MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Achievement Matters Most

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State Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Colleagues:

The *Maryland Public Charter Schools Model Policy and Resource Guide* was created to assist local boards of education develop policies and procedures needed to implement Maryland's Public Charter School Act of 2003.

With the enactment of the new law, Maryland is pleased to join a growing number of states that authorize and support the development of public charter schools. Our new law provides an important framework for all local boards of education and their staffs to work with parents, community organizations, and higher education institutions to develop and operate public charter schools. The first step in the process is the development of clearly written, comprehensive and supportive local policies and procedures. It is our hope that the *Maryland Public Charter Schools Model Policy and Resource Guide* can help in the development process.

This document represents the work of a broad range of individuals representing local school systems, community based organizations with interest in charter schools, national experts, members of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education and staff of the Maryland State Department of Education. On the one hand, the *Guide* provides information about administrative responsibilities that local school systems must have concerning charter schools, while also guiding the development of an environment that supports their creation and operation. We think those that helped design the *Resource Guide* accomplished this objective. We thank them for their generous support.

I encourage you to visit the MSDE web site at marylandpublicschools.org for the most current and updated information concerning public charter schools in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Grasmick

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