

**Report to the Maryland General Assembly**  
**The SEED School of Maryland**  
**Education Article Title 8, Special Programs for Exceptional Children: Subtitle 7.**  
**Residential Boarding Education Programs for At-Risk Youth**

**December 2009**

*[For confidentiality purposes student names have been redacted.]*

**Overview.** Reporting requirements in Education Article § 8-708 direct the Board of Trustees of the designated operator of the residential boarding education program for at-risk youth established under the Education Article 8-701 to report to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) detailed information on the names and sending jurisdictions of students enrolled in the current and preceding years. On or before December 1, the Department is to report that information to the Governor and General Assembly along with a recommendation whether funds for the program should be increased or decreased.

The operator selected through the 2007 State procurement process is the SEED Foundation, Inc., which formed a new entity incorporated as the SEED School of Maryland. Information available for the December 1, 2009 report includes: 1) actual expenditures for FY 2009 and the projected budget for FY 2010; 2) whether funds appropriated under § 8-708 should be increased or decreased; 3) student enrollment by name and by sending jurisdiction for the 2009-2010 school year for the combined class of 160 students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 3) sending jurisdiction and names of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who attended SEED for the 2008-2009 school year are included in item 3. As per § 8-702 the program is operated under the supervision of MSDE with Dr. Rhona Fisher as the Project Monitor along with an internal workgroup of key Department staff, including Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent for Student, Family and School Support. State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy Grasmick is also actively involved in the internal supervision of the SEED program. And per its contract, SEED Maryland continues to periodically report on progress to the Maryland State Board of Education.

**Exhibit 1** was submitted by SEED and shows the actual expenditures for 2008-2009 as well as budgeted funds for 2009-2010. **Exhibit 2** reports by local education agency (LEA) the number and name of each SEED student enrolled in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade as of September 30, 2009. These are the official September 30<sup>th</sup> enrollment counts for which LEAs will be billed per the enabling legislation at 85% of the local and state per pupil expenditure. The footnotes in **Exhibit 2** report the names of those students and LEAs that had a student who withdrew from SEED MD during the 2008-2009 school year or during this past summer or early Fall. **Exhibit 3** provides the number of students by LEA enrolled for the 2009-2010 school year as well as the number and names of those that have withdrawn (see Note 2).

**School Administration.** Several administrative changes relating to the principal, the head of school and managing director positions have occurred since last December's report which have resulted in a stable leadership team at the school. Jerry Kountz who had served last year as both Interim Principal and Head of School now serves full-time as SEED MD's Head of School. Don Brady, formerly a secondary school administrator with Frederick County Public Schools, has joined the staff as Principal. The Managing Director is Stan Estremsky. This year staff size has almost doubled with the addition of the new 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and the returning cohort now making up the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Progress at the school continues under Mr. Kountz's leadership. Communications between SEED MD and MSDE are supported through quarterly meetings and periodic informal and structured visits as appropriate. SEED leadership participates in the state's monthly convening of Assistant Superintendents of Instruction. Lead content staff at SEED in

Reading, Mathematics, Library/Media, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Title I, and Special Education receive content-related information and are invited to state meetings. MSDE also has helped to connect local directors of student support and key SEED staff. This year SEED MD is serving students from 14 Maryland school systems. SEED leadership will continue its outreach to Maryland school systems through April in preparation for the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Third Annual Admissions Lottery in order to identify the next group of 6th graders that will be invited to enroll for the 2010-2011 school year. Year Three for SEED MD will see a middle school serving up to 240 students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

**Financing.** A final item to be addressed in § 8-708 (2) (ii) is “whether the funds appropriated under § 8-710 of this subtitle should be increased or decreased.” At this point in Year Two operations, the Department deems the funding to be adequate. See below **Exhibit 1** and **Exhibit 2** re expenditures and enrollment respectively.

**Enrollment.** The official list of students in **Exhibit 2** includes those enrolled at the school as of September 30, 2009. Billing to LEAs is based on the 160 students reported in the September list and according to each student’s home jurisdiction. Per requirements, MSDE sent letters to each local school superintendent and school financial official to be impacted by one or more SEED students domiciled in their jurisdiction. All students enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year, attended SEED MD last year as 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Therefore, the names identified in **Exhibit 2** reflect both this year’s and last year’s student body. Students that withdrew are identified in **Exhibit 2** footnotes.

