



Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

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December 1, 2015

The Honorable Larry Hogan
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
H-101 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

RE: SEED School Report (MSAR #5869)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Please find enclosed the annual report on enrollment and budget for the SEED School of Maryland. Education Article, Title 8 § 701, established the Residential Boarding Education Program for At-Risk Youth, which is operated by the Board of Trustees of the SEED School of Maryland.

Title 8 requires an annual report from the Board of Trustees detailing enrollment for the previous school year and the current school year. The Maryland State Department of Education forwards to the Governor and General Assembly this information as well as a recommendation whether funds for the program should be increased or decreased.

In the current year, 2015-2016, the SEED School will maintain enrollment at 400 students. There is no indication of a need to increase or decrease funds for the school but to maintain the funding allocation under Title 8 § 708.

Should you have questions for need additional information, please contact Carol Beck, Director, Office of School Innovations, at (410) 767-3678 or by email at carol.beck@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Jack Smith, Ph.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

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 2015

Redacted version for public release: student names withheld

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 jurisdictions of students enrolled in the current and preceding years. On or before December 1 of each year, MSDE is to report this information to the Governor and General Assembly along with a recommendation whether funds for the residential education program should be increased or decreased.

The operator of the program is The SEED School of Maryland (SEED). SEED is designed to provide a rigorous education and prepare eligible students for college. The SEED School of Maryland opened in August 2008 with its first cohort of 80 sixth grade students. The first class graduated from SEED's upper school in May 2015. All SEED students enter in the sixth grade and the school continues to add a new sixth grade class each year. As of September 30, 2015, SEED has enrolled 407 students in grades 6 to 12 representing twelve local education agencies (LEA).

Information available for the December 1, 2015 report includes: 1) student enrollment by name and by sending jurisdiction for the 2015-2016 school year for the combined class of 407 students in Grades 6-12; 2) sending jurisdiction and names of students in Grades 6-12 who attended SEED for the 2014-2015 school year; 3) actual expenditures for SY 2015 and the projected budget for SY 2016; and 4) whether funds appropriated under §8-708 should be increased or decreased. As per §8-702 the program is operated under the supervision of MSDE with Ms. Carol Beck as the Contract Monitor along with an internal workgroup of key Department staff, including: Kristina Kyles, Assistant State Superintendent for Student, Family and School Support; Penelope Thornton Talley, Chief Performance Officer, Kristy Michel, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services; Dr. Henry Johnson, Interim Chief Academic Officer; and Sarah Spross, Assistant State Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness. Dr. Jack Smith, the Interim State Superintendent of Schools, continues to follow progress at the school. The Contract monitor meets quarterly with the Seed School leadership team to review student progress, address any program concerns and identify areas where MSDE can provide technical assistance to the School.

Exhibit 1¹ reports by local education agency (LEA) the name and grade level of each SEED student projected to participate for the 2015-2016 school year as of September 30, 2015. The September 30th enrollment is the official count for which each LEA with SEED-enrolled student(s) are billed per the enabling legislation at 85% of the local and state per pupil expenditure.

¹ Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 are not included in this public version of the report as they contain student names.

Exhibit 2² reports the names of students by LEA attending SEED for the preceding 2014-2015 school year.

Exhibit 3 shows the actual expenditures for the 2014-2015 school year as well as the funds budgeted for the current 2015-2016 school year.

School Administration. The Board of Trustees named Jon Tucker, Head of School in Spring 2015. He succeeds Dr. Khalek Kirkland. Also joining the leadership team in 2015 is Jessica Wilson as Director of Academics. Both Mr. Tucker and Ms. Wilson bring many years of experience in the classroom and in administrative roles at the Seed School of Washington DC. The teaching faculty includes forty-nine teachers. SEED also maintains an active Student Counseling Department, Health Suite, Library, and Student Life (residential) Program.

Communications between SEED and MSDE are supported through quarterly meetings, periodic informal and structured visits, and other communications, as appropriate. SEED leadership participates in a number of statewide meetings held by MSDE, including those for Assistant Superintendents for Instruction, school counselors, and testing coordinators. Staff at the SEED School with leadership roles in Reading, Mathematics, Library/Media, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Title I, and Special Education receive content-related information from MSDE and are invited to attend periodic statewide trainings and other MSDE-sponsored conferences that address issues relevant to school operations. MSDE also facilitates communications between the local Directors of Student Support and other school system staff to key SEED staff.

Performance. In May 2015, the first class of students graduated from the Seed School of Maryland. Each of the 28 graduates had a plan for continued education. The class received scholarship commitments totaling over \$2.4 million. The colleges Seed graduates will attend include:

² Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 are not included in this public version of the report as they contain student names.

Allegheny College
 Anne Arundel Comm. College
 Bowie State University
 Elizabeth City State University
 Hood College
 Howard Comm. College
 Illinois Institute of Technology
 Kean University
 Mount St. Mary's
 Penn State

Penn State Altoona
 St. Vincent's College
 Temple University
 UMD College Park
 UMD Eastern Shore
 University of Dayton
 University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
 University of Southern California
 University of Virginia
 Villanova University

2015 MSA/HSA results are not yet available, nor are data from the 2014-2015 administration of the PARCC Assessments (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). SEED staff continue to focus on the implementation of Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards.

