

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

January 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget: State Aid

On January 20, 2010, Governor Martin O'Malley released his Fiscal Year 2011 Recommended Operating Budget. The budget calls for maintaining funding formulas for K-12 education. If approved by the General Assembly, this proposal would result in a statewide increase in aid to local school districts of \$102.3 million. Initial estimates indicated that Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) should be entitled to approximately \$52.4 million in additional state aid for FY 2011. However, we received information yesterday that indicates that there may be errors in the state calculations that could significantly alter this amount. Baltimore City Public Schools officials have notified the state that their enrollment numbers were misstated in the calculations and that could result in a smaller proportion of state aid for Montgomery County. The state calculations also misstated English for Speakers of Other Languages enrollment for MCPS. This misstatement also may result in changes in state aid estimates. This is a frustrating development for us and, I am sure for the governor as well, given the state error in the FY 2009 state aid calculations that resulted in a significant underpayment to Montgomery County.

As you know, because of the uncertain fiscal situation, my FY 2011 Recommended Operating Budget did not include any assumption of increased state aid. We will continue to work with the state to determine the appropriate level of state aid we should receive.

I will continue to keep you informed of further developments on state aid when we receive more information. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer, at 301-279-3626 or Dr. Marshall Spatz, director, Department of Management, Budget, and Planning, at 301-279-3547.

JDW:sz

Attachment

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Ms. Cuttitta
Dr. Newman
Mr. Prouty
Ms. Romero