**Exhibit 1**  
**FY 2009 and FY 2010 SEED Budgets (actual/projected)**

MSDE Format Annual Budget  
 SEED School of Maryland FY 09-10

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
Special Fund Revenues (State and Local Per Pupil Funding)	\$796,325	\$1,591,892
State payments for transp., boarding & admin.	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000
Revenues from other program income:		
Specify programs here		
FARMS	\$26,848	\$43,547
NCLB (restricted funds) and ARRA	\$21,734	\$223,725
SPED LAFF and ARRA	\$0	\$19,199
Private revenue	\$100,000	\$0
Fundraising	\$1,355,007	\$1,300,000
<b>Total Operating Budget Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,299,913</b>	<b>\$7,178,363</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
201 Administration	\$729,912	\$809,290
202 Mid-level Administration	\$182,117	\$233,185
203 Instructional Salaries and Wages	\$669,609	\$1,574,261
204 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	\$63,050	\$145,600
205 Other Instructional Costs	\$49,269	\$128,299
206 Special Education	\$57,722	\$99,332
207 Student Personnel Services	\$0	\$0
208 Student Health Services	\$135,965	\$134,018
209 Student Transportation	\$225,633	\$270,000
210 Operation of Plant (facility)	\$213,746	\$272,113
211 Maintenance of Plant	\$0	\$0
212 Fixed Charges	\$204,492	\$680,760
213 Food Service	\$140,152	\$202,600
214 Community Services	\$82,137	\$58,667
<b>Residential Program</b>		
Salary & Fringe Benefits	\$880,604	\$1,648,708
Supplies	\$21,995	\$33,600
Security	\$186,093	\$258,336
Sports/Clubs	\$1,125	\$15,800
Contractual services	\$995	\$0
Other – specify	\$435,665	\$613,794
Facilities	\$273,620	\$324,660
Staff Development	\$1,182	\$0
Food Service	\$114,676	\$210,400
Transportation	\$3,284	\$0
Depreciation	\$42,903	\$78,734
<b>Total Operating Budget Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,280,280</b>	<b>\$7,178,363</b>
<b>Net Income(deficit)</b>	<b>\$19,633</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital</b>		
Revenue and Expense		
Private Revenue - Construction Capital	\$2,500,000	\$3,800,000
Construction Loan Interest Expense	\$(172,762)	\$(375,000)
Capital Expense and Debt		
Capital Expenditures - Construction Costs	\$(6,444,259)	\$(25,000,000)
Construction Loan draw	\$5,500,000	\$10,500,000

**The SEED School of Maryland  
Official Enrollment as of September 30, 2009  
For the 2009-2010 School Year**

*Note: Total enrollment as of September 30, 2009 is 160 students. Each school year the number of grade levels served will be expanded by one<sup>12</sup>*

**For confidentiality purposes student names have been redacted from Exhibit 2.**

- **Anne Arundel County:** Grade 6 (4) + Grade 7 (2) = 6 students
- **Baltimore County:** Grade 6 (10) + Grade 7 (7) = 17 students
- **Baltimore City:** Grade 6 (37) + Grade 7 (38) = 75 students
- **Calvert County:** 2 students in Grade 7
- **Dorchester County:** 1 student in Grade 6
- **Harford County:** 1 student in Grade 6
- **Howard County:** Grade 6 (17) + Grade 7 (5) = 22 students
- **Montgomery County:** 2 students in Grade 6
- **Prince George's County:** Grade 6 (14) + Grade 7 (15) = 29 students
- **Queen Anne's County:** 1 student in Grade 6
- **Somerset County:** 1 student in Grade 6
- **St. Mary's County:** 1 student in Grade 7
- **Washington County:** 1 student in Grade 7
- **Wicomico County:** 1 student in Grade

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<sup>1</sup> During the 2008-2009 school year, 19 students that were then in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade withdrew from 8 jurisdictions. These include: Anne Arundel County-2 ; Baltimore County - 4; Baltimore City - 6; Howard County - 2; Montgomery County - 1; Prince George's County – 2; St. Mary's County -1; Somerset County -1. Specific to the reporting requirements specified by Education Article § 8-708, withdrawals by name included: *Names redacted.*

<sup>2</sup> During the 2009-2010 school year, 5 students from 4 jurisdictions have withdrawn as of October 17, 2009. These include Baltimore City – 1; Harford County-2; Howard County – 1; Prince George's County – 1. Specific to the reporting requirements specified by Education Article § 8-708, withdrawals by name included: *Names redacted.* Three of the students that withdrew over the summer would have been in this year's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

### Exhibit 3

#### OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF 9/30/09 SEED SCHOOL OF MARYLAND: 2009-2010 SY

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES (LEA'S)	Grade 6	Grade 7	Total 6 <sup>th</sup> + 7 <sup>th</sup>	Percent of Total
Anne Arundel	4	2	6	3.8%
Baltimore City	37	38	75	46.8%
Baltimore	10	7	17	10.6%
Dorchester	1		1	≤1%
Calvert		2	2	≤ 1%
Harford		1	1	≤ 1%
Howard	17	5	22	13.8%
Montgomery	2		2	≤ 1%
Prince George's	14	15	29	18.1%
Queen Anne's	1		1	≤ 1%
St. Mary's		1	1	≤1%
Somerset	1		1	≤ 1%
Washington		1	1	≤ 1%
Wicomico		1	1	≤ 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>160</b>	

**NOTE 1:** A total of 14 LEAs have at least one enrolled SEED student. Out of the 14, seven have one SEED student and two have 2 SEED students. The remaining 5 LEAs are sending the majority of SEED students (149).

1. Baltimore City 46.8% .....75
2. Prince George's County 18.1%.....29
3. Howard County 13.8%.... 22
4. Baltimore County 10.6%..... 17
5. Anne Arundel County 3.8%..... 6

**NOTE 2:** Below is the number of withdrawals for the 2008-2009 school year through early Fall 2010.

- SEED opened in the Fall 2008 at full capacity with 80 sixth grade students. During the 2008-2009 school year, a total of 19 students withdrew. Students that were waitlisted after the First Annual Admissions Lottery were invited to enroll during the school year when a vacancy occurred; nonetheless as of June 2009 SEED had 76 sixth graders.
- 3 entering sixth grade students withdrew early October 2010.
- During the summer of 2009, 3 students scheduled to return for 7th grade withdrew. These 3 students plus the 4 vacancies in June represent a 91.2% Rate of Return. Thus, the original class of 80 sixth graders had 73 students advancing to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.