

IN THE MATTER
OF AVA TASKER-
MITCHELL,
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS

ORDER OF THE
STATE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
Order No. 25-02

ORDER

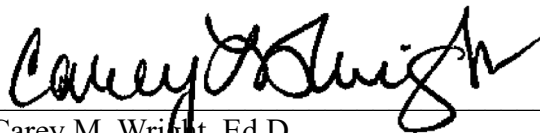
On May 10, 2025, Dr. Ava Tasker-Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools for Somerset County Public Schools, requested the issuance of charges for removal of Mr. Matthew Lankford, Chairman of the Somerset County Board of Education (“local board”) under Education Article §3-1201(e). On July 7, 2025, the local board placed Dr. Tasker-Mitchell on paid administrative leave until July 23, 2025.

The State Superintendent exercises her authority to issue a stay of the local board’s decision to place Dr. Tasker-Mitchell on administrative leave to preserve the status quo during the ongoing local board member removal process and any subsequent legal proceedings. Accordingly, pursuant to the authority granted under COMAR 13A.01.02.01B, it is:

ORDERED, that the action of the Somerset County Board of Education placing Ava Tasker-Mitchell on administrative leave is hereby STAYED, effective immediately; and it is further

ORDERED, that this stay shall remain in effect for sixty (60) calendar days from the date of this Order, or until such time as the Maryland State Board of Education lifts this stay by further order.

Issued this 9th day of July, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carey M. Wright', is written over a horizontal line.

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education