



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

September 1, 2018

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

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

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

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
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 of the Annotated Code of Maryland 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 must be students who are at risk of requiring nonpublic placement in an out-of-state special education facility.

Pursuant to § 8-315 of the Education Article, the MSDE must report to the budget committees, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee on the number of students enrolled in the Enhanced Program of the MSB and the annual costs for the program. In addition, the MSDE must 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 the 2017-2018 school year. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2018-2019, reflects projected enrollment of 68 students at a cost of \$5,620,372 (\$349,000 in local costs and \$5,271,372 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year increases by 14 students from the previous school year at an increase in State cost of \$635,221.

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School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2017-2018 (final)	54	\$282,995	\$4,636,151	\$4,919,146
2018-2019 (projected)	68	\$349,000	\$5,271,372	\$5,620,372
Difference	14	\$66,005	\$635,221	\$701,226

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.

Best Regards,



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
Ms. Marcella E. Franczkowski
Sarah Albert (DLS Library – 5 copies)