



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

December 1, 2021

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 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 Ary Amerikaner, Chief of Staff, at ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov or by phone at (410) 767-0090. Thank you for your continued support and interest in maintaining the highest quality of education for all students in Maryland public schools.

Sincerely,

Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools



The SEED School of Maryland: Annual Report

**Division of Student Support, Academic
Enrichment, and Educational Policy**

December 2021 Legislative Report



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mohammed Choudhury

State Superintendent of Schools
Secretary-Treasurer, Maryland State Board of Education

Mary L. Gable

Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy

Larry Hogan

Governor

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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 2021-2022 school year is 401 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 2021-2022 school year for all 401 students in grades 6-12; (2) student enrollment summary by grade and sending county for the 403 students in grades 6-12 who attended the SEED School for the 2020-2021 school year; (3) actual expenditures for fiscal year 2021 and the projected budget for fiscal year 2022; 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, Director, Office of School Innovations 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 contact with others in the Department as appropriate. Ms. Beck is supported by key MSDE staff including Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Student Services, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Barbara Scherr, Program Specialist for Title I, Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement, and Professional Learning, and Walter Sallee, Director of Student Services and Strategic Planning in the Division of Student Services, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy. The MSDE staff facilitates communications between SEED School staff, local Directors of Student Support, and other school system staff members.

COVID-19

During March 2020, as part of the state emergency, the SEED School of Maryland along with other public school systems closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the extension of the closure, schools moved to full remote learning platforms. During spring 2021 as the number of infections decreased, SEED was able to consistently bring students back to campus in small groups for in-person learning.

As of August 2021, the school is open five days a week for in-person learning at full capacity. In addition, SEED is implementing the following strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

- Masks are required on campus.
- Communication has been sent to staff and families strongly encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations. SEED has hosted two vaccination clinics on campus.
- Non-vaccinated staff and students returning to campus for in-person learning were tested/screened prior to the start of the school year. Currently, close contacts and non-vaccinated students and staff are tested on a recurring basis.
- Social distancing is practiced.
- Personal Protective Equipment supplies are in every learning space across campus.
- Local, State, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines related to COVID-19 are followed.

In the event that the number of community-based infections increase, the SEED School will determine whether to return to the hybrid (bring in small groups) or full remote phase (all students learn remotely).

School Administration

Kirk Sykes is the Head of the SEED School of Maryland and begins his second year leading the school. 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.

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 trainings sponsored by the MSDE when the content is relevant. This includes professional development provided by the Division of Special Education and the Division of Accountability and Assessment.

Finances

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$10,844,230 to the SEED School and \$10,930,964 for FY 2022. 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 2021 and the budget for the FY 2022. The SEED School reported operating expenditures for FY 2021 as \$16,057,046 and the projected operating budget for FY 2022 as \$16,506,865. 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.

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 2021-2022 school year. This preliminary enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is pending based on verification of the official count of September 30. Table 2 lists students by grade and local school system for the 2020-2021 school year.

Table 1. Enrollment by Grade and County Projected for 2021-2022

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Students
<i>Allegany</i>	1			1				2
<i>Anne Arundel</i>		2	3	1	5		1	12
<i>Baltimore City</i>	12	26	38	54	36	21	14	201
<i>Baltimore Co.</i>	10	10	6	15	16	11	9	77
<i>Cecil</i>				1		1		2
<i>Charles</i>				1				1
<i>Frederick</i>			1					1
<i>Harford</i>	1			2	1	1		5
<i>Howard</i>	2	2		1	3	3		11
<i>Montgomery</i>			2	2	1	1		6
<i>Prince George's</i>	6	11	8	17	13	12	11	78

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Students
Wicomico				2	2	1		5
TOTAL	32	51	58	97	77	51	35	401

Table 2. Enrollment by Grade and County for 2020–2021

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	N = Enrolled Students
Anne Arundel	3	4	1	8	0	1	1	18
Baltimore City	26	42	42	46	29	13	6	204
Baltimore Co.	10	9	8	15	16	11	4	73
Cecil				1	1			2
Frederick		1						1
Harford			1	1				2
Howard	2		1	3	3			9
Montgomery		2	2	2	1		1	8
Prince George's	8	8	14	15	10	15	9	79
St. Mary's				1				1
Wicomico			2	2	1		1	6
TOTAL	49	66	71	94	61	40	22	403

SEED School of Maryland Budget Summary

Revenue:

Revenue Source	FY 2021 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2022 Projected Budget
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	\$5,021,727	\$5,194,074
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$10,844,230	\$10,930,964
FARMS (Nat'l Food Program) and State	\$95,402	\$300,000
ESSA Grants – Title I, II, and IV	\$871,452	\$775,153
Special Education	\$63,587	\$75,000
COVID Relief Fund	\$663,417	0

Revenue Source	FY 2021 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2022 Projected Budget
E rate	\$51,631	\$20,000
Medicare	\$14,249	\$75,000
Private contributions	\$912,755	\$590,000
Other	\$128,778	\$15,600
Total Revenue	\$18,667,228	\$17,975,791

Expenses:

Expense	FY 2021 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2022 Projected Budget
Salaries	\$8,861,323	\$8,959,273
Benefits and taxes	\$2,179,347	\$2,203,792
Other Staff Expense	\$130,681	\$123,365
Occupancy	\$1,722,217	\$1,737,835
Direct Student	\$1,356,514	\$1,666,460
Technology	\$90,294	\$135,120
Development	\$111,713	\$129,200
General and Administrative	\$1,604,957	\$1,551,820
Total Operating Expense	\$16,057,046	\$16,506,865

Change in Net Assets:

	FY 2021 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2021 Projected Budget
Revenue minus Operating Expenses	\$2,610,182	\$1,468,926
Depreciation and Amortization	-\$1,478,064	-\$1,450,000
Interest Expense	-\$506,340	-\$481,866
Change in Net Assets	\$625,778	(\$462,940)
Beginning Net Assets	\$23,535,973	\$24,161,751
Ending Net Assets	\$24,161,751	\$23,698,811