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July 2003

**St. Mary's County Public Schools
Bridge to Excellence Master Plan**

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St. Mary's County Public Schools Bridge to Excellence Master Plan

Acknowledgements

Many individuals have contributed to the writing, editing, and development of St. Mary's County Public Schools Bridge to Excellence Five-Year Comprehensive Master Plan. The Division of Instruction, under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lorraine Fulton, devoted countless hours to administering and analyzing the needs assessment process in an effort to garner significant input from school-based staff and the school communities served by our public schools. The Division of Supporting Services, led by Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Brad Clements; and the Department of Fiscal Services with Mr. Daniel Carney, Chief Financial Officer, have provided the required strategic focus necessary to implement the far reaching reforms and initiatives associated with our school system's instructional mission. Mr. William Caplins, with the Office of Information Technology Services, and Dr. Edward Weiland's staff within the Department of Human Resources have all committed extensive time and expertise to the development of this document.

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The development of the St. Mary's County Public Schools strategic master plan provided the opportunity for significant school and community dialogue relative to the desired direction our school system will take over the next five years. The following serves as an overview of the opportunities that have been provided for school and community input into the development of this blueprint for the future.

- School-based Administrative Leadership Teams attended master plan planning work sessions on April 9, April 14, and April 23, 2003 to offer input and gain information on the master plan.
- At the April Administrative & Supervisory Meeting, a work session provided the avenue for Building Connections: Voluntary State Curriculum, Maryland State Assessment, Master Plan.
- In May, instructional resource teachers were among those given an opportunity to work on the plan when they met with the Center for Educational Leadership at Towson University.
- Teacher representatives from each school attended meetings on June 2, 2003 and June 12, 2003, as part of the School System Master Planning Team. Representatives from the Education Association of St. Mary's County and the

Classified Employees' Association of St. Mary's County were invited to attend these meetings.

- News releases, letters, and flyers were sent out to invite parents, community members and leaders to two public parent and community input forums on June 23, 2003 and June 24, 2003.
- The Board of Education meets in July 2003 to review the master plan and in August 2003 the Board meets to vote for acceptance of the master plan.
- By August 1, a copy of the St. Mary's County Public Schools Five-Year Comprehensive Master Plan will be forwarded to the Board of St. Mary's County Commissioners for their review.

At every point along the way, the input offered by various stakeholders has been compiled, reviewed, discussed, and incorporated where appropriate and/or feasible.

The St. Mary's County Public Schools Bridge to Excellence Master Plan will serve as a living document that will be monitored constantly for accomplishments and for factors which require revisions and up-dates.

Patricia M. Richardson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools