



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

January 2013

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Dear Maryland Educators,

I want to extend a special "thank you" for the tremendous response to the 2011 Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) Maryland Survey. Statewide, nearly 46,000 educators and Education Support Personnel (ESPs) (51 percent) from across the state shared their perceptions of the teaching conditions in their schools. As a result, the survey provided critical data and information to school districts and to individual schools for use in their school improvement planning processes. At the state level, the Maryland State Department of Education has been using the results as part of the Race to the Top work with school districts.

Research from across the country continues to show that positive teaching and learning conditions are essential to student success and to teacher retention. Initiatives such as TELL Maryland have become an important part of the national dialogue on school improvement. Within Maryland, we plan to continue the TELL Maryland Survey because of the important opportunity it creates for Maryland educators to be part of the dialogue by sharing their perceptions about the teaching and learning conditions in their schools.

As the next step, we have just launched the 2013 TELL Maryland Survey. As in 2011, all certificated, school-based educators and designated Education Support Professionals in Maryland's public schools are asked to participate. **You can respond to the 2013 TELL Maryland Survey by accessing the TELL Maryland Web site (www.tellmaryland.org) between February 4th and March 1st and entering the access code listed below.** The survey is voluntary and designed to be completed in approximately 30 minutes. Please keep in mind that your responses are **confidential and anonymous**. An access code is used only to ensure that each educator responds to the survey only once and that the educator's school is correctly identified. The access code cannot be used to identify educators individually.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact the survey help desk by sending an e-mail to helpdesk@tellmaryland.org or by calling (1-855-258-2818) starting February 4th. The help desk staff is available weekdays between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm EST. You can also access online help at any time from the TELL Maryland website (www.tellmaryland.org).

As we strive to improve the learning conditions in every school and the achievement of every child, we want every school to have its own survey data. To achieve that, every school needs to reach a response rate of at least 50 percent. Please join me in encouraging your colleagues to share their voices by responding to the TELL Maryland Survey.

Your voice is essential. TELL Maryland and we will listen.

Sincerely,

Governor Martin O'Malley

School name
District name
Your Confidential Access Code #
Access code
Using your confidential access code, you
may access the survey from any Internet
location
February 4th to March 1st
www.tellmaryland.org