

# MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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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.

## Divisions/Offices Overview

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## Divisions

[Divisions](#) > [Student, Family, and School Support](#)

### 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.

#### Branches

- [Youth Development](#)
- [Student Services and Strategic Planning](#)
- [Program Improvement and Family Support](#)
- [Office of School Innovations](#)

#### Title I

- [Title I](#)

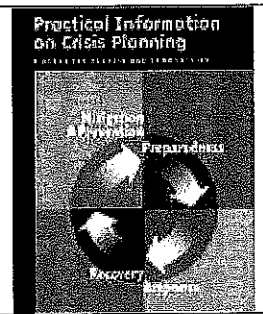
#### 21st CCLC

- [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#)

#### In Focus

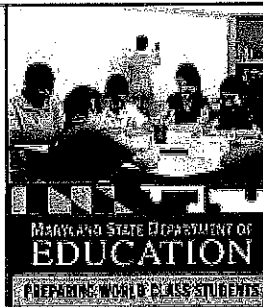
[Practical Information on Crisis Plans from the US Department of Education](#)

The US Department of Education's guideline 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 \(November 2013\)](#)



**Bullying Information for Parents**

The Division administers programs through the following Branches:

**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 Preschool 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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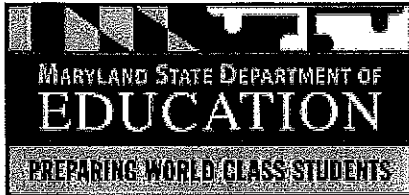
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      - Maryland Safe and

**Divisions**

[Divisions > Student, Family, and School Support > Student Services and Alternative Programs](#)

**Overview**

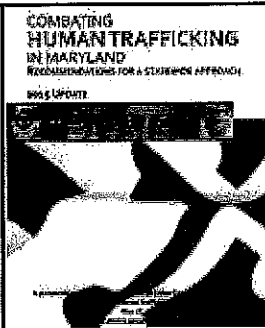
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**In Focus**

**Combating Human Trafficking In Maryland**

**Recommendations For A Statewide Approach**

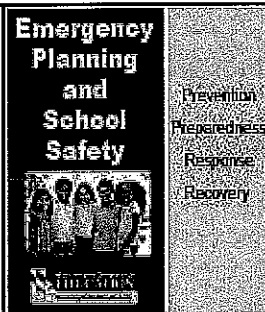
2015 Update



**In Focus**

**MSDE Emergency Planning and School Safety**

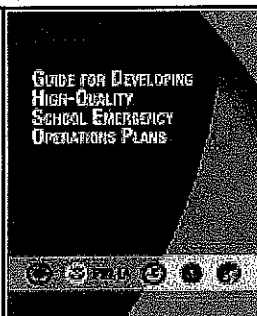
Information on emergency planning, school safety, and state regulations pertaining to schools



**In Focus**

**USDE Emergency Guidelines**

Guide For Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans



**Local Contacts**

- [Directors of Student Services](#)

**Reportable Offenses Model Policy**

- [Reportable Offenses Model Policy](#)

**Technical Assistance Guide**

- [Student Services Technical Assistance Guide](#)
- [Providing Safe Spaces for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth](#)
- [Transgender Companion Document #1 Guidelines for Transitions in Schools](#)
- [Transgender Companion Document #2-Working with Parents and Community Members](#)
- [Model Bullying Policy \(2009\)](#)

**Attendance Works**

- [Attendance Works](#)

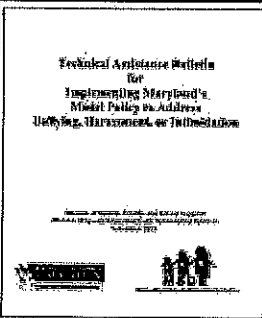
**Reports**

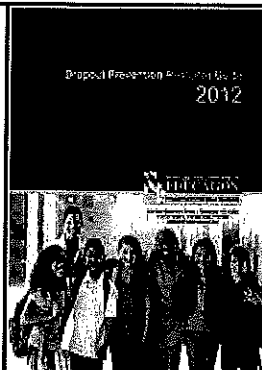
- [Implementation of State and Local School System Policies and Regulations to Address Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior 2016](#)
- [Task Force on Compulsory Attendance](#)
- [Task Force on School Safety](#)
- [Student Discipline- Review of Local Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Task Force to Study Students with Multiple Suspensions](#)

**Supporting Students With Deployed Family Members**

- [A Resource for Military Members, Spouses and Families](#)
- [Military One Source](#)
- [Military Child Education Coalition](#)
- [MCEC Newsletter](#)
- [Military Child Initiative through Johns Hopkins](#)
- [Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment](#)

- › 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 Services
- › School Mental Health
- › School Psychological Services
- › Self-Injury
- › Student Enrollment Issues
- › Suicide Prevention
- › Surveys
- › Teen Pregnancy
- Emergency Planning and School Safety Overview
- › Family Support Branch

<p><b>In Focus</b></p> <p><b>Model Bullying Policy</b></p> <p>Technical Assistance Bulletin for Implementing Maryland's Model Policy to Address Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation (2013)</p>	
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<p><b>Dropout Prevention School Completion Intervention Resource Guide (2012)</b></p> <p>Providing school completion supports for Maryland students</p>	
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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, addicted, 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.

- [Parents Called to Active Duty: Helping Children Cope](#)
- [Resources for Military Families](#)
- [What Local School Systems are Doing for Families with Deployed Members](#)

## Contact Information

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