

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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November 20, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
H-101 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Mandated Report MSAR #9759 (SB 740/Ch. 533 (3))

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to SB 740/Ch. 533(3), 2013, the Maryland State Department of Education shall report on the following:

(1) the feasibility of the award of a Maryland high school diploma regardless of whether a student has completed the minimum requisite credits or 4 years of high school if the student:

- (i) is assessed as college and career ready under §7-2051.1 of the Education Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act; and
- (ii) meets the student service and other assessment graduation requirements established in regulations; and

(2) if found to be feasible under item (1) of this section, an implementation plan for the award of a Maryland high school diploma regardless of whether a student has completed the minimum requisite credits or 4 years of high school.

The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 provided local education agencies (LEAs) and the Maryland State Department of Education with an opportunity to review the current graduation requirements for students in Maryland. Since the bill was passed in 2013, the Maryland State Department of Education analyzed the current provisions



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within Education Article, COMAR 13A.03.02.10. This article outlines graduation requirements for public high schools in Maryland emphasizing the alternatives to 4 year enrollment requirements that include:

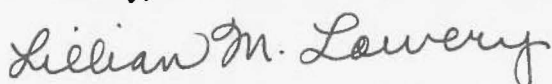
- (1) Early College Admission Program.** *A student may receive a Maryland High School Diploma through acceptance in the early college admission program if the student is accepted for early admission to an accredited college before high school graduation; all Maryland High School Assessments and student service requirements have been met; a written request by the student and parent/guardian is made to and approved by the local superintendent of schools certifying the early admission acceptance; the student's program for the first year of college is approved by the local superintendent of schools if this program is included toward the issuance of a diploma; and at the conclusion of a full year of study, a written request for a Maryland High School Diploma is submitted to the superintendent together with a transcript or letter from the college to the high school principal indicating that the student has successfully completed a year of college work.*

Along with the Early College Admission Program, COMAR 13A.03.02.10 makes the same provisions for students in approved Vocational, Technical and other Postsecondary School programs seeking early admission into an approved educational program upon completion of the Maryland High School Assessment program and student service requirements.

In both instances, the intent is to provide an opportunity for students to gain access to early college and postsecondary career experiences prior to four years of high school. The COMAR 13A.03.02.10 clearly indicates that students should continue with educational programs that are meaningful and lead to successful college and career experiences.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Henry R. Johnson, Jr., Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability at (410) 767-0315 or by email at henry.johnson@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

C: Jack Smith
Henry R. Johnson, Jr.