



MARYLAND EDUCATION COALITION



Post 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session Briefs and Resources

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) recently celebrated our 40th year anniversary and during that time, MEC has advocated for adequate, equitable funding, policies, and systematic accountability for the students in Maryland’s public schools regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. As major public education stakeholders, we can be found working collaboratively with national, state & local public education departments, communities and other stakeholders including the Blueprint Coalition for Maryland’s Future.

MEC thanks the 2021 General Assembly for overriding the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future-Implementation ([HB1300-20](#)), the resulting ([HB1372-21](#)), revisions policies and budget adjustments that will put Maryland Public Schools on back on track to becoming the best state public education system in the nation by improving public education programs, equity, student and staff services for an estimated 900,000 diverse students.

MEC also considers the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session overall to be a success and recognizes that it will require more time and work to get the Maryland public education system, staff, and students back on track. MEC is committed to working with all public education decision-makers and stakeholders to ensure we implement and maintain a Blueprint that works for all and prioritizes students who have been historically disadvantaged.

MEC recommended that the 2021 General Assembly address eight (8) education related, [legislative priorities](#) and each was successfully acted on. We are pleased that each of the following priorities was addressed:

- ✓ IMPROVE EQUITY IN POLICY & FUNDING
- ✓ MAINTAIN EXISTING EDUCATION PRIORITIES
- ✓ HOLD DISTRICTS HARMLESS FOR ENROLLMENT LOSS
- ✓ PASS PROGRESSIVE REVENUE LEGISLATION
- ✓ CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
- ✓ ADDRESS PHYSICAL, BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH
- ✓ FUND LEARNING LOSS AND RECOVERY (Impacts all)
- ✓ ALIGN STATE EDUCATION REGULATIONS

Learn more [HERE](#)

We also thank our Blueprint Coalition partners and friends who work collaboratively toward common goals.

2021 BILLS PASSED OF MEC INTEREST

(Click on links for Bill History, Text & Fiscal Note)

- [HB0001](#) / [CH0041](#) - ([SB0001](#) / [CH0042](#)) - Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Funding
- [HB0588](#) Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2022)
- [HB0589](#) ([SB0493](#)) - Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act
- [HB1053](#) ([SB0882](#)) - Education Programs - Mandated Funding
- [HB0590](#) / [CH0063](#) ([SB0492](#)) – Capital Budget
- [SB0551](#) - 21st Century School Facilities Act and Built to Learn Act – Revisions
- [HB1365](#) ([SB0958](#)) - Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution
- [HB0716](#) ([SB0371](#)) - Individualized Education Programs – Educational Evaluations
- [SB0300](#) ([HB0714](#)) - Special Education – Learning Continuity Plan – Requirement
- [HB0288](#) ([SB0183](#)) - Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact
- [SB0082](#) ([HB0233](#)) - State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists - Maryland Music Therapists Act
- [HB0776](#) - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project - Study and Report
- [HB0873](#) State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Certification
- [SB0436](#) ([HB0597](#)) Child Care Centers - Teacher Qualifications
- [HB1322](#) School Personnel Not Returning to In-Person Instruction and Work - Accommodations and Discipline
- [HB0098](#) Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program
- [HB0097](#) / [CH0074](#)) - Office of Statewide Broadband
- [SB0637](#) ([HB0943](#)) - Live Near Your School Program
- [HB0205](#) ([SB0427](#)) - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement
- [HB0401](#) ([SB0438](#)) - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Policies and Reports
- [HB0101](#) ([SB0913](#)) - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Heat and Eat Program and Study on Maryland Energy Assistance Program Eligibility
- [HB1243](#) ([SB0520](#)) Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements – Children and Young Adults – Report Modifications
- [SB0086](#) / [CH0098](#) - Correctional Education – Changes to Mandatory Education Requirements
- [SB0497](#) ([HB0071](#)) Juvenile Services Education Board and Program – Establishment, Powers, and Duties

MEC also thanks the [Maryland Congressional Delegation members](#) who supported the federal package of stimulus bills that allowed the General Assembly additional flexibility to more adequately and equitably fund public education, health, and other community services impacted by the pandemic, so Maryland can begin to reopen and recover economically, educationally, and physically. The total amount allocated for public education in Maryland is an estimated \$3.2 billion! *

How may the additional federal fund support public education or student services?

