



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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June 27, 2008

Dr. Kerri Briggs, Assistant Secretary
United States Department of Education
Building FOB-6, Room 7w204
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington DC 20202-6100

Dear Dr. Briggs:

We are pleased to submit to you Maryland’s revision of our proposal for a Differentiated Accountability pilot based on the review responses we received from you and the peer review team. Our revised proposal incorporates the latest suggestions as outlined in the table below.

In summary, we have deleted the request to exempt students who are reported in multiple subgroups, removed the strategy for intervention using “specifically labeled subgroups – such as African American” missing AYP, and reworked the principalship as it pertains to alternative governance. We believe Maryland’s proposal continues to be in the best interest of our schools and our communities.

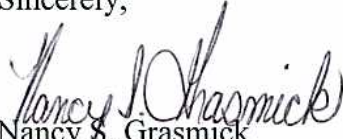
Outlined below are the changes in this revised proposal, including page numbers for easy reference to sections in the revised document.

Topic	Summary of Revised Response	Page Reference
Students in Multiple Subgroups	Deleted references to this exemption from the proposal	See Section II, Core Principle 4: Method of Differentiation, pages 2-5.
Specifically Labeled Subgroups	Deleted “(either one of the five race subgroups or one of the three special services subgroups)”	See Focused Needs Pathway, page 5.
Alternative Governance - Principalship		See Priority Comprehensive Needs Schools pages 14-15 and Core Principle 10, page 26.
Annual Evaluation	MSDE will collaborate with USDE and other states to strengthen the evaluation component	See page 31.



Once again, we look forward to your response to our revised proposal and your approval for Maryland to move forward with the Differentiated Accountability pilot. Please contact me or Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy, at 410-767-0473 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,


Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

NSG:sks
Attachment

c: Patrick Rooney, U.S. Department of Education