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State Superintendent of Schools

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December 1, 2017

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

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

RE: Residential Boarding Program for At-Risk Youth (MSAR #5869)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Section 8-701 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 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. Section 8-708 of the Education Article 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](mailto:carol.beck@maryland.gov).

Best Regards,

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

KSB:cb

c: Sarah Albert (DLS – 5 copies)

**Report to the Maryland General Assembly of  
The SEED School Of Maryland  
Under Education Article Title 8 - Residential Boarding Education  
Programs for At-Risk Youth**

***REDACTED VERSION FOR PUBLIC RELEASE:  
STUDENT NAMES WITHHELD***

**Presented by the  
Maryland State Department of Education**

**December 1, 2017**

**Larry Hogan  
Governor**

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



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

**Andrew R. Smarick**  
President, Maryland State Board of Education

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Sylvia A. Lawson, Ph.D.**  
Chief Performance Officer

**Mary L. Gable**  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Division of Student, Family, and School Support / Academic Policy

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## 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, 2017, the SEED School has 402 students enrolled in grades 6 to 12 from 14 local school systems.

The following information is included in this report: (1) student enrollment by name and by sending county for the 2017-2018 school year for all 402 students in grades 6-12; (2) sending counties and names of students in grades 6-12 who attended the SEED School for the 2016-2017 school year; (3) actual expenditures for fiscal year 2017 and the projected budget for fiscal year 2018; 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 Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent for Student, Family, and School Support / Academic Policy, Barbara Scherr, Program Specialist for Title I, and Walter Sallee, Director of Student Services and Strategic Planning.

## 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 MSDE 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 the 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 the MSDE. SEED School staff members are also invited to attend statewide training and other MSDE-sponsored conferences that address issues relevant to school operations, analysis of data, and instructional practices.

## **Enrollment<sup>1</sup>**

As specified by legislation, the September 30<sup>th</sup> 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 2017-2018 schoolyear. Table 2 lists students by grade and local school system for the 2016-2017 schoolyear. Please refer to Exhibit 1 for 2017-2018 enrollment and Exhibit 2 for enrollment during the 2016-2017 schoolyear. For the 2017-2018 schoolyear, billing will be based on the 9/30/17 enrollment. Occasionally, there are corrections based on residency documentation.

## **Finances**

In fiscal year 2017, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$10,300,895 to the SEED School and \$10,372,414 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. Additional revenue is provided by a per pupil payment made by Maryland local education agencies (LEA) based on the number of students from the LEA attending the SEED School, and from grant programs such as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers. The SEED School also raises private funds to support enhancements to the program. Exhibit 3 reports SEED school expenditures for FY 2016-2017 and the budget for the FY 2017-2018. The SEED School reported operating expenditures for FY 2017 as \$15,561,838 and the projected operating budget for FY 2018 as \$15,565,625. Education Article § 8-708 (2) (ii) requires the 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.

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

**Table 1. Enrollment by Grade and County Projected for 2017-2018**

County	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	N = Enrolled Students
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	5	4	2	1	3		1	16
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	16	14	6	11	12	7	5	71
<i>Baltimore City</i>	42	38	28	20	28	13	11	180
<i>Calvert</i>		2						2
<i>Charles</i>							1	1
<i>Frederick</i>			1	1				2
<i>Harford</i>	2	5		1	1		2	11
<i>Howard</i>	3	5	3	4	2	1	4	22
<i>Kent</i>			1					1
<i>Montgomery</i>	2	1		1		2	1	7
<i>Prince George's</i>	9	14	19	14	7	16	4	83
<i>St. Mary's</i>				1				1
<i>Wicomico</i>	2	1		2				5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>402</b>

**Table 2. Enrollment by Grade and County for 2016-2017**

County	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	N = Enrolled Students
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	8	3		4		1		16
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	17	3	6	11	9	10	4	60
<i>Baltimore City</i>	42	33	24	32	20	11	22	184
<i>Calvert County</i>	1							1
<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		1				2
<i>Montgomery</i>	1		1		2	1	1	6
<i>Prince George's</i>	16	18	15	8	16	5	5	83
<i>St. Mary's</i>		1						1
<i>Wicomico</i>	1		2					3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>401</b>

### Exhibit 3. SEED School of Maryland Budget Summary

SEED School of Maryland Budget Summary	FY 2017 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2018 Projected Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Per Pupil Revenue</b>		
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	\$4,864,295	\$4,896,000
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$10,300,895	\$10,372,414
<b>Other Public</b>		
FARMS	\$327,994	\$312,000
NCLB Grants – Title I	\$699,467	\$829,000
SPED LAFF	\$45,196	\$98,467
21st Century	\$59,849	\$70,000
E rate	\$62,864	\$35,000
Medicare		\$110,000
<b>Private</b>		
Private contributions	\$434,615	\$485,000
Other	\$89,848	\$145,086
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,885,023</b>	<b>\$17,352,967</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Salary and Related</b>		
Salaries	\$8,686,275	\$8,704,129
Benefits and taxes	\$1,981,250	\$2,107,785
Staff Expense	\$217,135	\$209,810
<b>Occupancy</b>	<b>\$1,554,845</b>	<b>\$1,452,507</b>
<b>Additional Expenses</b>		
Direct Student	\$1,782,908	\$1,794,207
IT	\$157,305	\$124,410
Development	\$88,033	\$56,000
General and Administrative	\$1,094,087	\$1,116,777
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$15,561,838</b>	<b>\$15,565,625</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Before Other</b>	<b>\$1,323,185</b>	<b>\$1,787,342</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Depreciation and Amortization	\$1,471,203	\$1,500,000
Interest	\$677,752	\$667,423
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$825,770)</b>	<b>(\$380,081)</b>
Beginning Net Assets	\$24,883,755	\$24,890,271
Ending Net Assets	<b>\$24,057,985</b>	<b>\$25,510,190</b>