Media Release

Congressman John Sarbanes

Maryland

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Sarbanes Congratulates Maryland State Department of Education as a "Race to the Top" Grant Winner

TOWSON – As part of the U.S. Department of Education's "Race to the Top" competitive grants program, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has been awarded $250 million. MSDE will use the funds to revise the state curriculum, assessments and accountability system based on common core standards; build a statewide technology infrastructure to help inform instruction; help better prepare and support Maryland teachers and principals; and engage in innovative ways to transform low-achieving schools and districts.

"Maryland schools are at the head of the class in terms of student performance and education policy," said Congressman John Sarbanes, citing *Education Weekly's* ranking of Maryland as #1 in its 2010 "Quality Counts" survey. "These resources will help maintain this standard of excellence in the face of a very difficult budget situation at the state and local level."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Race to the Top" grants are awarded to states that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform. Thirty-six applications were submitted for phase II of the grant consideration. Maryland was chosen from 19 finalists in phase II of consideration.

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