

**MARYLAND SCHOOL COMPLETION PROJECT**

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**Collaborative Project**

- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS)
- National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities
- Cecil County Public Schools
- Prince George's County Public Schools

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**Goal of the Project**

The Maryland School Completion Project will assist local school systems in building their capacity to implement dropout prevention interventions that are research based and appropriate for the target population.

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## Project Start-up

2005

- State interim graduation rate target 83.24%
- Graduation rate for students with IEPs 74.80%
- State interim dropout rate target 3.81%
- Dropout rate for students with IEPs 5.13%

State Performance Plan Improvement Activities, Indicators 1&2

- Double the number of discretionary grants awarded to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that address school completion
- Assist LEAs in increasing their capacity to increase the number of students who complete their education

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## Project Start-up

**A team of seven attended the Dropout Prevention Forum held by NDPC-SD in May 2006**

- 5 LEAs were represented on the team
- MSDE, DSS
- MSDE, DSE/EIS

The team has:

- provided technical assistance to LEAs and completed a best practices guide on dropout prevention.

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## Project Start-up

Invitation to collaborate with NDPC-SD.

The Maryland School Completion Project is being coordinated by the State Department of Education.

The project is being conducted on the LEA level.

It was decided that the selection and implementation of dropout prevention interventions would be more successful if done at the local level.

The sharing of interventions would be more useful if done between LEAs.

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## LEA Selection Process

2 LEAs are participating in the project  
The following factors were used as the basis  
for the invitation:

- Dropout Rate
- Graduation Rate
- Attendance Rate
- Suspension Rate
- Retention Rate (9<sup>th</sup> grade)

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## LEA Selection Process

LEA	Dropout Rate (2006)
Cecil County	10.66%
Baltimore County	6.3%
Prince George's County	7.71%

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## Maryland School Completion Project Current Status

NDPC-SD began providing direct technical assistance in September 2007.

- 6 sessions of professional development. The goals for the participants were:
  1. Develop an understanding of dropout
  2. Analyze dropout related data
  3. Identify dropout related needs
  4. Match needs to research-based interventions.
- Assist each participating school to develop an improvement plan.

NDPC-SD will now provide on-sight TA on the implementation of the improvement plans. The improvement plans and all supporting data will be included in the best practices guide.

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