

April 24, 2025

Sent via email to: OCR@ed.gov

United States Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: Certification of Compliance with Title VI and *SFFA v. Harvard*

Dear Sir or Madam:

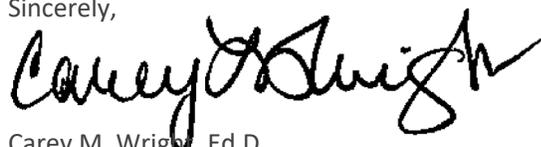
On April 3, 2025, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) received an unsigned email from OCR@ed.gov with the subject line "Department of Education Title VI Compliance Certification." The email was accompanied by a four-page document titled "Reminder of Legal Obligations Undertaken in Exchange for Receiving Federal Financial Assistance and Request for Certification under Title VI and *SFFA v. Harvard*," which in turn contained a "Requested Certification."

The email contained a request that the recipient, within 10 days, "sign and return the attached certification along with the certifications of your Local Education Agencies (LEAs)" and "report the signature status for each of your LEAs, any compliance issues found within your LEAs, and your proposed enforcement plans for those LEAs." A later email changed the date for responses to April 24, 2025.

The April 3, 2025, email and the accompanying document do not provide a clear account of (1) the purpose of the request, (2) the legal authority for the request, (3) how any certification will be used, or (4) the meaning of the certification or the legal effect of signing the certification. Furthermore, the request does not comply with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501–3521; *see also* 5 C.F.R. pt. 1320. We also understand that the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire has entered a preliminary injunction against enforcement of the request. While MSDE is unaware of any legal authority obligating it to comply with USDE's request, MSDE is reaffirming its commitment to complying with Title VI and other relevant federal laws.

On behalf of MSDE, I certify that the Maryland State Department of Education will continue to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI"), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulations and court decisions. *See* 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1–.13; *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 143 S. Ct. 2141 (2023). Please find attached a certification from Maryland's local education agencies.

Sincerely,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

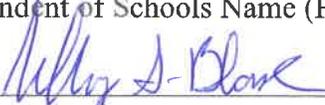
**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

This is submitted in response to the directive from the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”) dated March 28, 2025, entitled *Reminder of Legal Obligations Undertaken in Exchange for Receiving Federal Financial Assistance and Request for Certification under Title VI and SFFA v. Harvard* (“Request for Certification”), which required local education agencies (LEAs) to acknowledge receipt and review of ED’s Request for Certification, and “further acknowledge that compliance with [ED’s interpretation of applicable authority] and the assurances referred to, as well as this certification, constitute a material condition of the continued receipt of federal financial assistance.” Request for Certification, p. 1.

I have received and reviewed your Request for Certification on behalf of the LEA referenced below, which is located in the State of Maryland. I acknowledge the LEA’s full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulatory authority and other mandatory authority. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1-100.13; *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (“SFFA v. Harvard”), 600 U.S. 181 (2023). I further acknowledge that receipt of federal funding as enumerated in Appendix A to 34 C.F.R. § 100 is conditioned on compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b), 100.4(a-b).

Signed:

Jeffrey S. Blank
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)


Superintendent of Schools Signature

Allegany County Public Schools
108 Washington St.
Cumberland, MD 21502
Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Mark T. Bedell, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

Anne Arundel County Public Schools
2644 Riva Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Santa Breakins Santelises
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)
Amya B. Santelises
Superintendent of Schools Signature

Baltimore City Public Schools
200 W. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD. 21202
Local Education Agency Name and Address

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WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Dr. Myriam A. Rogers

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

Baltimore County Public Schools

6901 Charles Street

Towson, MD 21204

Local Education Agency Name and Address

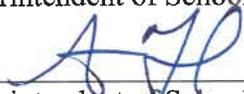
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Signed:

Dr. Andrae Townsel
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)


Superintendent of Schools Signature

1305 Daves Beach
Prince Frederick, Md 20678

Local Education Agency Name and Address

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Signed:

Derek L. Simmons

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

Caroline County Public Schools

204 Franklin Street

Denton, MD 21629

Local Education Agency Name and Address

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WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Cynthia McCabe

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

Carroll County Public Schools

125 N. Court St.

Westminster, MD 21157

Local Education Agency Name and Address

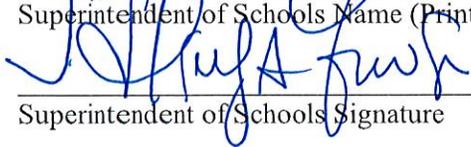
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Signed:

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)


Superintendent of Schools Signature

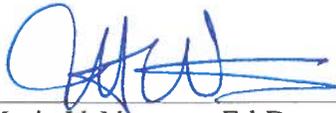
Cecil County Public Schools
201 Booth St.
Elkton, MD 21921
Local Education Agency Name and Address

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Signed:



Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Charles County Public Schools
P.O. Box 2770
La Plata, Maryland 20646

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Signed:

Jymil Thompson
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

Jymil Thompson
Superintendent of Schools Signature

700 Glasgow ST.
CANBRIDGE MD 21613
Dorchester County Public Schools
Local Education Agency Name and Address

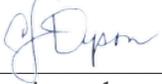
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Signed:

Dr. Cheryl L. Dyson
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)


Superintendent of Schools Signature

Frederick County Public Schools
191 S. East Street
Frederick, MD 21701
Local Education Agency Name and Address

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Signed:

Brenda E. McCartney, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

Garrett County Public Schools

770 Dennett Road

Oakland, MD 21550

Local Education Agency Name and Address

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Signed:

Sean Bulson

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

Harford County Public
Schools

102 S. Michener Ave.

Local Education Agency Name and Address

Bel Air, MD 21014



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William J. Barnes

Full Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Barnes".