The Seed school continues to build its support system for at-risk students from throughout the state. The School has created a comprehensive data dashboard which is reviewed monthly and reported quarterly to MSDE. These measures are chosen as leading indicators of student success. For example, in 2014-2015, the percentage of 6th grade students reading at grade level, increased from 59% at admission to over 77% at midyear. Growth in reading level is also tracked in high school, where the percent of students reading at grade level rose from 84% in September to 97% at midyear. At the close of the 2014-2015 school year the average Grade Point Average (GPA) was 2.9 with over 90% of middle school students having a GPA over 2.0. High schools students' average GPA was 2.7 with 85% maintaining a 2.0 or greater. Middle school retention (the % of students enrolled in September, who are still enrolled in May) increased from 85% in 2013-2014 to 94% in 2014-2015. Retention of high school students over the year was 92% in 2013-2014 and 95% in 2014-2015.

Enrollment. The official list of students in **Exhibit 1** includes those enrolled at the school as of September 30, 2015. This year the SEED School of Maryland is serving students from twelve Maryland school systems. Billing to LEAs is based on 400 students reported in the September 30th list and according to each student's home jurisdiction. SEED Maryland operates with all new students entering the school as 6th graders. See **Table 1** for current year (2015-2016) and **Table 2** for previous year (2014-2015) below.

Table 1. Enrollment as of 9/30/2015 = 407

County	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade	N = Enrolled Students
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	2	1	4	3	3	0	2	15
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	2	7	9	11	9	5	3	46
<i>Baltimore City</i>	35	24	39	34	16	23	17	188
<i>Charles</i>		1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Frederick</i>	2							2
<i>Harford</i>		1	0	0	1	0	0	2
<i>Howard</i>	5	7	7	5	6	11	1	42

<i>Kent</i>	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
<i>Montgomery</i>		1	0	2	0	2	0	5
<i>Prince George's</i>	18	15	15	20	9	7	12	96
<i>St. Mary's</i>	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Wicomico</i>	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	67	61	75	76	45	48	35	407

Table 2. Enrollment for 2014-2015 by LEA and grade

County	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade	N = Enrolled Students
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	3	4	4	4	0	2	2	19
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	8	12	7	10	2	3	2	44
<i>Baltimore City</i>	25	40	37	26	30	14	12	184
<i>Calvert</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Charles</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Harford</i>	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
<i>Howard</i>	7	8	3	10	11	1	2	42
<i>Kent</i>	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
<i>Montgomery</i>	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	5
<i>Prince George's</i>	19	16	22	12	8	11	12	100
<i>St. Mary's</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Washington</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Wicomico</i>	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	69	81	77	65	53	31	31	407

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 time there is no indication of a need to increase funds appropriated. Enrollment is capped at 400 students. See table below.

SCHOOL YEAR	GRADES SERVED	9/30 ENROLLMENT	GENERAL FUND \$ PROJECTIONS
2008-2009	6 only	80	2,000,000
2009-2010	6 & 7	160	4,000,000
2010-2011	6, 7, & 8	240	6,000,000
2011-2012	6, 7, 8 & 9	308	7,700,000
2012-2013	6, 7, 8, 9 & 10	386	9,700,000
2013-2014	6,7,8,9,10 & 11	400	10,000,000 (+ inflation factor)
2014-2015	6 to 12	400	10,000,000 (+ inflation factor)
2015-2016	6 to 12	400	10,000,000 (+ inflation factor)

Exhibit 3 reports expenditures for the previous SEED school year (2014-2015) and the budget for the current school year of 2015-2016. SEED reported operating expenditures for FY 2015 as \$16,906,930 and the operating budget for FY 2016 as \$17,118,229.

Exhibit 3	FY 2015	FY 2016
Seed School of Maryland - Budget Summary	Actual	Projected
Revenue		
Per Pupil Revenue		
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	\$ 4,413,396	\$ 4,500,000
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$ 10,146,460	\$ 10,200,000
Other Public		
FARMS	\$ 196,387	\$ 195,000
NCLB and ARRA	\$ 271,010	\$ 591,257
SPED LAFF	\$ 51,845	\$ 59,685
21st Century	\$ 237,398	\$ 181,051
E rate	\$ 46,398	\$ 77,000
Private		
Private contributions	\$ 2,834,854	\$ 1,950,000
Event and Facilities rental	\$ 76,530	\$ 158,300
Total Revenue	\$ 18,274,278	\$ 17,912,293
Expense		
Salary and Related		
Salaries	\$ 7,671,823	\$ 7,774,733
Benefits and taxes	\$ 1,528,141	\$ 1,735,759
Staff Expense	\$ 119,526	\$ 315,741
Occupancy	\$ 1,884,157	\$ 1,364,860
Additional Expenses		
Direct Student	\$ 2,134,281	\$ 2,260,918
IT	\$ 161,334	\$ 89,350
Development	\$ 143,528	\$ 118,160
General and Administrative	\$ 854,060	\$ 929,785
Total Operating Expense	\$ 14,496,850	\$ 14,589,306
Change in Net Assets Before Other	\$ 3,777,428	\$ 3,322,987
Other		
Depreciation and Amortization	\$ 1,650,660	\$ 1,488,792
Interest	\$ 801,594	\$ 910,800
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,325,174	\$ 923,395
Beginning Net Assets	\$ 23,254,467	\$ 24,579,641
Ending Net Assets	\$ 24,579,641	\$ 25,503,036