



September 1, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Benjamin Barnes, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
131 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Enhanced Program-Maryland School for the Blind (MSAR#11944)

Dear Senator Guzzone, Senator Kelley, Delegate Barnes, and Delegate Atterbeary:

Section §8-311 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 §8-311 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.

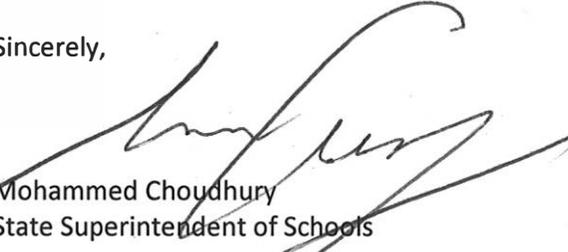
Below are the number of students enrolled and the annual costs of the Enhanced Program at the MSB for school year 2021-2022. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2022-2023, reflects projected enrollment of 64 students at a cost of \$7,568,053 (\$406,869 in local costs and \$7,161,184 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year decreases by 11 students from the previous school year with an increase in State cost of \$1,374,450.

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School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2021-2022 (final)	75	\$429,235	\$5,786,734	\$6,215,969
2022-2023 (projected)	64	\$406,869	\$7,161,184	\$7,568,053
Difference	(11)	(\$22,366)	\$1,374,450	\$1,352,084

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Marcella E. Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education 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,



Mohammed Choudhury  
State Superintendent of Schools

MC/MEF:sp

c: The Honorable Larry Hogan  
The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones