



November 2, 2018

Dr. Karen Salmon, superintendent
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

maryland
state education
association

140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2003
t 800 448 6782
f 410 263 3605
marylandeducators.org

CHERYL BOST
President

DOUG PROUTY
Vice President

JOSEPH COUGHLIN
Treasurer

DAVID E. HELFMAN
Executive Director

Dear Karen:

On behalf of the 74,000 members of the Maryland State Education Association, I am writing to encourage the Maryland State Department of Education to consider adding a restorative justice coordinator position. As you are probably aware, the members of the School to Prison Pipeline Commission recently presented to the Kirwan Commission. One of their recommendations was for restorative justice trainers, restorative justice coordinators, and coaches.

Maryland educators gathered in Ocean City earlier this month for our annual representative assembly and overwhelmingly supported advocacy for a state-level restorative justice coordinator with the below qualifications:

- Someone who has served as a restorative justice coordinator in a school district
- Someone with certification in restorative justice
- Someone with a minimum of two years of practitioner experience in keeping circle with youth and adults.
- Someone who is well-versed with knowledge and skills in racial justice and trauma-informed instruction.
- Someone who is trained in circle process modeled after indigenous traditions and values.
- Someone who is a nationally certified circle facilitator and restorative justice practitioner and is also licensed to train others to be certified trainers of restorative justice and restorative justice practices.

I realize budgets are tight, but I remain optimistic that this position can be filled while we continue to advocate together for the funding our schools and children need. As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts or what may already be in progress relative to restorative justice. You can reach me on my direct line, 443-433-3677 or by email at cbost@mseanea.org.

Many thanks,

Cheryl Bost
President

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