



Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

November 3, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

In June, I sent a formal request to Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, for a performance audit of high school graduation rates throughout Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Board Chair Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Vice-Chair Carolyn M. Boston, and seven members of the Prince George's County Board of Education joined me in the request. [Audit findings released today](#) do not support allegations of systemic direction to change grades to artificially increase graduation rates.

The auditors also found no financial incentives to change grades, and no evidence of system-wide intimidation or fraud related to the allegations of grade manipulation.

However, the audit identified serious errors made at many schools around policy adherence, record-keeping and internal controls. I know that you share my deep concern over these issues. The audit recommendations provide a clear roadmap to strengthening our policies, procedures, processes and practices.

As we work to resolve the issues identified in the audit, I will seek your input on better use of technology, effective communication around policies, and improved understanding of record-keeping requirements. We must all adhere to policies, timelines and state guidelines. Most importantly, we must all act urgently to reform longstanding practices that do not best serve students.

Some issues will require assistance from a third-party to ensure comprehensive oversight. In a year, I will request an independent review to assess our progress. Together, we will demonstrate meaningful improvement.

Please know that you can report any concerns anonymously at any time through our Compliance Hotline at 1-866-646-2512. You can also contact me at ceo@pgcps.org.

Thank you for your continued service to Prince George's County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer