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Department of Education Divisions

Maryland State Department of Education Divisions

The Maryland State Department of Education, under the leadership of the State Superintendent of Schools and guidance from the Maryland State Board of Education, develops and implements standards and policy for education programs from pre-kindergarten through high school. MSDE also oversees technical education, rehabilitation services, and library programs throughout the state's 24 local systems.
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Divisions

Division of Student, Family, and School Support Overview

The Division of Student, Family, and School Support is responsible for administering and supervising federal and State programs to improve the teaching and learning of students who are at risk of academic failure and to help to facilitate the emotional, mental, and physical health needs of all students.

In Focus

Practical Information on Crisis Plans from the US Department of Education

The US Department of Education's guidance for schools and communities on prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

In Focus

Children And Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness And The McKinney-Vento Act

In Focus

Bullying Information for Parents

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Technical Assistance Bulletin for Implementing Maryland's Model Policy to Address Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation (November 2013)

The Division administers programs through the following Branches:

Branches
- Youth Development
- Student Services and Strategic Planning
- Program Improvement and Family Support
- Office of School Innovations

Title I
- Title I

21st CCLC
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Youth Development Branch
The Youth Development Branch provides leadership, direction, coordination, supervision, and support for the Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers program, Maryland Student Service Alliance (MSSA), Character Education Office, Maryland Association of Student Councils, and the Maryland Chess program.

Program Improvement and Family Support Branch
The Program Improvement and Family Support Branch helps support local school systems and schools that have high concentrations of children from low-income families. This support includes planning, operating, and evaluating programs for educationally disadvantaged students. The Branch is responsible for the federal Title I program - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged. Under Title I, specialists oversee the Maryland Parent Advisory Council (M-PAC), Home Instruction for Parents of Youngsters (HIPPY), Family Reading Plan, Take 15 for the Family, as well as the Even Start Family Literacy Program. In addition, migrant students are provided summer learning opportunities, neglected and delinquent students are being served in State institutions, middle school teachers are being served through the Increasing Proficiency for All Students (I-PAS)/Challenge Initiative, and homeless children receive support through the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

Student Services and Strategic Planning Branch
The Student Services and Strategic Planning Branch (SSSP) is responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance to local school systems with the implementation of programs and initiatives to facilitate the emotional, mental, social, and physical health of all students. These programs and initiatives include guidance and career development, school psychology, pupil personnel, school social work, school health services, safe and supportive schools, dropout prevention and alternative programs, home instruction, and initiatives to reduce disruption and violence, address at-risk behaviors, and facilitate achievement. The branch works collaboratively with other agencies, community organizations, and stakeholder groups around these initiatives.

In addition, this branch is responsible for programs and initiatives to improve teaching and learning for at-risk students and low-performing schools. These programs include the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools program, the Ed-Flex Demonstration Program, the Rural and Low-Income Schools Program, and the State-funded Nonpublic Textbook Program. Under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Program, each school system is required to submit to MSDE a comprehensive Master Plan, to be updated annually, designed to improve achievement for all students and eliminate achievement gaps among groups of students.

Office of School Innovations
The Office of School Innovations (OSI) is responsible for providing leadership, support and accountability to new educational initiatives in Maryland Public Schools through the effective design, development and implementation of creative and innovative programs. These innovative programs support the mission of MSDE by providing
Innovative products and services to enhance academic achievement for students across the state. This includes providing leadership for the development and implementation of the Maryland Public Charter School Program. Public Charter Schools are one of the Federal and State sanctioned restructuring designs for schools in restructuring status pursuant to No Child Left Behind.

OSI Works directly with local boards of education and superintendents to provide guidance and technical assistance on best authorizing practices as well as assistance in implementing the public charter school law; offers guidance and delivers technical assistance to perspective charter school operators and charter school leadership; provides management, accountability and oversight of the federal grant program as well as all personnel assigned to the management of this grant; and provides leadership, support, and assistance to an innovative Statewide School - the Maryland Public Residential Boarding Education Program operated and managed by the SEED Foundation.

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Divisions

Overview

The Student Services and Strategic Planning Branch (SSSP) is responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance to local school systems with the implementation of programs and initiatives to facilitate the emotional, mental, social, and physical health of all students. These programs and initiatives include school counseling and career development, school psychology, pupil personnel, school social work, school health services, safe and drug-free schools, dropout prevention and alternative programs, home instruction, and initiatives to reduce disruption and violence, address at-risk behaviors, and facilitate achievement. The branch works collaboratively with other agencies, community organizations, and stakeholder groups around these initiatives.

In Focus

Combating Human Trafficking In Maryland

Recommendations For A Statewide Approach

2015 Update

MSDE Emergency Planning and School Safety

Information on emergency planning, school safety, and state regulations pertaining to schools

USDE Emergency Guidelines

Guide For Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans
Supportive Schools
Grant
Positive Behavioral
Interventions and
Supports
Pupil Personnel
and School Social
Workers
Safe and Drug-
Free Schools
School-Based
Health Centers
School Counseling
School Health
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In Focus

Model Bullying Policy

Technical Assistance Bulletin for
Implementing Maryland's Model
Policy to Address Bullying,
Harassment, or Intimidation (2013)

Dropout Prevention School
Completion Intervention Resource
Guide (2012)

Providing school completion supports
for Maryland students

The research is clear that there is an inextricable
link between children's social, emotional, mental
and physical health and their ability to learn.
Children who are ill, abused, depressed, suicidal,
adicted, or who have emotional problems are not
able to benefit from the educational program. The
focus of SSAP is to address these issues through
both prevention and intervention strategies and
programs to help students overcome challenges to
learning and to achieve to high academic levels.
Through many of its programs the branch also
addresses the creation of safe and nurturing school
environments conducive to learning.

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