

## Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs

Hello, I'm Dale Fulton, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Programs. We're the curriculum shop. Our job is to provide schools with the best curriculum, programs, assessments, and instructional resources so that **all** students can learn without limits. As you're well aware, we live in an environment of high-stakes accountability and it's imperative that our students achieve at high levels—from pre-kindergarten through Grade 12.

How do they do that? Well, it all starts with a challenging curriculum. OCIP has been revising curriculum over the past three years to align with state and national standards, as well as our own local benchmarks. We've also developed assessments that help teachers tailor instruction for individual students and provide parents with valuable information on their child's achievement. OCIP strives to create high-quality products that are responsive to teacher needs and user-friendly. A major focus of our work this year will be implementing the revised Grading & Reporting policy beginning in Grades 1-8.

OCIP is organized into three departments: the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Department of Instructional Programs, the Department of School-based Curriculum Services, and includes the Northeast and Downcounty Consortia.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, or DCI, develops curriculum including instructional guides and formative assessments. This year, we're implementing reading/language arts in Grades 4 and 5 and Geometry in high school. We've just completed the first ESOL instructional guides for Grades 1 and 2 that are aligned with the reading/language arts curriculum that teachers have been using for the past three years. We're also developing curriculum frameworks and instructional guides for art, music, and physical education, and health. DCI also includes programs and services for Gifted and Talented students, Career and Technology Education, and Outdoor Education.

The Department of Instructional Programs handles services for Early Childhood, ESOL/Bilingual, Academic Support, Federal and State Programs—Title I, Library Media Services, and our newest division, Family and Community Partnerships. We welcome the challenge of coordinating all parent and community services, and look forward to integrating this work more closely with curriculum and academic programs. This year, we'll add 250 students to our pre-k programs. We'll continue the pre-k curriculum rollout, including our revised assessments developed with the help of the Georgetown University Partners. We've learned through the *Early Success Performance Plan* that ongoing use of diagnostic assessments makes a huge difference in instruction and student learning. Title I just completed the third summer of Extended Learning Opportunities for over 5, 000 students with over 80% participation, and some Title I schools will be offering School Choice and Supplemental Education Services as required under the No Child Left Behind Act.

The Department of School-Based Curriculum Services is our main line to principals and teachers. Through regularly scheduled meetings, communications, video products, program reviews, and school visits, the Directors for Elementary, Middle, and High School Instruction and Achievement support schools to implement the curriculum. The department also meets with parents and community groups on topic including curriculum, assessments, the Maryland School Assessment, High School Assessments, and the new SAT.

Finally, the Northeast and Downcounty Consortia provides leadership for the academic program development for two consortia and the school choice process. This fall marks the

opening of the Downcounty Consortium with over 2100 entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade students choosing among five high schools with unique and challenging academy programs. The Northeast Consortium, in its seventh year, has 1500 entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who chose among three high schools with distinctive thematic programs.