



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

December 14, 2018

Cheryl Bost
President
Maryland State Education Association
140 Main Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2003

Dear Ms. Bost:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the addition of a restorative justice coordinator position to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The MSDE recognizes the importance of maintaining a positive school climate that is conducive to learning. However, local school systems and schools are responsible for promoting, maintaining, and setting behavioral expectations for students that are fair, equitable, and appropriate. School systems, in conjunction with stakeholders, make decisions regarding the implementation of strategies that will best meet the needs of schools based on the analysis of available data. The MSDE does not promote or endorse any particular strategy or support initiatives that address school climate or student behavior. Maryland school systems are currently implementing a variety of strategies to promote positive school climate including, but not limited to, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), Restorative Practices, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Check-In Check Out, and Check and Connect. The role of MSDE staff is to provide technical assistance to local school systems through analyzing data, determining root causes, and implementing locally selected strategies. A more detailed description of strategies currently being implemented in Maryland schools can be found in the *Resource Guide of Maryland School Discipline Practices* located on the MSDE website at:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/ResourceGuideMDSchDiscPractices011117.pdf>

Please know that your interest in restorative justice is important to me. I appreciate that you have reached out to share your idea and information. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Academic Policy at mary.gable@maryland.gov or by phone at (410) 767-0275. Ms. Gable will be happy to assist you.

Best Regards,

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

c: Mary Gable