



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 – 1925

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the State Senate  
State House, H-107  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program Report (MSAR #5735)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Section 6-120 of the Education Article established the Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program. The Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program was to occur in several selected school districts and include up to 150 teaching candidates as participants. Section 6-120 requires the Maryland State Department of Education to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly, a report regarding (1) the school systems participating in the program and the number of the per diem stipends awarded; (2) the teaching assignments of resident teachers participating in the program; and (3) the retention rate of resident teachers participating in the program during their first five years of teaching.” Since this program was never funded, no resident teachers have participated and no stipends have been awarded. This correspondence serves as the reporting requirement as specified in the law.

It may be of interest that the Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.12.01.07 (2006) did establish guidelines for alternative-prepared resident teachers, including a teacher certification process, as well as a state program approval process for alternative programs. Since 2008, 5,314 resident teachers have been hired in eleven Maryland local education agencies and have acquired full professional certification. Data regarding this process is available upon request.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Sarah Spross, Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval at (410) 767-0386 or by email at [sarah.spross@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.spross@maryland.gov).

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

C: Sarah Spross  
Kelly Meadows  
Karla Henriquez  
Sarah Albert (DLS – 5 copies)