



# Prince George's County Public Schools

14201 School Lane • Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org)

**William R. Hite, Ed.D.**

*Interim Superintendent of Schools*

April 22, 2009

Dear PGCPs Students, Employees, Parents and Community Leaders:

I am happy to report to you that the 2009 Maryland General Assembly ended its legislative session earlier this month with fanfare, balloons, confetti and a fulfilled commitment to maintain public education as a top priority. Faced with a growing budget deficit, competing interests, and needs from across the state, the General Assembly along with Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, maintained their commitment to fully fund the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Act for Education. This was possible, in large part, due to the financial stimulus of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama.

Full funding of the Thornton Act will allow us to maintain class sizes at all levels and keep high quality teachers in our classrooms. We will be able to preserve our successful programs that have resulted in high achievements on state tests for five consecutive years. It will allow us to continue to do what we committed ourselves to doing, which is to put children first.

We want to thank Governor O'Malley for keeping the promises he made to Prince George's County parents, children, and public school employees when he visited Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in November 2008. Moreover, we want to thank the Prince George's County Delegation to the General Assembly for continuing the fight to obtain resources for our public schools. Our delegation chairs, Senator Anthony Muse and Delegate Melony Griffith demonstrated strong leadership skills and effective advocacy on behalf of the children of Prince George's County. Indeed, we are extremely fortunate to have their representation during these difficult fiscal times.

Together, we will continue to do the work necessary to increase academic achievement for all public school students of Prince George's County.

Sincerely,

William R. Hite  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

cc: Members, Board of Education