

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: November 6, 2001
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: Dr. J. Hairston, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Special Education Inclusion Grant

RESOURCE

PERSON(S): Ron Boone, Executive Director of Federal & State Programs

INFORMATION

The Office of Special Education has been awarded 2 competitive State Capacity Building Grants focused on inclusion.

- 1. The first grant, BCPS/Project Act Inclusion Collaborative has been funded in the amount of \$94,264. The goal of the grant is to increase the number of pre-school children receiving direct special education services in inclusive, community early care and educational settings while determining the impact of these practices. The grant was jointly submitted by Abilities Network/Project All Children Together (Project Act). The grant provides contracted funds to BCPS, and BCPS then contracts with Project Act to provide special education instruction to eligible preschool students in inclusive environments. We are seeking permission to proceed with implementation of the contract.
- 2. The second grant, A Model for Effective Inclusion, has been funded in the amount of \$97,000. The grant funds a facilitator to develop inter-school partnership teams which will design and implement an effective structure for providing adequate support and services in to students with disabilities in inclusive environments. This is consistent with the BCPS enhanced focus on instructional programs for students with disabilities. It is recommended that the facilitator be assigned to the Department of Professional Development. Mary Jacqe Marchione is in agreement with this recommendation. We are seeking permission to advertise and hire a facilitator.

History of the Issue:

- 1. Within Baltimore County Public Schools limited opportunities exist for the provision of direct special education services for children ages three through five in inclusive settings. Project ACT, funded by MSDE discretionary grants, has been providing special education services within private preschool programs as part of a collaborative agreement with Baltimore County Public Schools.

- 2. In 1993, with minimal planning, inclusion was undertaken in Baltimore County on an extensive basis. After eight years of “inclusion” we have learned a lot, but we have not institutionalized a system wide model for inclusion.

RB/cif