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Report to the Governor of Maryland on the Implementation of Education Article § 22-303 February 1, 2012

Background

Education Article § 22-303 requires that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) develop and implement juvenile services educational programs at all residential facilities of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) initially by July 1, 2012, and then extended by legislative action to July 1, 2014. § 22-303 further required that MSDE report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the requirement beginning in February 2006, and every other year thereafter.

The legislation stemmed from reports and concerns that youth in these facilities were receiving limited education services in settings not meeting the standards for programs in the public schools. Since 2004, MSDE and DJS have worked collaboratively to transition the educational programs in six detention centers and open an educational program in the re-established Victor Cullen Treatment Center.

As MSDE assumed responsibility for these programs, it has ensured: adequate staff to provide students with access to core academics as well as instruction in Career and Technology Education and life skills/career development over the course of the required six-hour school day; full compliance with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and student attendance in school in a facility that meets the standards for public schools in the State. Schools are staffed with certified teachers and administrators. An accountability program promotes student achievement and continuous improvement of student outcomes.

Progress to Date

FY 2005

On July 1, 2004, MSDE assumed responsibility for the education program at the Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School. It consisted of three components, one for the detention population, one for short term Impact Program, and one for the longer-term Enhanced Security youth. The education program offerings at Hickey included academic, occupational, life skills, special education, library/media, and career development services. In July 2005, the Administration announced the impending closures of the Impact and Enhance Security programs. Since November 30, 2005, MSDE has operated an expanded detention program at the facility incorporating the program elements described above to serve 72 students on a daily basis.

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FY 2006

On July 1, 2005, MSDE assumed responsibility for the education program at the Lower Eastern Shore Children's Center. The facility is a 24-bed detention unit. The educational program is similar to that offered at the Charles H. Hickey, Jr. detention school.

MSDE assumed responsibility for the education program at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (BCJJC) on January 4, 2006. Staff and instructional materials were transferred from Hickey to BCJJC where MSDE now serves 120 students daily.

FY 2007

In FY 2007, MSDE continued to administer the educational programming at Charles H. Hickey, Lower Eastern Shore and the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center. MSDE worked diligently during FY 2007 to expand as well as enhance the educational programming at BCJJC in an effort to deliver optimal instructional and occupational programming to the residents of the facility.

FY 2008

MSDE assumed responsibility for the educational program at J. DeWeese Carter Children's Center on July 1, 2007. Funds were provided in the FY 2008 budget for additional staff, a relocatable education building, instructional materials and equipment in order to add this site to the MSDE Juvenile Services Education Program. In November 2011, the Carter Center became the site of the DJS Treatment Center for girls.

The reopening of Victor Cullen Facility in July 2007 added an additional MSDE educational program. Initially, funds for staff, a relocatable education building, and instructional materials and equipment were provided through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between MSDE and DJS. This MOA provided the funding needed to develop and implement the educational program for Victor Cullen since funds were not provided in MSDE's FY 2008 budget. The Governor's Allowance for FY 2009 included ongoing resources for the Cullen site. The Cullen educational program provides daily instruction in the core subject areas as well as Career and Technology Education in electrical wiring for the 48 youth residing at the facility.

FY 2009-2010

The Juvenile Services Education Program served approximately 300 students on a daily basis. Funds were not appropriated for MSDE to assume additional school sites in these two fiscal years. During the 2009 General Assembly session, the deadline for assuming responsibility for all Department of Juvenile Services' residential facilities educational programming was extended to July 1, 2014. To prepare for meeting the new deadline, the MSDE Juvenile Services Education program has conducted physical site visits and needs assessments of the DJS residential education programs not yet assumed.

FY 2011

MSDE assumed responsibility for the educational program at the Western Maryland Children's Center (WMCC) on July 1, 2010. Program offerings at the WMCC include Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Life Skills. The staff at the facility consisted of two core content teachers, one special education teacher, a guidance counselor, one instructional assistant, an office secretary/records clerk, and the principal who also provides administrative oversight for the Victor Cullen Center.

FY 2012

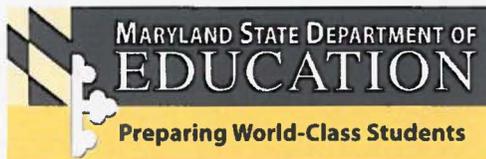
Legislative action during the 2011 session required that MSDE assume responsibility for the educational program at Cheltenham Youth Facility (CYF) in October 2011. MSDE and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) collaborated in the transfer of the program to MSDE effective October 5, 2011.

Next Steps

MSDE's planned expansion of its Juvenile Services Education Program into the seven remaining DJS residential facilities will require additional resources to ensure the educational programs meet the requirements of federal and state statutes and are operated in accordance with the regulations that oversee the JSE program. Each of the additional sites to be assumed will need additional staff, educational facilities, and instructional materials and equipment to meet legal mandates and allow comparable education programs across all JSE schools. Attachment I provides the tentative Assumption Schedule as approved by the Coordinating Council for Juvenile Services Education.

MSDE and DJS are currently in discussions about the assumption of education programs in DJS residential facilities in FY 2013. If space and staffing concerns can be satisfactorily addressed, MSDE is prepared to move forward with the assumption of one or more additional educational programs in FY 2013. If those programs can be assumed, the timeline for MSDE to assume responsibility for remaining DJS education programs would be on track with the approved, tentative assumption schedule, but again, based on the availability of adequate resources.

Attachment



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Tentative Schedule for Assumption of Education Programming in DJS Facilities

FY 13
(July 1, 2012)
Schaefer House

FY 14
(July 1, 2013)
Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center
Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center

FY 15
(July 1, 2014)
Backbone Mountain Youth Camp
Green Ridge Youth Camp
Meadow Mountain Youth Camp
Savage Mountain Youth Camp

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