

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

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September 1, 2015

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

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

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairman
House Appropriation Committee
121 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

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

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

Dear Senator Kasemeyer, Senator Middleton, Delegate McIntosh and Delegate Hixson:

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, 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.

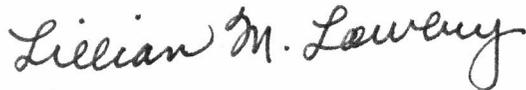
Below are the number of students enrolled and the annual costs of the Enhanced Program at the MSB for school year 2014-2015. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2015-2016, reflects projected enrollment of 63 students at a cost of \$4,387,335 (\$273,284 in local costs and \$4,114,051 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year decreases by 11 students from the previous school year at a decrease in State cost of \$69,137.

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Page 2

School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2014-2015	74	\$248,837	\$4,183,188	\$4,432,025
2015-2016 (projected)	63	\$273,284	\$4,114,051	\$4,387,335
Difference	(11)	\$24,447	(\$69,137)	(\$44,690)

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 a 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 Larry Hogan
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
The Honorable Michael E. Busch