

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**DECISION ON VILLA MARIA SCHOOL,  
VILLA MARIA CONTINUUM AND  
ASSOCIATED CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC.  
(collectively referred to as "VMS")  
AND HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (HCPS)  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**November 23, 2009**

Background Information:

Pursuant to federal and state law and regulation, school systems are required to provide a continuum of placements for students with disabilities. These placements range from regular schools, to day placements in special schools, to residential treatment facilities. The determination as to what type of placement a student with disability requires is based upon the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) which is, in turn, based upon the nature and extent of student's disability, educational and related services needs.

Discussion:

The MOU which is attached as Exhibit 1 is intended to establish a partnership between VMS and HCPS, the purpose of which is to provide a Type II non-public program as a school within a school at Edgewood Middle School (EMS). A Type II non-public program is a type of placement for students with disabilities within the placement continuum discussed above. A non-public program provides the therapeutic, educational, intervention and counseling supports not available in a regular school. A Type II non-public program is one which is located in a regular school. This innovative program is intended to provide services to students with disabilities at EMS who have social, emotional, and behavioral needs which are set forth in their IEPs but who sometimes require more intensive educational and therapeutic services than are provided in a regular school setting. The establishment of this Type II non-public program at EMS will allow such students with disabilities the opportunity to meet success and, therefore, avoid the possibility of needing a more restrictive environment such as a non-public placement in the future.

Attachment:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between VMS and HCPS.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the above Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Superintendent to execute same.