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December 30, 2016

The Honorable Larry Hogan
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
2 Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson
131 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program (MSAR #10747)

Dear Governor Hogan, Senator Conway, and Delegate Hixson:

Pursuant to the House Bill 278/Chapter 411 (2015), and as amended by Senate Bill 823/Chapter 234 (2016) and House Bill 895/Chapter 235 (2016), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submits the attached report from the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program.

In accordance with §2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Task Force Report addresses the following in the report:

- (1) make recommendations regarding how the terms "Dyslexia" and "Targeted Students" should be defined;
- (2) determine current practices for identifying and treating dyslexia in students in Maryland public schools;
- (3) determine current practices for identifying and treating dyslexia in other states;
- (4) determine the components and costs of successful dyslexia education programs established in Pilot Costs in Other States;
- (5) determine the appropriate structure for establishing a dyslexia education program and make recommendations on:
 - (i) the feasibility of funding a Pilot dyslexia education program through the State Department of Education or alternative funding mechanisms and sources or both, including researching grant opportunities;
 - (ii) the methodologies that should be used to test students and identify dyslexia and pre-dyslexia tendencies in students;
 - (iii) the appropriate age to begin testing for dyslexia and pre-dyslexia tendencies; and
 - (iv) the best practices for treating and educating students identified as having dyslexia or pre-dyslexia tendencies; and

(6) develop a pilot program to initiate the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force in an appropriately limited geographical area.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained within this report, please contact Ms. Marcella E. Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services. She may be reached at (410) 767-0238 or by email at marcella.franczkowski@maryland.gov. We look forward to our continued partnership in our vision to create an inclusive system of services for children with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

KBS/MEF:cab

c: The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
The Honorable Michael E. Busch