- expand existing summer school programs in 2021 and 2022, at no additional cost to local school districts.
- expand existing tutoring programs.
- address trauma and behavioral health issues due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and their families and to identify and provide necessary supports and services for students.
- address the effects of COVID-19 on education to mitigate learning loss due to the pandemic and to support the goals of the Blueprint, including for summer school, tutoring and supplemental instruction, and trauma and behavioral health programs.
- LEAs must use at least 20% of their ESSER III allocation to address learning loss.

Use of Certain Federal and State Funds by Local Boards of Education

- Each local board of education must, to the extent allowed by federal law, use federal funding received to address the effects of COVID-19 on education to mitigate learning loss due to the pandemic and to support the goals of the Blueprint, including for summer school, tutoring and supplemental instruction, and trauma and behavioral health programs.
- A local board of education may retain any unspent fiscal 2021 special (state) funds received to implement the Blueprint. By July 1, 2021, local boards of education must report how they intend to use the unspent funds.
- The “Blueprint” legislation clarifies that **Transitional Supplemental Instruction (TSI) small groups may not exceed four students. Students must be assessed before and after receiving TSI services,**
- the reading screening required in the [Ready to Read Act](#) may be used to assess.
- The definition of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs is clarified to include noncredit certificate and license programs, including those taken through an apprenticeship sponsor.

- The dual enrollment definition is expanded to include noncredit courses leading to an industry-recognized certificate or license.
- New Early education requirements to meet program quality standards and to increase the percentage of community providers is extended one year and funding is increased 10% between FY 2024 and 2028.
- The Blueprint and the College and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS) are not intended to alter the need for high quality programs and content in fine arts, civics, physical education, and other areas necessary to provide a holistic education and enable every student to be well-rounded. and meet the CCR standard.
- Beginning the 2022-2023 school year, each student must be assessed no later than the 10th grade to determine whether the student meets the CCR standard for English language arts, mathematics, and, when practicable, science using PARRC, MCAP or any successor assessment based on a MSDE study.
- Establishes school leadership training programs:
 - Program for the State Superintendent, local school superintendents, and senior instruction-
 - Program for members of the State Board of Education, members of county boards of education, and school principals.
- There are numerous planning, data collection and reporting requirements for MSDE, local school systems and governments to MSDE, State Board, Governor, General Assembly or the new Accountability and Implementation Board in addition to others already in existence, including reports to USDE.

Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds for K-12 Education - Fiscal 2020-2021 (\$ in Millions)

Program or School	Total
LEAs and SEED School Relief and Reopening	\$2,825.0
MSDE State Programs	287.6
Technology Expenses for LEAs	118.7
Nonpublic School Relief and Reopening	35.9
Competitive Innovative Grants	13.3
MSDE Administrative Costs	15.1
State Wireless Network	15.0
Maryland Schools for the Blind and the Deaf	1.4
Total	\$3,312.0

- LEA: local education agency
- SEED: School for Education Evolution and Development
- MSDE: Maryland State Department of Education

What else is new within the HB1372-2021 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future-Implementation & Revisions Bills?

