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September 1, 2017

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

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

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
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 Kaiser:

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 Department 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 2016-2017. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2017-2018, reflects projected enrollment of 56 students at a cost of \$5,210,995 (\$282,554 in local costs and \$4,928,441 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year increases by 4 students from the previous school year at an increase in State cost of \$723,584.

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School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2016-2017 (final)	52	\$276,910	\$4,204,857	\$4,481,767
2017-2018 (projected)	56	\$282,554	\$4,928,441	\$5,210,995
Difference	4	\$5,644	\$723,584	\$729,228

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,



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

KBS/MEF:ca

c: The Honorable Larry Hogan
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Sarah Albert (DLS Library)