



The SEED School of Maryland: Annual Report

Division of Student Support, Academic
Enrichment, and Educational Policy

December 2022 Legislative Report



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Overview

Education Article §8-701 established the Residential Boarding Education Program for AtRisk Youth. The operator of the Maryland Residential Boarding Program for AtRisk 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 2022-2023 school year is 398 students enrolled in grades 6 to 12 from 12 local education agencies (LEAs). In the 2022-2023 school year, the contract will be evaluated for renewal.

Education Article §8-708 directs the Board of Trustees of the designated operator of the Maryland Residential Boarding Education Program for AtRisk Youth to report to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) detailed information on the number, grades, 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 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 LEA for the 2022-2023 school year for all 398 students in grades 6-12; (2) student enrollment summary by grade and sending LEA for the 397 students in grades 6-12 who attended the SEED School for the 2021-2022 school year; (3) actual expenditures for fiscal year (FY) 2022 and the projected budget for FY 2023; 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 Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, Barbara Scherr, Program Specialist for Title I, Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement, and Professional Learning, and Walter Saltee, Director of Student Services and Strategic Planning in the Division of Student Support, 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.

School Administration

Kirk Sykes is the Head of the SEED School of Maryland and begins his third 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 Stony Brook 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 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, the Division of Accountability and Assessment, and the Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy.

Finances

In FY 2022, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$10,930,964 to the SEED School and \$12,291,760 for FY 2023. Additional revenue is provided by a per pupil payment made by Maryland LEAs based on the number of students from the LEA 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 2022 and the budget for the FY 2023. The SEED School reported operating expenditures for FY 2022 of \$16,057,046. The projected operating budget for FY 2023 totals \$18,451,046. 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 LEA. Table 1 lists students by grade and LEA for the 2022 -2023 school year. This preliminary enrollment for the 2022-2023 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 2021-2022 school year.

TABLE 1. ENROLLMENT BY GRADE AND LEA PROJECTED FOR 2022-2023

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Students
Allegany	00	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Anne Arundel	2	0	3	2	1	5	0	13
Baltimore City	24	12	22	43	41	28	18	188
Baltimore Co.	16	11	9	11	14	10	10	81
Caroline	0	0	00	1	0	0	0	1
Cecil	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Charles	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Frederick	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Students
Harford	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	6
Howard	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	12
Montgomery	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	6
Prince George's	10	9	11	9	16	10	10	75
Washington	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wicomico	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	5
TOTAL	59	36	47	73	80	59	44	398

TABLE 2. ENROLLMENT BY GRADE AND LEA FOR 2021–2022

County	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	N = Enrolled Students
Allegany	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Anne Arundel	0	2	3	1	5	0	1	12
Baltimore City	11	24	37	53	36	20	14	195
Baltimore Co.	9	12	7	16	16	11	8	79
Cecil	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Charles	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Frederick	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Harford	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	5
Howard	2	2	0	1	3	3	0	11
Montgomery	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	6
Prince George's	6	11	8	17	13	12	11	78
Wicomico	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
TOTAL	30	51	58	96	77	50	35	397

EXHIBIT 1. SEED SCHOOL OF MARYLAND BUDGET SUMMARY**Revenue:**

Revenue Source	FY 2022 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2023 Projected Approved Budget
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	\$5,388,984	\$5,295,514
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$10,930,964	\$11,747,999
FARMS (Nat'l Food Program) and State	\$370,651	\$325,000
ESSA Grants- Title I , II, and IV	\$1,386,137	\$1,797,550
Special Education	\$116,526	\$97,911
COVID Relief Fund	\$648,524	0
Concentration of Poverty	\$168,056	0
Other State grants	\$248,333	0
E rate	0	\$30,000
Medicare	\$28,416	\$30,000
Private contributions	\$582,349	\$595,000
Other	\$7,937	\$5,600
Total Revenue	\$19,876,877	\$19,924,574

Expenses:

Expense	FY 2021 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2023 Projected Approved Budget
Salaries	\$9,145,015	\$10,153,632
Benefits and taxes	\$2,055,017	\$2,377,910
Other Staff Expense	\$141,025	\$112,399
Occupancy	\$1,974,433	\$1,832,028
Direct Student	\$2,445,583	\$1,938,850
Technology	\$86,996	\$131,400
Development	\$149,854	\$137,500
General and Administrative	\$1,818,633	\$1,767,327
Total Operating Expense	\$17,816,556	\$18,451,046

Change In Net Assets:

Summary	FY 2022 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2023 Projected Budget
Revenue minus Operating Expenses	\$2,060,321	\$1,473,529
Depreciation and Amortization	-\$1,506,238	-\$1,450,000
Interest Expense	-\$511,845	-\$453,050
Forgiveness of Debit Income	\$1,980,505	0
Change in Net Assets	\$2,022,743	(\$429,521)
Beginning Net Assets	\$24,235,223	\$26,257,966
Ending Net Assets	\$26,257,966	\$25,828,445