

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

ORDER OF THE
STATE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
Order No. 25-03
(Amending Order No. 25-01)

ORDER

On June 3, 2025, the Somerset County Board of Education (“local board”) voted to remove Dr. Ava Tasker-Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools for Somerset County Public Schools, as superintendent and advised Dr. Tasker-Mitchell of the removal by letter dated June 4, 2025. On June 5, 2025, Dr. Tasker-Mitchell informed Mr. Matthew Lankford, Chairman of the local board, that she was requesting a hearing under Education Article §4-201(e)(4) of her termination by the local board.

On June 6, 2025, pursuant to the authority granted under COMAR 13A.01.02.01B, the State Superintendent of Schools exercised her authority to issue a 60-day stay of the local board’s decision to terminate Dr. Tasker-Mitchell to preserve the status quo during the ongoing local board hearing process and any subsequent legal proceedings.

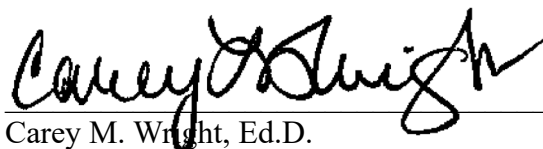
On July 15, 2025, the local board conducted a hearing on Dr. Tasker-Mitchell’s termination but took no action after the hearing. On July 17, 2025, Dr. Tasker-Mitchell filed an appeal of the termination with the State Board of Education (“State Board”).

On July 23, 2025, the Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review approved Emergency Regulation COMAR 13A.01.02.01 which amends the regulation to permit a stay of a local board decision issued by the State Superintendent of Schools to remain in place beyond 60 days if the local board’s action has been appealed to the local board or the State Board. *See* COMAR 13A.01.02.01B(3).

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority granted under COMAR 13A.01.02.01B, as amended, it is:

ORDERED, effective immediately, that the STAY of the action of the Somerset County Board of Education terminating Ava Tasker-Mitchell’s employment shall remain in effect until the State Board has issued a final decision on the appeal filed by Dr. Tasker-Mitchell on July 17, 2025, or until such time that the State Superintendent of Schools or the State Board lift the stay by further order.

Issued this 25th day of July, 2025.



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