- Holds school systems harmless from 2020-21 enrollment count used to calculate the **foundation program formula** funding and local governments **Maintenance of Effort** requirements
- Phase in during FY 2025-27 up to **\$198 per pupil in additional funding to the foundation formula** for program for educational technology costs.
- **Extends the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**, in addition to continuing the use of Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility and Direct Certification used to calculate the **compensatory aid program formula**. MSDE is required to study and report findings or recommendation for a new plan and form.
- Accelerates the phase-in and increases the percentage used to calculate **Concentration of Poverty Grants**

COVID-19-related Programs

- For calendar years 2021 and 2022, implement or **expand summer school programs without additional cost to public schools and without charging fees for enrolled students to recover credits.**
- For school years 2021-22 and 2022-23, **each school system must provide or expand tutoring and supplemental for students** in grades 4 through 12 to address learning loss.
- For FY 2021 and 2022, **develop a plan and address trauma and behavioral health issues** due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and their families and to identify and provide necessary supports and services for students.
- Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, **MSDE must send Expert Review Teams to schools or groups of schools that continue to have persistent learning loss** related to the COVID-19 pandemic to determine the reason that the learning loss persists.

NEW-Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) an independent unit of State government designed to hold other units of government accountable for implementing the Blueprint and evaluating the outcomes of the Blueprint during the implementation period. (See [House Bill 1372, Fiscal Note, pages 5 and 14](#))

COVID-19 Federal Funds for State Education Aid

	FY 2021	FY 2022
School Reopening	\$10,000,000	\$0
Summer School	25,000,000	25,000,000
Behavioral Health	10,000,000	15,000,000
Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring	0	151,575,818
Transitional Supplemental Instruction	0	20,000,000
Education Trust Fund Backfill	174,845,017	0
Total	\$219,845,017	\$211,575,818

(See below for more Federal Funding Details for Maryland Local School Systems)

- To learn more about the federal funding allocations by funding source and local education association, go to [House Bill 1372, Fiscal Note](#), pages 28 – 29.
- **More Blueprint for Maryland’s Future implementation policies can be found within HB 1300-2020 [Bill Text](#) and the [Fiscal and Policy Note](#).**

School Construction Funding (pages L5 & L6)

The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) within MSDE administers several State school construction programs. In fiscal 2022, **a total of \$431.1 million is authorized in general obligation (GO) bonds, bond premiums, and pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) funds for public school construction.** Additionally, \$7.0 million is authorized in GO bonds and PAYGO funds for the DeGrange Nonpublic Aging Schools Program and the Nonpublic School Security Improvements Program. This does not include revenue bonds related to Chapter 20 of 2020 – Built to Learn Act, which is discussed below.

The Public School Construction Program (PSCP) receives the largest allocation in the fiscal 2022 budget with \$285 million in new GO funds, which includes \$65 million in bond premium proceeds. The Governor’s budget authorized \$250 million for PSCP, although the preliminary figure announced by the Governor was \$280 million. The General Assembly added \$35 million in GO bonds to increase the total to more than the preliminary figure. IAC approved 75% allocations (based on \$280 million) in December 2020 and released preliminary 100% allocations in March 2021 (based on \$250 million total). **The IAC will make final allocations totaling \$285 million in May 2021.**

Total State Aid to Local Governments FY 2021 and FY 2022 ([90-Day Report](#), page A-120)

