



March 23, 2010

Mr. Gregory Urban  
Deputy State Chief Information Officer  
State of Maryland  
35 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21041

Dear Mr. Urban:

Re: One Maryland Broadband Network

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) hereby indicates its support for and intended participation in the One Maryland Broadband Network Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program grant application. MCPS has a critical need for improved access to broadband service for elementary school staff and students. Broadband is essential to sustaining the district's commitment to equity by strengthening learning opportunities for a diverse range of learners in inclusive classroom communities. Broadband service also is critical in providing access to rigorous instruction, digital content and curriculum, and learning resources that incorporate multiple representations and entry points into learning and affords various means for students to demonstrate and express their knowledge. In the absence of this proposed network and given the prohibitive expense of comparable private sector service offerings, MCPS is not in a position to purchase sufficient broadband service.

If the One Maryland Broadband Network is constructed and MCPS is connected to the middle-mile infrastructure, anticipated broadband service will facilitate the vital community support, including Broadband education, awareness, training and support for school staff and students. Further, it will interconnect with state databases and other educational institutions in the state of Maryland, allowing us to leverage other educational resources and enhance our ability to offer advanced learning experiences.

At the present time, secondary schools in Montgomery County have access to middle-mile infrastructure which provides 100 megabits per second broadband service, but our elementary schools cannot be provided similar broadband service within the grant time frame without federal funding. Construction of the One Maryland Broadband Network would provide 100 megabits per second broadband service to almost 100 elementary schools and create over 90 jobs.

Thank you for including MCPS as one of your community anchors. Construction of the network would represent a great opportunity for MCPS and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Sherwin A. Collette  
Chief Technology Officer

SAC:csa

**Office of the Chief Technology Officer**