
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

November 5, 2008

Last week, the Maryland State Board of Education debated the merits of the state High School Assessments and the requirements for receiving a high school diploma from our state's public schools. I had the honor of representing our more than 104,000 Baltimore County Public Schools students at that meeting to share what I know our students and their families believe is the issue at the heart of the matter.

What our parents want and what our children deserve is the opportunity for all students to have access to everything we consider good in education. All of our children are worthy of adults who do not select and sort, who do not look at a classroom, school, or district and decide to teach only some of its students well.

Eight years ago, prior to the adoption of *No Child Left Behind* and Maryland's *Bridge to Excellence* plan, our school system adopted its *Blueprint for Progress*. Our *Blueprint* established a goal for all children and established a system of accountability to support our efforts. Simply stated, we believe we owe it to our children to measure their progress and ours.

I am pleased to report that, because of this focus on quality and commitment to excellence, Baltimore County Public Schools is achieving success that we never would have realized without a system of accountability and a culture committed to opportunity for all children.

As a result, our children are succeeding. According to statewide data, 84.6 percent of our seniors already meet the requirements for high school graduation – a rate that exceeds the state average of 83.4 percent. Furthermore, of the school districts in the state preparing more than 5,000 students to graduate in 2009, Baltimore County Public Schools has the highest percentage prepared to do so. (*Please see attached data from www.baltimoresun.com.*)

As a reminder, this data precedes all efforts made by our teachers and students over the summer and since the start of the school year. Our principals tell me – without exception – that we continue to make gains.

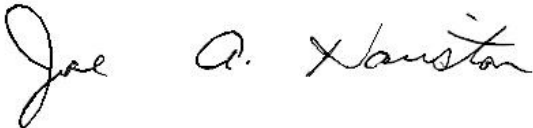
Clearly, this is a work in progress, not an end result. We must remain entrenched – as we have been for several years – in our pursuit of continuous improvement.

I am proud of our staff, students, and families for their contributions to our progress. We clearly have momentum, focus, and direction. Continuing to stay the course will continue to yield the positive results we seek.

I would like to close my report by bringing attention to one of our outstanding staff members. Just last week, the National School Boards Association named Ryan Imbriale, assistant principal at Perry Hall High School, as one of its "20 to Watch" educators for 2008. This special national recognition was presented on October 27 at the association's Technology and Learning Conference in Seattle. The award is designed to identify emerging leaders who will help shape the world of education technology for the next 20 years.

Before serving as assistant principal of Perry Hall, Imbriale was a specialist in the Office of Instructional Technology and worked on projects to bring online learning to students throughout the state. In addition, he is a member of the International Society for Technology in Education's 2008 Board of Directors.

Ryan is an excellent example of our staff members – committed to excellence in our schools and influencing public education throughout the nation and the world. I am proud to work with such a distinguished staff.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

HSA test results data

Data shows how many students have passed the state High School Assessment in each Maryland county, the size of the Class of 2009 in each county and the percentage of seniors that have met the graduation requirements; data for individual schools is included for counties in the Baltimore area

2:30 PM EDT, October 28, 2008

Results by county

School District	Number of students meeting requirements	Students in the Class of 2009	Percentage of students meeting requirements
Allegany County	611	714	85.6%
Anne Arundel County	3,968	4,322	91.8%
Baltimore City	2,206	3,396	65.0%
Baltimore County	5,958	7,039	84.6%
Calvert County	1,249	1,324	94.3%
Caroline County	327	374	87.4%
Carroll County	2,078	2,183	95.2%
Cecil County	953	1,059	90.0%
Charles County	1,766	1,992	88.7%
Dorchester County	245	279	87.8%
Frederick County	2,678	2,858	93.7%
Garrett County	323	367	88.0%
Harford County	2,469	2,659	92.9%
Howard County	3,329	3,583	92.9%
Kent County	128	169	75.7%
Montgomery County	8,143	9,959	81.8%
Prince George's County	4,731	7,330	64.5%
Queen Anne's County	537	579	92.7%
Saint Mary's County	933	1,040	89.7%
Somerset County	125	143	87.4%
Talbot County	281	345	81.4%

Washington County	1,425	1,537	92.7%
Wicomico County	649	861	75.4%
Worcester County	457	516	88.6%
All Public Schools	45,569	54,628	83.4%

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 10/8 **Interviewed by Scott Thompson of the Panasonic Foundation**
- 10/10 **Visited Imagine Discovery Public Charter School, along with Board President JoAnn C. Murphy and Board Vice President Ed Parker**
- 10/13 **Made school visits**
- 10/13 **Attended "FMA Live!" presentation, Community College of Baltimore County – Dundalk campus (also attended by State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick)**
- 10/13 **Offered greetings at United Way Kick-Off, Loch Raven High School**
- 10/13 **Met with the Diversity and Achievement Steering Committee Meeting, Greenwood**
- 10/14 **Met, at their request, with Governor Martin O'Malley, Mike Miller, Speaker Busch, and Senator Currie, Annapolis**
- 10/15 **Met with League of Women Voters, Greenwood**
- 10/15 **Participated in Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities luncheon, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 10/15 **Hosted meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board**
- 10/15 **Attended 2008 Frederick Douglass Award dinner for UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, Hidden Waters**
- 10/16 **Participated in official ribbon-cutting ceremony for Vincent Farm Elementary School**
- 10/22 **Attended Randallstown High School NJROTC garden dedication**
- 10/23 **Participated in Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland Retreat, Ocean City**
- 10/24 **Participated in Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce Principals' Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn**
- 10/24 **Interviewed by *Education Week* reporter**

- 10/27 **Visited schools**
- 10/27 **Interviewed by Arin Gencer, *The Baltimore Sun***
- 10/28 **Featured as HSA panel member at Maryland State Board of Education meeting**
- 10/29 **Presented remarks at meeting of Baltimore County Alliance of Black School Educators, Southwest Academy**

Upcoming

- 11/5 **To make presentation to Hunt Valley Rotary, Hayfields Country Club**
- 11/6 **To host meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board**
- 11/7 **To participate in Association of Elementary School Administrators Executive Board Meeting, Seven Oaks Elementary School**
- 11/10 **To participate in Maryland State Department of Education Stakeholder Committee meeting for the MGT of America Project**
- 11/10 **To attend High School Honors Concert, Meyerhoff Symphony Hall**
- 11/13 **To participate in legislative dinner with Senator Klausmeier**
- 11/15 **To attend NASA-UMBC STEM Expo, Windsor Mill Middle School**
- 11/17 **To present remarks to Leadership Baltimore County, Community College of Baltimore County – Essex**
- 11/18 **To participate in Economic Alliance Dinner, with County Executive Jim Smith, Hyatt Regency Baltimore**
- 11/19 **To visit schools**
- 11/20 **To participate in Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business Hall of Fame event, Marriott Hunt Valley Inn**
- 11/21-23 **To make presentation on the success of Baltimore County Public Schools, at Superintendents' Brunch at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia**
- 11/25 **To participate in Chamber Board of Directors' meeting, Oak Crest Village**

11/26

**To participate in Principals' Meeting, Crowne Plaza Baltimore,
Timonium**