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*Superintendent of Schools*  
David A. Cox, Ed.D.

March 20, 2013

Mr. David Eberly  
County Administrator  
Allegheny County Office Complex  
701 Kelly Road, Suite 405  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Dear Mr. Eberly:

At their March 19th meeting, the Allegheny County Board of Education voted to submit a supplemental budget request not to exceed \$500,000 for enhanced school security and increased student mental health evaluations. The Allegheny County Board of Education also agreed to request that this amount should be funded outside maintenance of effort in accordance with direction from Commissioner Michael McKay.

The tragic events in Newton, Connecticut on December 14, 2012 have caused the school system to intensify school security procedures and practices. While the school system has been proactive in school security, we believe after Newton that more can, must, and will be done. The Allegheny County Board of Education has taken a comprehensive approach towards the issue of school security looking at both operating and capital needs of the school system. We intend on taking full advantage of the state funds for capital items related to school security. This supplemental budget request is for operating and not capital items. We believe including the mental health component of our request is important because of the relationship of mental health issues to that of school violence. In all school tragedies, the perpetrator(s) all had mental health issues.

Our operating budget request includes adding up to 5 school resource officers for increased security at our schools since most schools outside the cities of Frostburg and Cumberland are disadvantaged when it comes to school resources officers and the increased response time for law enforcement. The school system would also consider the agreements with the cities of Cumberland and Frostburg to increase the presence of the school resource officers already contracted by the school system. A total of two Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPS) will be added to assist with the increase in mental health issues that our students and will provide specialized support for students. These services address mental health issues beyond the scope of existing functions of the school counselor and pupil services team. These two counselors will be employees of the school system and will have benefits associated with their employment. The final component of the proposal is to allow for contracted services for evaluations of students in which a second opinion may be needed.

We realize that county government must apply for a waiver request to the State Board of Education by the earlier of 7 days following the end of the legislative session or April 20 of the prior fiscal year. We believe this to mean a waiver request must be filed by April 15, 2013. The type of waiver

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request to be filed is a recurring cost waiver. Last year a letter was sent to County Executives and County Administrators by the State Board with instructions on filing waiver requests. School system personnel will be happy to assist county government in any way possible to file this waiver request.

Our staff will be available to answer any questions that you may have as you evaluate our budget request. We know you face difficult decisions in determining funding for all county operations and we know that you share our concern for the safety of Allegany County Public School students. We appreciate all that you do, within your means, to provide us with the necessary resources to continue to move our educational system forward in meeting the needs of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

David A Cox, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure

cc: Board Members  
Randall Bittinger  
Jason Bennett

**Preliminary Proposal For  
Enhanced School Resource and Mental Health Evaluation Proposal  
Supplemental County Appropriation Request  
To Be Funded Outside Maintenance of Effort**

Operations	5 additional officers contracted from a law enforcement agency	\$238,900
Student Personnel	Additional contractual services cost to Cumberland and Frostburg	\$60,000
Instructional Wages	Two Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors	\$139,436
Fixed Charges	Benefits for two additional LCPS for mental health evaluation	\$32,600
Other Inst. Costs	Contracted services for student evaluations	\$10,000
	<b>Total School Resource Officer &amp; Mental Health Enhancements</b>	<b>\$480,936</b>