

S. Dallas Dance
Chair
*Baltimore County Public
Schools, MD*

April 22, 2015

Justin (Tim) Mills
Vice Chair
Bellevue School District, WA

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

J. Alvin Wilbanks
Past Chair
*Gwinnett County Public
Schools, GA*

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Robert M. Avossa
Fulton County Schools, GA

On behalf of the Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium (the Consortium), we are writing on the occasion of your recent announcement to leave the Senate at the end of your current term of office. Thank you for your decades of service to Maryland and the United States as well as your leadership in improving outcomes for public school students.

Larry Bowers
*Montgomery County Public
Schools, MD*

Ann Clark
*Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Schools, NC*

Several members of the Consortium had the privilege to meet with you in October of 2013. At that meeting, we were able to share with you our vision for public education in the 21st century, which we anchor in the expectation that all students will graduate from high school prepared for success in college and career, and ready to fully participate in civic life and the global economy. We hope Congress will be able to complete the long overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act while you are still serving as a powerful advocate for the interests of young people across the nation.

John P. Collins
*Poway Unified School District,
CA*

Michael B. Cowan
Mesa Public Schools, AZ

On behalf of the Consortium's seventeen districts—particularly Baltimore and Montgomery Counties—we again thank you for your years of leadership, service, and support.

Karen Garza
*Fairfax County Public Schools,
VA*

Sincerely,

Jim McIntyre
Knox County Schools, TN

Jim Merrill
*Wake County Public School
System, NC*



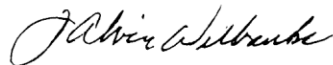
S. Dallas Dance, Chair
Baltimore County Public Schools, MD



Justin (Tim) Mills, Vice Chair
Bellevue School District, WA

Patrick K. Murphy
Arlington Public Schools, VA

Chris Ragsdale
*Cobb County School District,
GA*



J. Alvin Wilbanks, Past Chair
Gwinnett County Public Schools, GA

Jeff Rose
Beaverton School District, OR

W. Burke Royster
Greenville County Schools, SC

Tony Sanders
School District U-46, IL

Aaron Spence
*Virginia Beach City Public
Schools, VA*

The Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium is a unique network of some of the nation's most highly-regarded districts and district leaders, all of whom are committed to world-class learning for all students. Together, the 17 Consortium districts serve 1.55 million students. The makeup of Consortium districts is reflective of communities across America. Most have no majority student group; racial minorities compose 55 percent of students; and 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch. Individually and collectively, Consortium districts have experienced significant success. Keys to this success include strong leadership, highly-functioning organizations, and deep investments in the continuous development of knowledge and expertise. These capacities are providing the foundation for changes in teaching and learning that are essential for preparing students for success in college, career and civic engagement.