MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.

DATE: August 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Maryland School Assessment: Science 2012 results

PURPOSE:

To provide to Board members a summary and overview of statewide results of the spring 2012 administration of the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in Science.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The 2012 administration of the Maryland School Assessment in science included all students in grades 5 and 8. Beginning in 2005, Maryland began development of a State assessment in science in keeping with requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001. State instructional frameworks were designed to cover content at each of three grade bands (Kindergarten through grade 2; Grades 3, 4, and 5; and grades 6 through 8). In order to meet NCLB requirements for an assessment at each of three levels (elementary, middle, and high school), assessments were designed for grade 5, covering content taught through grades K through 5, and grade 8, covering content taught in grades 6 through 8, respectively. The high school assessment requirement is met through the High School Assessment (HSA) in Biology. Since the 2007-2008 school year, results from the MSA Science assessment have been required to be reported under *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) but were not included in the calculations determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Beginning in 2012, MSA Science scores must be reported and included as a component of the School Performance Index for elementary and middle schools, in keeping with the requirements of Maryland's new Flexibility Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The MSA Science is comprised of selected response (multiple choice) and constructed response (students respond in writing) items. MSA Science is designed for administration on-line with an option for paper and pencil administration. The on-line and paper and pencil forms are identical in content. The method of administration is dependent upon the capacity of a school or school system to deliver the assessment on-line as well as school choice and student needs. This year, slightly more than 58 percent of the MSA Science assessments were administered on-line for Grade 5 and Grade 8 combined. Thirteen of Maryland's 24 school systems tested more than 90 percent of fifth graders on-

line, and 17 systems tested more than 90 percent of their eighth graders on-line. The assessments were administered in April, and results were returned to local school systems in mid-July. Local school systems have been informed of school, system, and individual student results.

The table below summarizes statewide performance on each assessment in 2012 and in 2011. The percent of students demonstrating satisfactory or better performance relative to Science Content Standards is reported for Grade 5 and for Grade 8. The report describes performance in the aggregate and includes information for disaggregated sub-groups. Overall, slight improvement is evident. The 2012 results and historical trends in performance on the MSA Science will be discussed in more detail during the Board meeting.

MSA Science 2011 and 2012: Proficient/Advanced Shown for All Students and by Sub-Group

	Grade 5			Grade 8		
	2011 % Prof/Adv.	2012 % Prof. Adv.	Change	2011 % Prof/Adv.	2012 % Prof. Adv.	Change
All Students	**66.8**	**68.5**	**+1.7**	**69.5**	**70.7**	**+1.2**
Hispanic	56.4	59.2	+2.8	57.7	60.3	+2.6
American Indian	63.6	66.5	-2.9	66.3	68.6	+2.3
Asian	82.3	85.2	+2.9	87.2	88.8	+1.6
African American	47.6	48.9	+1.3	50.1	51.0	+0.9
Hawaiian	59.4	54.0	-5.4	66.7	64.1	-2.6
White	82.3	84.2	+1.9	85.1	86.3	+1.2
2 or More Races	75.7	77.2	+1.5	79.8	80.9	+1.1
FARMs	48.0	50.8	+2.8	50.0	51.6	+1.6
ELL	30.2	29.7	- 0.5	18.9	23.2	+4.3
Special Education	33.4	35.0	+1.6	29.5	31.8	+2.3

ACTION:

For information and discussion only.