



**Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.**  
**State Superintendent of Schools**

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October 8, 2014

The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson  
Ways and Means Committee  
131 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton  
Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Norman H. Conway  
Appropriations Committee  
121 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Enhanced Program-Maryland School for the Blind (MSAR#93)

Dear Chairman Hixson, Chairman Kasemeyer, Chairman Middleton, Chairman Conway:

Section §8-315 of the Education Article requires the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) to establish and operate a program of enhanced services for blind students who have other severe disabilities. The students served in the Enhanced Program shall be students who are at risk of requiring nonpublic placement in an out-of-state special education facility. The State pays the cost of serving students in the Enhanced Program based on an individual cost sheet on file at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

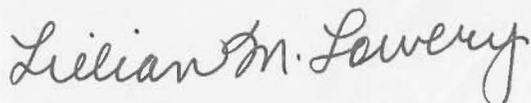
Pursuant to Section §8-315 of the Education Article, the MSDE shall report to the budget committees, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee on or before September 1 of each year on the number of students enrolled in the Enhanced Program of the MSB and the annual costs for the program. In addition, the MSDE shall report on any anticipated enrollment growth and future costs related to the Enhanced Program.

Listed below is a report of the number of students enrolled and the annual costs of the Enhanced Program at the MSB for school year 2013-2014. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2014-2015, reflects projected enrollment of 67 students at a cost of \$4,429,330 (\$220,757 in local costs and \$4,208,574 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year decreases by 7 students from the previous school year at an increase in State cost of \$334,050.

School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2013-2014	74	\$256,475	\$3,838,805	\$4,095,280
2014-2015 (projected)	67	\$220,757	\$4,208,574	\$4,429,330
Difference	(7)	(\$35,718)	\$369,769	\$334,050

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Marcella E. Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services. She may be reached at (410) 767-0238. We look forward to our continued partnership in our vision to create a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for children with disabilities, birth through 21 years of age and their families.

Sincerely,



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

LML/MEF:ca

C: The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller  
The Honorable Michael E. Busch