MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education

FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.

DATE: October 25, 2011

SUBJECT: HB 364 *Student Participation in High School Sports – Minimum Academic Requirements – Proposed Standards*

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to propose recommended academic eligibility standards for student participation in interscholastic athletics.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Current regulations COMAR 13A.06.03.02 (B) require:

> "Each local school system shall establish standards of participation which assure that students involved in interscholastic athletics are making satisfactory progress toward graduation."

During the 2011 legislative session, HB 364 *Student Participation in High School Sports-Minimum Academic Requirements-Proposed Standards* was enacted requiring the State Board of Education to recommend minimum academic eligibility standards for students participating in interscholastic athletics.

To facilitate that process, an advisory committee has been established to review current local and other state practices and provide to the Board suggested standards to recommend to local school systems. That committee was comprised of superintendents, principals, athletic supervisors, athletic directors, and coaches. Their recommendation to the State Board of Education is attached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

HB 364 Student Participation in High School Sports-Minimum Academic Requirements- Proposed Standards requires the State Board to recommend minimum academic eligibility standards by December 31, 2011.

ACTION:

For information and discussion.

Attachment

Maryland State Board of Education

Proposed Minimum Academic Standards for Students Participating in Interscholastic Athletics

Realizing both the benefits derived from participating in interscholastic athletics and the intricacies of each local school system's grading policy, the State Board of Education recommends that Local School Systems enact academic eligibility standards that maintain interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total educational process and reflect the following:

- The curriculum content for high school students participating in interscholastic athletics is in accordance with the minimum Maryland high school state requirements for graduation.

- High school students participating in interscholastic athletics shall demonstrate a minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or equivalent according to each local school system's grading criteria.

- The grade progress of high school students participating in interscholastic athletics reflects satisfactory credits earned towards the fulfillment of the Maryland high school state requirements for graduation.