Program	FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference	% Difference	NOTES
Foundation Aid	\$3,218,368,959	\$3,170,727,031	-\$47,641,928	-1.5	Impacted by Enrollment Loss
Supplemental Program	46,620,083	46,620,083	0	0.0	Impacted by the economy
Geographic Cost of Education Index	149,532,468	147,691,955	-1,840,513	-1.2	Impacted by the economy
Net Taxable Income Education Grant	69,732,482	47,238,027	-22,494,455	-32.3	Impacted by the economy
Tax Increment Financing Education Grants	1,312,728	1,057,223	-255,505	-19.5	Impacted by the economy
Foundation – Special Grants	9,487,532	0	-9,487,532	-100.0	
Declining Enrollment Education Grants	7,633,437	0	-7,633,437	-100.0	
Compensatory Education	1,364,738,738	1,286,664,932	-78,073,806	-5.7	Impacted by Enrollment Loss
Student Transportation – Regular	282,192,610	285,021,237	2,828,627	1.0	
Student Transportation – Special Education	27,994,000	3,035,000	-24,959,000	-89.2	Impacted by Enrollment Loss
Special Education – Formula	314,871,453	311,093,332	-3,778,121	-1.2	Impacted by Enrollment Loss
Special Education – Nonpublic Placements	123,899,400	126,999,400	3,100,000	2.5	
Special Education – Infants and Toddlers	10,389,104	10,389,104	0	0.0	
Limited English Proficiency Grants	348,240,587	334,286,759	-13,953,828	-4.0	Impacted by Enrollment Loss
Guaranteed Tax Base	41,232,314	49,864,008	8,631,694	20.9	
Prekindergarten Expansion Program	26,644,000	26,644,000	0	0.0	
School Safety Grants	10,600,000	10,600,000	0	0.0	
Blueprint – Concentration of Poverty	64,447,747	116,912,737	52,464,990	81.4	
Blueprint – Mental Health Coordinators	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0.0	
Blueprint – Prekindergarten	64,032,481	53,674,670	-10,357,811	-16.2	Impacted by Enrollment Loss
Blueprint – Special Education	65,468,589	65,468,589	0	0.0	
Blueprint – Teacher Salary Incentives	75,000,001	75,000,001	0	0.0	
Blueprint – Transitional Supplemental Instruction	23,000,000	23,000,000	0	0.0	
Blueprint – Hold Harmless	0	209,384,067	209,384,067	0.0	Supplements SY 2020-21 enrollment loss
Blueprint – Early Education	45,558,350	54,742,016	9,183,666	20.2	
Blueprint – COVID-19 Relief	45,000,000	211,575,818	166,575,818	370.2	
Food Service	14,086,664	15,166,664	1,080,000	7.7	
SEED School	10,844,230	10,930,964	86,734	0.8	
Judy Hoyer Centers	10,575,000	10,575,000	0	0.0	
Teacher Development	4,520,000	4,520,000	0	0.0	
Next Generation Scholars	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.0	
Public School Opportunities	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.0	
Out-of-county Foster Placements	1,900,000	2,000,000	100,000	5.3	
Head Start	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.0	
Other Education Aid	19,758,503	19,817,260	58,757	0.8	
Total Primary and Secondary Education	\$6,510,681,460	\$6,743,699,877	\$233,018,417		

For additional information on public education funding and policies or state aid by local school system, see [2021 90-Day Report](#), pages A120 -228 and L1-20

FEDERAL FUNDING BY LEGISLATION and CATEGORY to Local School Systems (HB1372-Fiscal Note, pages 28 & 29)

