

SR005-0405

10 **A SIMPLE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE**
20 **OF HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

30 **WHEREAS:** On June 15, 2004, Maryland state education officials released the results of the past
40 year’s Maryland School Assessment exams, including reading exams for the third, fifth,
50 eighth and tenth grades, as well as math scores for the three lower grades; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Maryland Department of Education results show that Howard County elementary,
70 middle, and high schools achieved the highest percentages of students who scored at
80 advanced or proficient levels; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** The Baltimore Sun printed an article on June 16, 2004 entitled “Howard pupils post high
100 scores,” and wrote “Howard County students were once again top performers in the
110 second year of Maryland School Assessment exams, with more than 80 percent
120 surpassing basic skill levels in reading;” and,

130 **WHEREAS:** Howard County and other jurisdictions have been faced with difficulty in closing
140 achievement gaps between racial and ethnic groups, and Howard County made
150 momentous strides in the past year; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** Compared to 90 percent for white students, more than 75 percent of Howard County’s
170 African-American third-graders scored at proficient or advanced levels this year, up from
180 58.9 percent last year; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** The percentage of Hispanic fifth-graders who exceeded basic levels in mathematics
200 jumped from 55.9 to 76.7 this year, while 88 percent of white pupils reached that mark;
210 and,

220 **WHEREAS:** Howard County had six schools deemed failing by the state in 2002, including Bryant
230 Woods, Cradlerock, Guilford, Phelps Luck, Swansfield, and Talbott Springs
240 elementaries, but all have made significant improvements and could be removed from the
250 list; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** At Talbott Springs Elementary School in Columbia, nearly 90 percent of third-graders
270 reached proficient or advanced levels on the reading test – up 41 percentage points from
280 last year; and,

290 **WHEREAS:** Also at Talbott Springs, the number of fifth-graders who scored above basic levels on the
300 math exam more than doubled to 73.3 percent; and,

310 **WHEREAS:** At Columbia’s Bryant Woods Elementary, third-grade scores improved, with reading and
320 math scores increased by about 30 percentage points each to reach 80.4 and 82.4 percent,
330 respectively, this year; and,

340 **WHEREAS:** Howard County’s public school system has earned distinction for improving its
350 performance for two straight years, and its first-place ranking in the state in terms of its
360 Maryland State Assessment exam scores is worthy of recognition; and,

370 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Maryland Student Legislature congratulates the students,
380 parents, and teachers of Howard County’s public schools, as well as the school
390 administrators, Board of Education, County Council, and County Executive for their hard
400 work and devotion to the Howard County’s public school system that has resulted in the
410 best Maryland State Assessment scores in the state of Maryland.

420 **MANDATES:** Howard County Public School System Superintendent Dr. Sydney L. Cousin
430 Howard County Board of Education Chair Courtney Watson
440 Howard County Board of Education Vice-Chair James O'Donnell
450 Howard County Board of Education Member Sandra H. French
460 Howard County Board of Education Member Patricia S. Gordon
470 Howard County Board of Education Member Joshua M. Kaufman
480 Howard County Executive James N. Robey
490 Howard County Council Chair Guy Guzzone
500 Howard County Council Vice-Chair David A. Rakes
510 Howard County Councilman Ken Ulman
520 Howard County Councilman Christopher Merdon
530 State Senator Allan Kittleman

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