



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



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



MARYLAND
Department of Health

Robert R. Neall,
Secretary, Department of Health

September 30, 2018

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Senate Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
House Committee on Ways and Means
131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Plan for Sickle Cell Disease Management Services Report (MSAR #11718)

Dear Chair Conway and Chair Kaiser:

Chapters 385 and 386 of 2018 require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop guidelines for public schools regarding the administration of health care services to students with sickle cell disease. The law states that on or before December 1, 2018, the MSDE and MDH shall: provide technical assistance to schools to implement the guidelines, instruct school personnel at the local level regarding the guidelines, and develop a process to monitor the implementation of the guidelines.

Additionally, the MSDE and MDH, “in consultation with local school systems, local health departments, and other interested stakeholders, shall establish a plan for all public school health services programs in the State to provide sickle cell disease management services through implementation of policies and programs so students with sickle cell disease can: (1) remain safe in school; (2) be supported for optimal academic achievement; and (3) fully participate in all aspects of school programming, including after-school activities and other school-sponsored events.”

Finally, on or before December 1, 2018, the MSDE and MDH shall report on the implementation of the Act to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

The MSDE and the MDH respectfully send this correspondence to request that the submission of this report be accepted on December 1, 2019, following the development of the sickle cell disease guidelines, the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the guidelines, and the technical assistance at the local level regarding the guidelines. The rationale for this request includes the need for time for the development of the guidelines which requires multiple meetings with community members and constituent groups, drafting of the document, approval of the document with the State guidelines committee, and re-drafting the document with

Chair Conway and Chair Kaiser
September 14, 2018
Page 2

feedback from constituent groups and legal representatives of both the MSDE and MDH. This approval process will take time to assure that all feedback and comments are considered and that the document reflects the professional thinking of leaders in the field.

Additionally, the provision requiring technical assistance and monitoring for the implementation of the guidelines and to provide instruction for school personnel at the local level regarding the guidelines, requires time for local school systems to plan and implement training sessions across the State. The MSDE and MDH respectfully request consideration of additional time to provide an accurate report that reflects state-wide efforts.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, at (410) 767-0472 or mary.gable@maryland.gov.

Best Regards,



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education



Robert R. Neall
Secretary
Maryland Department of Health

c: Sarah Albert (DLS Library – 5 copies)