

**Nancy S. Grasmick**  
**State Superintendent of Schools**

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

January 1, 2011

Ms. Sarah Albert  
Office of Policy Analysis  
Department of Legislative Services  
B-00 Legislative Services Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MSAR 8476

Dear Ms. Albert:

The Safe Schools Act of 2010 requires the Maryland State Department of Education to submit a report, on or before January 1, 2011 and each year thereafter, to the General Assembly regarding the implementation of State and local school system policies and regulations to address gangs, gang activity, and similar destructive or illegal group behavior. The information presented in this letter serves as the initial report.

The due date for approval of the Model Policy to Address Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior by the Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE) is March 31, 2011. The due date for Maryland's 24 local public school systems to submit their policies and/or regulations, based on the State Board's model policy, to the State Superintendent of Schools is September 1, 2011.

The model policy is currently in its final stages of development for presentation for the MSBE's approval by March 31, 2011. The law required the Model Policy to be developed by the MSBE in consultation with and input from the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of the State Police, the Department of Human Resources, and local school systems. Due to the nature of the topic and the interest of other agency and community members, membership was expanded to include other stakeholders in a workgroup that would develop the Model Policy. It was felt that such diverse representation would provide a high level of expertise in developing a viable, useful document.

Since August 12, 2010, the workgroup comprised of stakeholder representatives has met and developed a draft model policy. Further input for and revision of the draft model policy has been accomplished by a subsequent meeting and through electronic communication with all stakeholders. Workgroup membership includes:

1. Maryland American Civil Liberties Union
2. Maryland Chapter National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

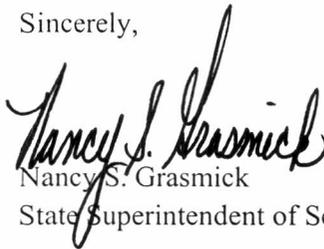


3. Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender
4. Department of Juvenile Services
5. Department of Human Resources
6. Maryland Association of School Resource Officers
7. United State's Attorney's Office
8. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
9. Office of the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates
10. Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
11. University of Maryland Law School
12. Office of the Attorney General
13. Maryland Association of Resources for Families
14. Strayer University
15. Various law enforcement agencies/police departments including the Maryland State Police
16. Various public school systems
17. Maryland State Department of Education

The draft model policy was also sent to the superintendents of Maryland's 24 local public school systems for their review and comment.

The model policy will be approved by the State Board of Education on or before its March 31, 2011 meeting. After approval, it will be disseminated to the superintendents of Maryland's 24 local public school systems for their use to develop their own school system policies and/or regulations to address gangs, gang activity, and similar destructive or illegal group behavior. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dominic M. Romano, School Safety Specialist, at (410) 767-0301 or email [dromano@msde.state.md.us](mailto:dromano@msde.state.md.us).

Sincerely,



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

NSG:DMR:dg

Initial Report Safe Schools Act 2010 Governor O'Malley # 010111

c: Renee Spence  
Michial Gill  
Ann E. Chafin  
Charles J. Buckler  
Dominic M. Romano