



# NEWS

State Coordinator

# MASSP

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. NOV/ DEC 12

## UPDATES FROM CHRISTINE HANDY-COLLINS



This month I had the opportunity to meet with US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan with other principals from the DC/ MD/ VA area. We discussed priority concerns for principals. At the top of the list were Finances, Wrap Around Services, Professional Development, Graduation Rate Calculations, and the Common Core Standards.

**SEQUESTRATION— What is it?** Simply put, it's the formal term for mandatory cuts to federal programs – the process of cordoning off money that may have been authorized by Congress but is now prohibited from being spent. Literally, the money is being “sequestered” – taken away from the federal agencies affected. We need to be concerned about sequestration's impact on education. It is estimated that, in 2013, sequestration will cause \$4 billion to be cut from the Department of Education's budget. A cut of this magnitude will severely limit our ability to educate our students and prepare them for tomorrow's workforce. Education is too important to our nation and our future to be subject to such draconian cuts. Therefore, **we need YOU to WRITE** your legislators and urge them to support policies that find a balanced approach to solving our nation's financial issues. **HOW???** Go to [www.nassp.org/plac](http://www.nassp.org/plac) to easily send a letter to all of your legislators with a few clicks of the mouse.

### WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS WWW. NASSP.ORG/PLAC

Urge your legislators to:

1. Stop Sequestration
2. Cosponsor the Success in the Middle Act
3. Support the Homeless Children and Youth Act
4. Cosponsor the School Principal Recruitment and Training Act
5. Support State-Led Comprehensive Literacy Programs

### THE DREAM ACT

Maryland's version of the Dream Act was passed by a wide margin. This Act makes in-state tuition available to undocumented students who attended high school in the state. Many advocates hope that there will be support for immigration reform in the 113th Congress. Stay tuned for continued updates.

## PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA & EDUCATION

During his first four years the President rewrote K-12 policy through a combination of financial packages (Race to the Top), regulatory reform and granting an unprecedented waiver plan for all interested states. He plans to offer incentives for colleges to hold back on tuition increases and strongly believes in the community college system. He has a strong interest in STEM programs and he has made it clear that he will focus more attention on early learning and parent engagement. Look for more information on RESPECT, his project to improve the teaching profession. We can also be assured that he will continue to fight for Race to the Top, School Improvement Grants and Promise Neighborhoods. Note, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has declared his desire to remain in office.