

Education



The State continues to make investments in education at the pre-kindergarten through higher education levels to ensure Maryland citizens receive a top ranked education and our economy benefits from a well-educated citizenry.

K-12 Education Aid Funding

- The budget includes a \$45.3 million increase in State aid to public schools, after contingent reductions, bringing the FY 2016 total to \$6.1 billion.
- To provide stipends for teachers who obtain higher levels of education and certification, \$10.6 million in additional funding will be available for Quality Teacher Incentives in FY 2016.

Public School Construction

The FY 2016 capital budget provides \$290.7 million for K-12 education projects:

- \$280 million for the Public School Construction Program, including \$6.5 million for a new academic building and dormitory at the Maryland School for the Blind;

- \$6.1 million for the Aging Schools Program; and
- \$4.6 million in Qualified Zone Academy Bonds.

Early Childhood Education

- The budget maintains \$4.3 million in State funds for prekindergarten education, leveraging \$15 million in new federal grant funds that will provide free prekindergarten to an additional 3,000 low-income students in FY 2016.
- Child Care Subsidy federal funding grows by \$9.5 million over FY 2015. Total funding of \$92.5 million in FY 2016 is estimated to provide free or reduced-priced child care to 18,120 children.

Other Education Programs

- The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), which promotes the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities, is budgeted at \$109.5 million in FY 2016, an increase of 6% over FY 2015.
- The budget includes \$35.1 million in additional federal funds for school lunch and breakfast programs, bringing the total for school nutrition programs to \$354.9 million in FY 2016.
- Maryland Meals for Achievement, a State program that provides free breakfast in the classroom at 462 low-income schools throughout Maryland, is funded at \$6.9 million.
- \$18.2 million is provided for the Autism Waiver, enabling 1,000 children diagnosed with severe autism to receive services in their community rather than in more restrictive and expensive institutional settings.