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State Superintendent of Schools

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December 1, 2016

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

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

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

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

The Residential Boarding Education Program for At-Risk Youth Act, Section §8-701 of the Education Article, established the Residential Boarding Education Program for At-Risk Youth. The program is operated by the Board of Trustees of the SEED School of Maryland. The Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §8-708, requires the Maryland State Department of Education to submit to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly on or before December 1st of each year, a report regarding enrollment and operations at the SEED School of Maryland. The report must also include a recommendation regarding whether funds for the program should be increased or decreased.

Please find enclosed the annual report on enrollment and budget for the SEED School of Maryland. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carol Beck, Director, Office of School Innovations at 410-767-3678 or by email at carol.beck@maryland.gov.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph. D.
State Superintendent of Schools

KSB:cb

cc: Kristina Kyles-Smith
Carol Beck

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 Program for At-Risk Youth

December 2016

Redacted version for public release: student names withheld

Overview

Education Article §8-708 directs the Board of Trustees of the designated operator of the Maryland Residential Boarding Education Program for At-Risk Youth to report to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) detailed information on the names and jurisdictions of students enrolled in the program in the current and preceding years. On or before December 1st of each year, the MSDE is required to report this information to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly along with a recommendation regarding whether funds for the residential education program should be increased or decreased.

Education Article §8-701 establishes the Residential Boarding Education Program for At-risk Youth. The operator of the Maryland Residential Boarding Program for At-Risk Youth is the SEED School of Maryland. The SEED School is designed to provide a rigorous college preparatory education. The SEED School opened in August 2008 with a cohort of 80 sixth grade students. The school adds a new sixth-grade class each year. The first class of 28 students graduated from the SEED School in May 2015. As of September 30, 2016, the SEED School has 403 students enrolled in grades 6 to 12 from 12 local school systems.

The following information is included in this report: (1) student enrollment by name and by sending jurisdiction for the 2016-2017 school year for all 403 students in grades 6-12; (2) sending jurisdictions and names of students in grades 6-12 who attended the SEED School for the 2015-2016 school year; (3) actual expenditures for fiscal year 2016 and the projected budget for fiscal year 2017; 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 the MSDE. Ms. Carol Beck is the contract monitor and meets at least quarterly with the SEED School leadership team to review student progress, address program concerns, and identify areas where the MSDE can provide technical assistance to the school. Ms. Beck also facilitates informal meetings, structured visits, and other contact as appropriate. Ms. Beck is supported by key MSDE staff including Kristina Kyles-Smith, Assistant State Superintendent for Student, Family, and School Support, Tina McKnight, Director, Program Improvement and Family Support, Barbara Scherr, Program Specialist for Title I, and Kelly Coates, Section Chief, 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

School Administration

The Board of Trustees named Jon Tucker as Head of the School in the spring of 2015. Jessica Wilson joined the leadership team in 2015 as Director of Academics. Both Mr. Tucker and Ms. Wilson bring many years of experience from their administrative and classroom roles at the SEED School of Washington DC.

The Maryland State Department of Education facilitates communications between SEED School staff, local Directors of Student Support, and other school system staff members. The SEED School leadership team participates in a variety of statewide meetings conducted by MSDE staff. 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. SEED School staff members are also invited to attend statewide training and other MSDE-sponsored conferences that address issues relevant to school operations.

Performance

The SEED school has created a comprehensive data dashboard to review school-wide student achievement and student success indicators throughout the school year. The second class of students graduated from the Seed School of Maryland on May 1, 2016. Each of the graduates had a plan for continued education. The class received scholarship commitments totaling over two million dollars. As a Maryland public school, SEED School students participate in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing. Staff at the SEED School continue to focus on the implementation of Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. To promote college readiness, all juniors and seniors at the SEED School were enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement course last year.

Enrollment¹

As specified by legislation, the September 30th enrollment is the official count used to determine billing for enrollment for each local school system. Table 1 lists students by grade and local school system for the 2016-2017 school year. Table 2 lists students by grade and local school system for the 2015-2016 school year. Please refer to Exhibit 1 for 2016-2017 enrollment and Exhibit 2 for enrollment during the 2015-2016 school year.

Financing

In fiscal year 2016, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$10,146,460 to the SEED School and \$10,200,000 for fiscal year 2017. Exhibit 3 reports SEED school expenditures for the fiscal year 2015-2016 and the budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017. The SEED School reported operating expenditures for fiscal year 2016 as \$15,749,447 and the projected operating budget for fiscal year 2017 as \$14,995,182. Education Article § 8-708 (2) (ii) requires MSDE to determine "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 the amount of funds appropriated for the SEED School.

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

Table 1. Enrollment as of 9/30/2016 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>	7	3		4		1		15
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	16	2	7	11	11	8	4	59
<i>Baltimore City</i>	43	34	24	32	22	10	21	186
<i>Charles</i>						1		1
<i>Frederick</i>		1	1					2
<i>Harford</i>	3		1	1		2		7
<i>Howard</i>	6	3	6	4	1	6	9	35
<i>Kent</i>		1		2				3
<i>Montgomery</i>	1		1		2	1	1	6
<i>Prince George's</i>	17	18	15	8	16	5	5	84
<i>St. Mary's</i>	1	1						2
<i>Wicomico</i>	1		2					3
TOTAL	95	63	57	62	52	34	40	403

Table 2. Enrollment for 2015-2016 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		5	3	3		2	16
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	5	8	11	14	11	3	3	55
<i>Baltimore City</i>	30	23	36	31	14	25	17	176
<i>Charles</i>		1			1		1	3
<i>Frederick</i>	1							1
<i>Harford</i>		2			1			3
<i>Howard</i>	4	7	6	5	6	11	1	40
<i>Kent</i>	1		1		1			3
<i>Montgomery</i>		1		2		2		5
<i>Prince George's</i>	21	15	15	20	8	7	11	97
<i>Queen Anne's</i>				1				1
<i>St. Mary's</i>	1	1						2
<i>Wicomico</i>	1	2						3
TOTAL	67	60	74	76	45	48	35	405

Exhibit 3	FY 2016	FY 2017
Seed School of Maryland Budget Summary	Actual	Projected
	(Unaudited)	Budget
Revenue		
Per Pupil Revenue		
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	\$4,803,188	\$4,750,000
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$10,146,460	\$10,200,000
Other Public		
FARMS	\$245,407	\$195,000
NCLB and ARRA	\$754,794	\$685,000
SPED LAFF	\$59,685	\$58,308
21st Century	\$182,693	\$138,825
E rate	\$24,088	\$50,000
Medicare		\$85,000
Private		
Private contributions	\$2,003,318	\$580,500
Event and Facilities rental	\$89,705	\$75,000
Total Revenue	\$18,309,339	\$16,817,633
Expense		
Salary and Related		
Salaries	\$8,334,216	\$7,712,107
Benefits and taxes	\$1,861,643	\$1,909,391
Staff Expense	\$229,077	\$218,541
Occupancy	\$1,698,669	\$1,676,701
Additional Expenses		
Direct Student	\$2,284,532	\$2,086,930
IT	\$202,093	\$157,100
Development	\$80,480	\$28,950
General and Administrative	\$1,058,737	\$1,205,462
Total Operating Expense	\$15,749,447	\$14,995,182
Change in Net Assets Before Other	\$2,559,892	\$1,822,451
Other		
Depreciation and Amortization	\$1,579,781	\$1,444,969
Interest	\$669,481	\$752,458
Change in Net Assets	\$310,630	(\$374,976)
Beginning Net Assets	\$24,579,641	\$24,890,271
Ending Net Assets	\$24,890,271	\$25,503,036