MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.

DATE: May 22, 2012

SUBJECT: Response to State Board Report: *A Safe School, Successful Students, and A Fair and Equitable Disciplinary Process Go Hand in Hand: A Study of School Discipline Practices and Proposed Regulatory Changes*

PURPOSE:

To provide the State Board the opportunity to discuss the public comments that were received in response to the report on school discipline that was released following the February 28, 2012, State Board meeting. The Board will also discuss next steps regarding the proposed regulatory changes included in that report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The State Board of Education conducted an exhaustive examination and review of the issue of school discipline and the use of long term suspension/expulsion as a disciplinary practice. This examination and review began over two years ago following the release of a State Board opinion in an appeal involving the expulsion of a ninth grade student for the majority of the school year, during which time the student received intermittent homework assignments but no follow-up, grading, or other interaction with school personnel.

Based on this examination and review the Board released at is meeting on February 28, 2012, a report of its findings and proposed regulatory changes (*A Safe School, Successful Students, and A Fair and Equitable Disciplinary Process Go Hand in Hand: A Study of School Discipline Practices and Proposed Regulatory Changes).* At that time, the Board announced that it was inviting the public to submit comments on the report up and until March 30, 2012.

The Report can be found at:
http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/42ED8EDA-AF34-4058-B275-03189163882D/32218/School_Discipline_Report02272012.pdf
The Comments can be viewed at:
http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/42ED8EDA-AF34-4058-B275-03189163882D/32224/AllPublicCommentsReceived1.pdf

ACTION:

For discussion and possible action.