

**MARYLAND PARTNERSHIP FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING K-16**

Maryland State Department of Education    Maryland Higher Education Commission    University of Maryland Systems  
*Nancy Grasmick, Superintendent*                      *Karen Johnson, Secretary*                      *Donald Langenberg, Chancellor*

*16 Francis Street  
Annapolis MD 21401*

*Phone: 410-260-4500  
FAX: 410-974-3513*

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
MARYLAND K-16 PARTNERSHIP**

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into on the 5th day of March, 2002 by the Maryland State Department of Education (“MSDE”), the Maryland Higher Education Commission (“MHEC”), and the University System of Maryland (“USM”), the primary partners of the Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning K-16 (“Partnership”).

WHEREAS, the education of Maryland citizens is a shared responsibility of the primary partners of the Partnership; and

WHEREAS, meaningful improvement in student achievement at all educational levels requires leadership that promotes and facilitates improvements from kindergarten through college graduation; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of Maryland’s elementary/secondary schools and higher education institutions will be more effective if common problems are addressed jointly; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership focuses on providing to Maryland students a seamless path of high quality academic opportunity from pre-kindergarten through college and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of these premises and the conditions and terms set forth below, the parties hereby agree as follows:

I.     Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding defines the individual and joint obligations of the Maryland State department of Education (MSDE), the Maryland Higher Education

Commission (MHEC), and the University System of Maryland (USM), the primary partners, for the full implementation of the Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning K-16 as reflected in the vision statement, mission statement, and commitments set forth below.

A. Vision

The vision of the Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning K-16 is to achieve educational excellence through a statewide learning community.

B. Mission

The K-16 Partnership provides leadership to and builds links among schools, school districts, colleges, universities, businesses, parents, students, and communities to promote excellence in teaching and learning.

C. Commitments

The K-16 Partnership is committed to:

1. Creating seamless transitions and assuring effective articulation pre-kindergarten through college and beyond;
2. Enabling students to meet high standards;
3. Preparing faculties to teach to high standards;
4. Aligning expectations for and eliminating barriers to student progress; and
5. Identifying collective strategies that involve all partners in improving student achievement.

II. Responsibility of the Partners

A. MSDE, MHEC, and USM shall serve as equal partners in the K-16 Partnership

collaboration.

B. Each partner shall make equal contributions to the initiatives of the Partnership through a combination of funds and in kind services.

C. Each partner shall require substantial engagement of a senior staff person in the implementation of Partnership responsibilities.

D. Funding for the Partnership shall be derived each year from the operating budgets of the three primary partners and from external grants, contracts, and other sources.

E. The primary partners shall send representatives to attend national meetings such as the National Association of System Heads, the K-16 States Meetings, and the Educational Trust National Meeting.

F. Each primary partner shall share with its partners information related to the goals and objectives of the Partnership on a regular basis.

### III. Leadership Council

#### A. Chairperson

The three primary partners shall share leadership through annual rotation of the chairperson position.

#### B. Membership

The three primary partners shall develop a procedure for updating membership on the Leadership Council.

#### C. Annual Progress Report

The chairperson shall give an annual progress report on the initiatives of the Partnership to the Leadership Council.

IV. Withdrawal from MOU

A primary partner may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding upon one year's advance written notice to the other primary partners indicating that a majority of members of the governing board of the partner voted in a public session to withdraw from the Partnership.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Memorandum of Understanding on the date first written above.

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Maryland State Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Superintendent of Schools

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Maryland Higher Education Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Higher Education

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, University System of Maryland Board of Regents

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor