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August 15, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, Suite 3 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie L. McIntosh
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Reference: 2018 Joint Chairmen’s Report, pgs. 221-2, Section 43 -- Report on Evaluation of State Resources Dedicated to School Safety

Dear Chairmen Kasemeyer and McIntosh:

In accordance with the 2018 Joint Chairmen’s Report, page 221, the Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) and Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) submit this Evaluation of State Resources Dedicated to School Safety report. The Department respectfully requests that the funds being held pending submission of the report be released.

The Maryland General Assembly, working with the Governor, developed Senate Bill 1265, Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018. The comprehensive legislation addresses many of the issues raised by Section 43 of the Budget Bill. The evaluations requested by the Budget Bill cannot be answered in the short time provided. However, Senate Bill 1265 creates the School Safety Subcabinet, which serves as the governing board for the Maryland Center for School Safety (Center) and must provide a report to the General Assembly on its activities. The legislation expands the membership of the existing Advisory Board which advises the Subcabinet in its duties. Both groups are to work with the Center and local school systems in

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developing and evaluating plans, funding, training, and school safety standards. The Center is also required to report annually to the General Assembly.

It should be pointed out that this reporting requirement of the Joint Chairmen's Report was added before the passage of Senate Bill 1265, House Bill 1783, and the final version of the State budget. This legislation consolidated school safety funding and operations into the Center and the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), both independent units under the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). These are now the appropriate entities to address issues related to school safety, and not MDSP and GOCCP.

Because this structure has just been put in place, time will be required to determine whether this is the most effective model. Further, it would be counterproductive to the current efforts by MSDE and the Center to comply with the extensive requirements in the law by recommending changes at this early point. Subject to these limitations, this report will describe the recent requirements and funding. The following specific topics are required to be addressed in this report:

Identify all current State resources and entities available for ensuring, monitoring, and improving the safety of public and private schools;

Senate Bill 1265 created the new School Safety Subcabinet which brings State and local resources together to review and establish standards for State wide school safety. At a minimum, the State resources include capital funds, operational funds, and personnel assigned to the Center appropriated by the Administration and approved by the General Assembly. State entities involved at a minimum are the Board of Public Works, MSDE, Department of Budget and Management, MDSP, Center, Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), and the General Assembly. Each has a role in providing for safer schools.

The fiscal year 2019 budget provides \$40.6 million in operating and capital funds to improve school safety. The budget, along with Senate Bill 1265 and House Bill 1783, consolidate all school safety funding resources within MSDE (operating) and the IAC (capital). Senate Bill 1265 also repurposes the School Safety Enforcement Fund to create a Safe Schools Fund for making grants to local school systems to assist in implementing the bill's provisions. \$37.6 million of this funding is for local school systems, including: (1) \$23.5 million for capital improvements to improve school safety and security; (2) \$10 million for additional training and mental health outreach; (3) \$2.5 million for grants for mandated safety evaluations; (4) \$1 million for schools and day care centers at risk of hate crimes; and (5) \$600,000 in current funding added to the new Safe Schools Fund. In addition, the appropriation for the Center is increased by \$2.5 million, to fund 13 new positions required by Senate Bill 1265.

Beginning in fiscal year 2020, legislation will require the following new funding: (1) \$2 million for the Center (currently \$500,000); (2) \$10 million to fund school resource officers; and (3) \$10 million for school security capital improvements.

Evaluate the role of the State in ensuring safety at all public and private schools;

Senate Bill 1265 provides direction on the State's role in ensuring safety at all public and private schools. The new Subcabinet is directed to perform a number of functions relating to school safety. The State's role is specified in the legislation and is extensive. The Subcabinet shall:

- (1) collaborate with local school systems in the State, law enforcement agencies, State and local government agencies, community organizations, parents, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to school safety;
- (2) in partnership with the advisory board and other stakeholders:
 - (i) disseminate information on best practices, programs, and resources;
 - (ii) provide technical assistance and training to local jurisdictions and local school systems;
 - (iii) collaborate on collection, analysis, and integration of statewide data; and
 - (iv) promote interagency efforts that support safe schools for all students, school staff, parents, and community members;
- (3) establish a safe school information and best practices clearinghouse of up-to-date, research-based, and data-driven information on effective strategies for creating and maintaining safe schools;
- (4) identify safe school professional staff development best practices;
- (5) initiate collaborative partnerships and facilitate coordination among local school systems, law enforcement agencies, State and local government, and community organizations to leverage existing resources to deliver school safety services uniformly to local school systems;
- (6) foster coordination among all entities responsible for ensuring the safety and security of school facilities in the State;
- (7) distribute grants from the fund in accordance with § 7-1512 of this subtitle;

- (8) collaborate with the department on the model policy for an assessment team under § 7–1507 of this subtitle;
- (9) adopt regulations to define a school security employee for the purpose of the training and report required for school security employees under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;
- (10) provide general oversight and direction to the Center;
- (11) approve the annual budget for the Center;
- (12) adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the subcabinet’s duties under this subtitle; and
- (13) perform other duties assigned by the governor.