Signature

Superintendent

Title

Howard County Public School System

School District

April 14, 2025

Date

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
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Signed:

Mary Boswell-McComas
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

Mary Boswell-McComas
Superintendent of Schools Signature

Kent County Public Schools
5608 Boundary Ave
Rock Hill, MD 21061
Local Education Agency Name and Address

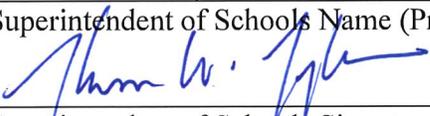
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WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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I have received and reviewed your Request for Certification on behalf of the LEA referenced below, which is located in the State of Maryland. I acknowledge the LEA’s full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulatory authority and other mandatory authority. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1-100.13; *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (“SFFA v. Harvard”), 600 U.S. 181 (2023). I further acknowledge that receipt of federal funding as enumerated in Appendix A to 34 C.F.R. § 100 is conditioned on compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b), 100.4(a-b).

Signed:

Thomas .w. Taylor, Ed.D., M.B.A.
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

 4.10.2025
Superintendent of Schools Signature

Montgomery County Public Schools
15 West Gude Drive, Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

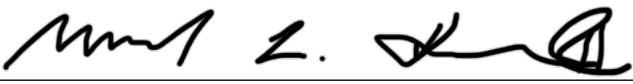
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I have received and reviewed your Request for Certification on behalf of **Prince George’s County Public Schools**, which is located in the State of Maryland. I acknowledge **Prince George’s County Public Schools’** full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulatory authority and other mandatory authority. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1-100.13; *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (“*SFFA v. Harvard*”), 600 U.S. 181 (2023).

I further acknowledge that receipt of federal funding as enumerated in Appendix A to 34 C.F.R. § 100 is conditioned on compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b), 100.4(a-b).

Signed:

Millard House, II
Millard House, II, Superintendent of Schools (Printed)



Millard House, II, Superintendent of Schools (Signature)

04-18-25

Date

Prince George’s County Public Schools
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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I have received and reviewed your Request for Certification on behalf of the LEA referenced below, which is located in the State of Maryland. I acknowledge the LEA’s full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulatory authority and other mandatory authority. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1-100.13; *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (“SFFA v. Harvard”), 600 U.S. 181 (2023). I further acknowledge that receipt of federal funding as enumerated in Appendix A to 34 C.F.R. § 100 is conditioned on compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b), 100.4(a-b).

Signed:

Patricia Saekens

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

Pat Saekens

Superintendent of Schools Signature

Queen Anne's County Public Schools
202 Chesterfield Ave.,
Centreville, MD 21617

Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Ava Tasker-Mitchell

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

Ava Tasker-Mitchell

Superintendent of Schools Signature

Somerset County Public Schools
7982-A Tawes Campus Drive
Westover, MD 21871

Local Education Agency Name and Address

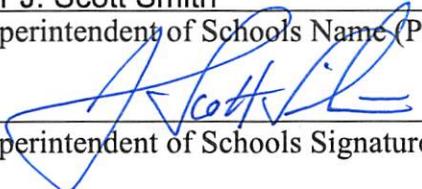
**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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I have received and reviewed your Request for Certification on behalf of the LEA referenced below, which is located in the State of Maryland. I acknowledge the LEA’s full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulatory authority and other mandatory authority. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1-100.13; *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (“SFFA v. Harvard”), 600 U.S. 181 (2023). I further acknowledge that receipt of federal funding as enumerated in Appendix A to 34 C.F.R. § 100 is conditioned on compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b), 100.4(a-b).

Signed:

Dr J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)


Superintendent of Schools Signature

St. Mary's County Public Schools
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 109
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Sharon Pepukayi

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

Sharon Pepukayi

Superintendent of Schools Signature

Talbot County Public Schools

12 Magnolia St.

Easton, MD 21601

Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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I have received and reviewed your Request for Certification on behalf of Washington County Public Schools, the LEA referenced below, which is located in the State of Maryland. I acknowledge the LEA’s full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, as well as related federal regulatory authority and other mandatory authority. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.1-100.13; *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (“*SFFA v. Harvard*”), 600 U.S. 181 (2023). I further acknowledge that receipt of federal funding as enumerated in Appendix A to 34 C.F.R. § 100 is conditioned on compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b), 100.4(a-b).

Signed:



Dr. David Sovine
Superintendent of Schools
Washington County Public Schools
10435 Downsville Pike
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

[Micah C. Stauffer](#)

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)



Superintendent of Schools Signature

[2424 Northgate Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801](#)

Local Education Agency Name and Address

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TITLE VI AND SFFA V. HARVARD**

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Signed:

Louis H. Taylor

Superintendent of Schools Name (Printed)

Louis H. Taylor
Superintendent of Schools Signature

*Worcester County Public Schools
6570 Worcester Highway
Newark, MD 21840*

Local Education Agency Name and Address