<i>ESSER I, II, and III Distribution by LEA (\$ in Thousands)</i>					<i>Additional Public K-12 Federal COVID-19-related Funding (\$ in Thousands)</i>						Grand Total for Federal Funding	
LEA	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III	Total	LEA	CRF Technology	CRF Tutoring	GEER I Competitive Innovation	GEER I K-12 Technology	GEER I Urban and Rural Broadband		Total
Allegany	\$2,557.9	\$11,278.2	\$25,329.3	\$39,165.4	Allegany	\$909.9	\$1,367.5	\$0.0	\$97.0	\$70.0	\$2,444.5	\$41,609.90
Anne Arundel	11,855.6	48,393.5	108,684.9	168,934.0	Anne Arundel	9,433.3	6,338.2	654.7	729.4	59.0	17,214.6	186,148.6
Baltimore City	48,392.8	197,474.4	443,499.4	689,366.6	Baltimore City	8,387.5	25,871.5	0	1,440.3	1,778.6	37,477.9	726,844.5
Baltimore	23,741.8	96,638.6	217,036.6	337,417.0	Baltimore	12,649.2	12,692.7	0	1,288.5	750.0	27,380.4	364,797.4
Calvert	1,201.9	5,098.5	11,450.4	17,750.8	Calvert	1,781.5	642.5	0	83.0	15.6	2,522.7	20,273.5
Caroline	1,490.1	6,096.0	13,690.8	21,276.9	Caroline	629.8	796.6	0	67.3	111.4	1,605.2	22,882.1
Carroll	1,975.7	7,491.7	16,825.4	26,292.9	Carroll	2,855.8	1,056.3	0	141.7	50.2	4,104.0	30,396.9
Cecil	3,128.8	12,391.7	27,830.0	43,350.6	Cecil	1,668.9	1,672.7	0	154.8	14.0	3,510.4	46,861
Charles	3,127.3	13,743.7	30,866.5	47,737.5	Charles	3,040.1	1,671.9	0	231.6	812.0	5,755.6	53,493.1
Dorchester	1,901.2	7,775.7	17,463.1	27,139.9	Dorchester	510.9	1,016.4	0	63.1	124.0	1,714.4	28,854.3
Frederick	4,008.5	16,879.1	37,908.0	58,795.6	Frederick	4,832.7	2,143.0	0	323.4	0	7,299.2	66,094.8
Garrett	957.2	3,986.8	8,953.9	13,897.9	Garrett	414.9	511.7	405.4	33.5	185.0	1,550.5	15,448.4
Harford	4,451.8	18,905.7	42,459.5	65,817.0	Harford	4,278.0	2,380.0	420.4	291.8	79.1	7,449.4	73,266.4
Howard	4,236.7	19,372.0	43,506.7	67,115.4	Howard	6,562.6	2,265.0	427.0	374.5	213.6	9,842.8	76,958.2
Kent	522.2	2,330.2	5,233.2	8,085.5	Kent	205.9	279.2	0	24.0	46.0	555.0	8,640.5
Montgomery	24,768.2	112,233.8	252,061.1	389,063.0	Montgomery	18,344.4	13,241.4	374.0	1,748.3	1,117.5	34,825.7	423,888.7
Prince George's	30,031.7	122,234.7	274,521.8	426,788.2	Prince George's	14,926.9	16,055.4	400.0	2,137.2	517.5	34,037.0	460,825.2
Queen Anne's	739.9	3,026.0	6,796.1	10,562.0	Queen Anne's	858.4	395.6	0	51.6	708.0	2,013.7	12,575.7
St. Mary's	2,574.4	11,611.0	26,076.7	40,262.0	St. Mary's	1,960.2	1,376.3	0	132.5	1,685.8	5,154.7	45,416.7
Somerset	1,347.2	6,009.4	13,496.3	20,852.9	Somerset	307.1	720.3	217.6	43.3	0	1,288.3	22,141.2
Talbot	896.1	3,665.8	8,232.8	12,794.7	Talbot	508.9	479.1	0	53.4	101.9	1,143.2	13,937.9
Washington	5,606.1	24,618.4	55,289.3	85,513.8	Washington	2,496.9	2,997.1	0	235.7	172.9	5,902.7	91,416.5
Wicomico	5,166.1	21,093.1	47,372.0	73,631.2	Wicomico	1,655.8	2,761.8	375.0	192.0	112.1	5,096.8	78,728
Worcester	1,566.0	6,406.9	14,389.0	22,361.9	Worcester	734.4	837.2	0	62.0	11.2	1,644.8	24,006.7
SEED School	805.6	3,139.3	7,050.3	10,995.1	SEED School	45.9	430.7	0	0	0	476.5	11,471.6
MSDE	20,783.8	86,877.1	195,114.0	302,774.9	Unallocated	0	0	0	0	1,264.5	1,264.5	
Total	\$207,834.5	\$868,771.2	\$1,951,137.0	\$3,027,742.7	Total	\$100,000.0	\$100,000.0	\$3,274.2	\$10,000.0	\$8,735.5	\$223,274.2	\$3,251,016.90

- ESSER: [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- CRF: Coronavirus Relief Fund
- GEER: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund
- LEA: Local education agency

Notes: LEA allocations are based on the proportion of Title I-A funds received in fiscal 2019 for ESSER I and in fiscal 2020 for ESSER II and III. MSDE receives a set-aside of 10% of each total allocation. Some allocation of funds or guidance for their use is pending.