



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

December 1, 2020

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

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
Senate of Maryland
H-107, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Maryland House of Delegates
H-101, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Report required by Education Article § 8-701 (MSAR #5869)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

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.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Zachary Hands, Acting Director, Education Policy and Government Relations, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or by phone at (410) 767-0504. Thank you for your continued support and interest in maintaining the highest quality of education for all students in Maryland public schools.

Best Regards,

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

KBS/mg
Encl.

c: Sarah Albert

**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, 2020

**Larry Hogan
Governor**

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



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

Clarence C. Crawford
President, Maryland State Board of Education

Larry Hogan
Governor

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

Mary L. Gable
Assistant State Superintendent
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Overview

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 preliminary enrollment count for the 2020-2021 school year is 402 students enrolled in grades 6 to 12 from 12 local school systems. In July 2018, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved renewal of the operating contract for a five year term, August 1, 2018, through July 31, 2023.

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. This version of the report does not include student names, so that it may be made available to the public.

The following information is included in this report: (1) projected student enrollment summary by grade and sending county for the 2020-2021 school year for all 402 students in grades 6-12; (2) student enrollment summary by grade and sending county for the 402 students in grades 6-12 who attended the SEED School for the 2019-2020 school year; (3) actual expenditures for fiscal year 2020 and the projected budget for fiscal year 2021; 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 Services, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Barbara Scherr, Program Specialist for Title I, and Walter Sallee, Director of Student Services and Strategic Planning.

COVID-19

In March 2020, The SEED School of Maryland transitioned to remote learning as directed by the State Superintendent of Schools. At that time, SEED already had a 1-1 ratio of students to laptops. High School students were accustomed to using a laptop outside of the classroom, including taking it home. Middle School students had assigned laptops for use in the classroom.

SEED School staff worked to ensure that all students had device for use at home, as well as a Wi-Fi hotspot.

As of the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the SEED School will remain in a remote instruction model through the first quarter, which ends October 30, 2020. In developing its recovery plan, the SEED school created models of hybrid learning that will be reviewed as options for returning to campus. These include setting priorities for how many, and which students to move onto campus first. The priorities for a hybrid model consider how students fared in remote learning in the spring, special education and other academic needs, and working with cohorts of students by grade. SEED's phased recovery plan includes individual and group counseling and other supports, in addition to academics. The full recovery plan can be found at the following link: [SEED School of Maryland Recovery Plan](#).

School Administration

Kirk Sykes became the Head of School at SEED MD on July 1, 2020. Mr. Sykes brings over 20 years of experience in educational leadership to SEED. Throughout his career, he has worked to balance tradition and innovation to benefit his students and their families. He holds a B.A. from Morgan State University, an M. Ed. in Education from Coppin State University, and is completing doctoral studies at Seton Hall University.

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

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 2020-2021 school year. The preliminary enrollment for 2019-2020 is pending based on the official count on September 30. Table 2 lists students by grade and local school system for the 2019-2020 school year.

Finances

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$10,715,642 to the SEED School and \$10,844,230 for FY 2021. Additional revenue is provided by a per-pupil payment made by Maryland local school systems based on the number of students from the school system attending the SEED School and federal and state grants for which the school is eligible. The SEED School also raises private funds to support enhancements to the program. Exhibit 1 reports SEED school expenditures for FY 2020 and the budget for the FY 2021. The SEED School reported operating expenditures for FY 2020 as \$15,462,996 and the projected operating budget for FY 2021 as \$16,111,267. 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.

Table 1. Enrollment by Grade and County Projected for 2020-2021

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	N = Enrolled Students
<i>Allegany</i>				1				1
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	2	4	1	5	2		1	15
<i>Baltimore City</i>	20	43	43	44	32	18	7	207
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	9	7	9	15	12	10	4	66
<i>Calvert</i>			1		1			2
<i>Cecil</i>		1			1			2
<i>Frederick</i>		1						1
<i>Harford</i>			1	1				2
<i>Howard</i>	3		1	3	3			10
<i>Montgomery</i>		2	2	2	1		1	8
<i>Prince George’s</i>	8	8	13	15	12	16	9	81
<i>St. Mary’s</i>				1		1		2
<i>Wicomico</i>			2	1	1		1	5
TOTAL	42	66	73	88	65	45	23	402

Table 2. Enrollment by Grade and County for 2019-2020

County	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	N =
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	Grade	Enrolled Students						
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	4	2	3	2	0	1	2	14
<i>Baltimore City</i>	45	45	38	36	20	10	13	207
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	7	10	14	15	9	6	5	66
<i>Calvert</i>		1		1				2
<i>Carroll</i>				1				1
<i>Cecil</i>	1			1				2
<i>Frederick</i>	1				1			2
<i>Harford</i>		1	1	1			1	4
<i>Howard</i>	1	1	3	4			2	11
<i>Montgomery</i>	2	2		2		1		7
<i>Prince George's</i>	9	14	9	15	19	9	4	79
<i>St. Mary's</i>						1		1
<i>Wicomico</i>		2	2	1		1		6
TOTAL	70	78	70	79	49	29	27	402

Exhibit 1. SEED School of Maryland Budget Summary

Revenue:

Revenue Source	FY 2020 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2021 Projected Budget
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	\$4,864,543	\$4,909,066
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$10,715,642	\$10,844,230
FARMS (Nat'l Food Program)	\$283,848	\$300,000
ESSA Grants – Title I and IV	\$840,377	\$828,194
Special Education	\$67,918	\$65,000
E rate	\$24,613	\$25,000
Medicare	\$38,047	\$59,500
Private contributions	\$605,165	\$421,000
Other	\$232,647	\$257,700
Total Revenue	\$17,672,800	\$17,709,690

Expenses:

Expense	FY 2020 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2021 Projected Budget
Salaries	\$8,831,290	\$8,940,165

Benefits and taxes	\$1,779,635	\$2,070,777
Other Staff Expense	\$173,014	\$144,869
Occupancy	\$1,586,132	\$1,646,240
Direct Student	\$1,675,604	\$1,688,902
Technology	\$161,177	\$99,715
Development	\$115,931	\$90,000
General and Administrative	\$1,140,213	\$1,430,599
Total Operating Expense	15,462,996	\$16,111,267

Change in Net Assets:

	FY 2020 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2021 Projected Budget
Revenue minus Operating Expenses	\$2,209,804	\$1,598,423
Depreciation and Amortization	\$1,441,769	\$1,467,500
Interest Expense	\$609,901	\$507,648
Loss on Refinancing	\$291,797	\$0
Change in Net Assets	(\$133,663)	(\$376,725)
Beginning Net Assets	\$23,501,670	\$23,367,007
Ending Net Assets	\$23,368,007	\$22,990,282