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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: February 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Maryland Assessments Update

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program will provide students, parents, educators and the community with better student information at a faster pace. The goal remains the same: to gather information that helps Maryland schools strengthen our instruction and improve student performance so that our graduates are ready to move into the workforce or a postsecondary institution.

MCAP will continue to assess the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards in reading and English language arts. Maryland's mathematics and English language arts assessments will continue to use test items developed by the PARCC consortium. The assessments have received high marks from education experts for their quality and rigor. The same scale scores and performance level descriptors will be utilized.

All Maryland state assessments, including the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, High School Assessments in social studies and high school science, government and biology, as well as the fifth and eighth grade science assessments, will be part of MCAP.

The logo and some points from the communications campaign to increase awareness of the changes are attached.

ACTION:

No action is necessary, for discussion only.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program



Maryland Comprehensive
Assessment Program

WHAT IS DIFFERENT

- Unit times are aligned
- Assessments will be shorter
- Efficiency is improved

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- Assessment in MD College and Career Ready Standards in Reading and English
- Content based on PARCC assessment; the highest quality assessment program in the country
- All MD State Assessments will be part of MCAP