



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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December 19, 2007

To Local Superintendents of Schools:

We are pleased to announce the continuation of our partnership with the Sheppard Pratt Health System and The Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence to expand and sustain Maryland's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Initiative. PBIS is one of our primary strategies for ensuring that, "All schools will be safe, drug free, and conducive to learning," which is the fourth goal of *Achievement Matters Most: Maryland's Plan for Every Student*. As a proven model, PBIS is making a dramatic difference in the way many of our schools address discipline and create educational environments that are safe, drug free, and conducive to learning. Maryland is considered a National Exemplar for its PBIS efforts, and we are extremely proud of the success being experienced by approximately 500 schools that are implementing the PBIS model with fidelity. Maryland's PBIS Initiative has flourished since its inception in 1999.

The purpose of this letter is to announce the annual PBIS Leadership Forum, which will be held on February 14, 2008 at the Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn. Historically, this event has focused solely on new schools that may be interested in implementing PBIS. At the 2008 Leadership Forum, we will provide an additional opportunity for state agency stakeholders and local school system (LSS) staff to learn more about the support that is required to successfully implement and sustain PBIS. We have been successful at training and supporting schools in the universal interventions necessary to establish the foundations of school-wide PBIS. Now we would like to begin to investigate the alternatives to provide support to those students who have not responded to the universal interventions.

Leadership Forum:

As in the past, the PBIS Leadership Forum will provide introductory information to school administrators who are interested in implementing PBIS in school year 2008-2009. Information regarding what is required for participation in the New Team Summer Institute will be disseminated. There will also be an opportunity for state agency stakeholders and LSS staff and administrators to learn more about what is necessary to support and expand the PBIS school-wide systems that are already in place.

When: February 14, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m..

Where: Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley Maryland.

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New Team Training Institute:

This is a centralized event offering both an elementary and secondary track.

When: July 21, 2008 New PBIS Behavior Support Coaches
 July 22-23, 2008 Elementary School Teams
 July 23-24, 2008 Secondary School Teams

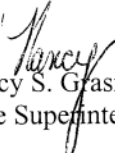
Where: Turf Valley Conference Center, Ellicott City, Maryland

PBIS Summer Training Institute: Returning Teams:

For previously trained teams and coaches, the Maryland PBIS Leadership Team will work with LSSs to develop a series of regional "returning team training events". Specifics concerning dates and locations are being coordinated and each LSS will be included in the planning and execution of their regional events. As details are finalized, they will be made available along with registration information at www.pbismaryland.org.

Again, thank you for your continued support of Maryland's PBIS Initiative. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Andrea Alexander, Education Program Specialist, at (410) 767-0318, or email aalexander@msde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,


Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

NSG:AA:crt

c: Carol Ann Baglin
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Directors of Pupil/Student Services
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Announcement of PBIS Letter 08