Establish clearly defined and measurable goals for addressing school safety concerns;

Senate Bill 1265 provides that the Subcabinet, working with the local schools systems and others, shall be responsible for a number of tasks. These include the list of items previously mentioned.

Evaluate the appropriate level of State funding required to effectively ensure that school safety concerns are addressed;

Based on the requirements of Senate Bill 1265 and the funding that has been provided so far, it is understandable that the Subcabinet should evaluate the funding needs for future budgets based on its interaction with the State and local partners. Until the legislation is fully in effect and the Subcabinet begins its mandate, we will not be able to determine whether the current funding is adequate.

Evaluate the optimal organizational structure across State government for addressing the issue of school safety, including:

- (a) ***which agency should host this function;***

Senate Bill 1265 specifies that the Center is an independent unit within MSDE and based at the MCAC.

(b) whether or not other agencies should have a role, and if so, what that role should be;

Senate Bill 1265 establishes the role of the MSDE, the Subcabinet, the Advisory Board, and the Center. Senate Bill 1265 further specifies the responsibilities of local school systems, local governments and local police agencies.

(c) how many positions are needed and for what purpose;

The Governor provides 13 new positions in the budget for expanding the Center personnel. The positions were conditional on the passage of Senate Bill 1265. Until the bill is fully implemented we will be unable to address the need for additional positions.

(d) how many offices are needed statewide and where they should be located;

Senate Bill 1265 establishes that the Center shall be based at the MCAC in Baltimore County and a satellite office shall be located at Bowie State University. The legislature repealed the requirement that the Center have statewide regional offices. However, the Subcabinet can determine, based on need, that regional locations may be necessary.

(e) whether all school safety grant funding should be consolidated;

The budgetary and legislative changes during the 2018 session consolidate school safety operating funding within MSDE and capital funding within the IAC. See paragraph (1) above for additional detail on current and future budgetary items.

(f) which agency should administer school safety grants and provide grant oversight;

See above responses.

Make a recommendation regarding the necessity for the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) and the appropriate State entity to maintain oversight of the operations and funding of the Center, including any necessary statutory changes;

Senate Bill 1265 provides that the Subcabinet is the governing board for the Center. The Subcabinet is chaired by the State Superintendent and consists of the Secretary of MDSP, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, the Secretary of Health, and

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the Executive Director of the IAC. The Subcabinet is advised by the Advisory Board. Any recommendations for legislation or budget changes should be made by the Subcabinet.

Develop a plan for how to expend the funding allocated to MCSS, including how many positions are needed for MCSS to effectively carry out its mission.

The supplemental budget #1 and Senate Bill 1265 provide additional funding and personnel for the Center. The Subcabinet provides budget oversight. The Subcabinet is required to be involved with the operations of the Center and the local school systems as previously mentioned. Based on those interactions, the Subcabinet, with the guidance of the Center and local participants, can evaluate the future budget needs as the various recommendations for school safety are implemented.

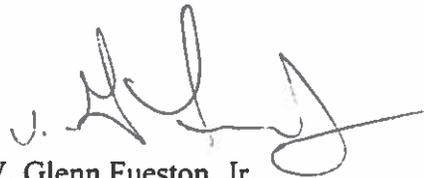
Conclusion:

With the passage of Senate Bill 1265, House Bill 1783, and the fiscal 2019 budget, the Maryland General Assembly and the Administration have provided a general road map for the entire State to make our schools safer. The duties of the Subcabinet, the Advisory Board, the Center, and local school systems are to develop the specific plans to further define the map. Although this report was designed to answer the need for guidance on the future of school safety initiatives, the Maryland General Assembly in concert with the Administration took the lead by proposing and passing specific legislation to address this need. Senate Bill 1265 and House Bill 1783 went into effect June 1, 2018. The FY 2019 operating budget started July 1, 2018. While consolidating efforts to address school safety into the Center and the IAC is a reasonable approach, at this point it is premature to draw any conclusions on the effectiveness of these changes.

With the support of the Administration, legislature and local governments, our schools should be a great deal safer in the near future. While other states are just getting started, Maryland has taken the lead and should provide an example to the rest of the country.



William M. Pallozzi
Superintendent
Maryland Department of State Police



V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Control
and Prevention