



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

September 1, 2021

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 Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
131 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Senator Guzzone, Senator Kelley, Delegate McIntosh, and Delegate Kaiser:

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 2020-2021. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2021-2022, reflects projected enrollment of 75 students at a cost of \$6,637,988 (\$420,394 in local costs and \$6,217,594 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year decreases by four students from the previous school year with an increase in State cost of \$1,548,642.

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School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2020-2021 (final projected)	79	\$415,585	\$4,668,952	\$5,084,537
2021-2022 (projected)	75	\$420,394	\$6,217,594	\$6,637,988
Difference	(4)	\$4,809	\$1,548,642	\$1,553,451

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