FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Friday, September 4, 2009

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PGCPS ANNOUNCES POSITION ON STUDENTS WATCHING
PRESIDENT OBAMA’S NATIONAL ADDRESS

Social Studies and Local-State-and-National Government Classes to be given access to speech through internet and cable. Viewing left to discretion of principals and teachers.

Upper Marlboro, MD - The Prince George’s County Board of Education and Prince George’s County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr. today announced that Internet and cable access to President Barack Obama’s upcoming national address will be given to its Social Studies and Local-State-and-National Government classes. Principals and teachers will ultimately have the latitude regarding viewing the address throughout the day.

On Tuesday, September 8th at 12 noon EDT, President Obama will be speaking directly to America’s students on the importance of taking responsibility for their success in school.

“As President Obama has set aside time to speak specifically to students across the country on academic success, we wanted to give our principals and teachers access to his message,” said Verjeana M. Jacobs, Esq., Prince George’s County Board of Education Chair. “However, as with most other decisions in running individual schools and classrooms, it is equally important that we continue to give our staff complete discretion with this opportunity.”

Parents have the opportunity to opt out of having their child(ren) view the President’s national address, which is slated to last ten minutes. Parents who would NOT like their child to view this address are asked to send a note with their child on Tuesday, September 8, stating this. Other educational supervised activities will be provided to students not permitted to view the address.

Local-State-National Government teachers have been asked to use the principles of President Obama’s address as a platform to engage students in setting academic goals and crafting personal vision statements for the school year.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Bonita Coleman-Potter will watch the speech with students from a 10th Grade Local-State-and-National Government class at Frederick Douglass High School, 8000 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, MD.

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According to a press release from The White House, “The President will challenge students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning. He will also call for a shared responsibility and commitment on the part of students, parents and educators to ensure that every child in every school receives the best education possible so they can compete in the global economy for good jobs and live rewarding and productive lives as American citizens.”

About Prince George’s County Public Schools
Prince George’s County Public Schools is the 2nd largest school system in the state of Maryland and the 18th largest in the nation. With a projected enrollment of more than 134,000 students, the system is among the most diverse in the nation. The school system currently employs approximately 16,000 full-time employees, which includes approximately 10,000 teachers.

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