

*From the Desk of Secretary
Catherine Raggio...*

Maryland State Board of Education to hold Open Forums on Search for New State Superintendent of Schools

The Maryland State Board of Education has initiated its search for a new State Superintendent of Schools. As part of the search process, the State Board will hold a series of Open Forums to obtain input from stakeholders and identify the characteristics desired in a New Superintendent.

In addition to Special Education services, MSDE is responsible for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program through its Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). All of these programs are of paramount importance in the lives of children, youth and adults with various disabilities.

I encourage parents of students with disabilities, education advocates and individuals with disabilities receiving services through the MSDE Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to participate in the statewide Open Forums. By attending one of the forums and sharing your views, or completing the online survey at www.ecragroup.com/mdss by the November 18, 2011 deadline, you will help ensure that early intervention, the educational needs of students and vocational training issues for adults with disabilities will be included for consideration as part of the search process.

The Open Forums, which will be facilitated by a consulting firm, will be held at seven locations around the state. The forums will be held at two different times (2:30 and 7:00 p.m.) at each location.

October 27

Easton High School (Talbot County)

723 Mecklenberg Avenue, Easton, MD 21601

November 2

Laurel High School (Prince George's County)

8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

November 3

Seneca Valley High School (Montgomery County)

19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown, MD 20874

November 7

Huntingtown High School (Calvert County)

4125 N. Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

November 7

Mountain Ridge High School (Allegany County)

100 Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick Lane, Frostburg, MD 21532

November 9

Edgewood High School (Harford County)

2415 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood, MD 21040

November 10

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (Baltimore City)

1400 West Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21209

Once all the information is gathered, the State Board will discuss it at its December 6, 2011 meeting and the report will be posted on the State Board of Education website www.marylandpublicschools.org.