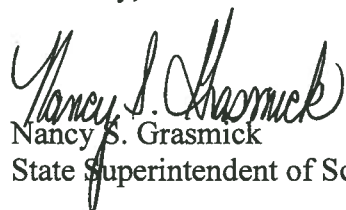
The workshop will provide an update on the success of *PBIS* in Maryland; an overview of the critical features of school wide implementation; and information about the advantages of implementing School wide *PBIS* in schools. We will also provide an interactive panel discussion led by administrators of successful *PBIS* schools. Each attendee should go to www.pbismaryland.org to complete the registration form not later than **March 22, 2011**. Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 AM and the presentations will begin promptly at 9:00 AM. We will conclude by 12:00 PM. Directions to Turf Valley will be provided with the registration confirmation.

In addition, and in accordance with Section 7-304.1 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and COMAR 13A.08.06, two cohorts of schools "must implement a positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program or an alternative behavioral modification program in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education". Those cohorts for School Year 2009-2010 are: 1) any elementary school with a suspension rate of 10% or higher; and 2) any school with a habitual truancy rate of 6% or higher. As you may recall, MSDE integrated the reporting of this data into the Local School System Master Plan Update this past year. Please note that this event is the opportunity for representatives of those schools to learn about *PBIS* and determine if it is an appropriate intervention for their school.

Local Superintendents of Schools
March 4, 2011
Page 2

We are convinced that this initiative will help schools create and maintain safe and disciplined learning environments for our most important resource--our children. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Andrea Alexander, Specialist, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, at (410) 767-0318 or email aaalexander@msde.state.md.us. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative.

Sincerely,



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

NSG:AA:crt

c: Carol Ann Baglin
Ann Chafin
Directors of Pupil/Student Services
Directors of Special Education
PBIS Facilitators
Andrea Alexander