

Maryland Association of Boards of Education



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April 25, 2016

The Honorable Larry J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, thanks you for your strong support for Maryland's public schools as clearly demonstrated by the education funding included in your proposed State Budget and Capital Budget bills. MABE greatly appreciates your commitment to the continued success of the state's outstanding public schools and your actions to fully fund state aid for programs serving Maryland's more than 860,000 prekindergarten through twelfth grade students.

Also included in the enacted State Budget, Senate Bill 190, is \$19 million for retirement costs and \$6 million for the Aging Schools Program. This combined \$25 million in aid to education currently provided, but not allocated, in the State Budget, would greatly benefit the fiscal strength of school system budgets in the 2016-2017 school year. Therefore, MABE respectfully requests your action to approve the allocation of this much needed funding.

Maryland's school systems confront a significant gap between the amount of mandated payments to the State Retirement Agency for teacher retirement costs and the funding provided by local government to do so. In 2012, the General Assembly shifted 100% of the "normal" cost share of teachers' retirement costs to local boards of education. Since FY 2013, school board funding obligations have been matched substantially by mandated local government payments to local boards. However, beginning in FY 2017 any future growth in the "normal" costs will be included in the local boards of education obligation to the State Retirement Agency, without any provision of a funding source. In FY 2017, the growth over FY 2016 is \$25 million statewide. Therefore, MABE requests your approval of the allocation of the \$19 million provided in the State Budget to assist school systems in meeting these retirement costs.

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MABE has been an unwavering advocate of the Aging Schools Program since it was established in 1997 and strongly supports maintaining the \$6 million Aging Schools Program in FY 2017. This program provides state funding to local school systems for improvements and repairs of older public school buildings and has contributed to the completion of many important school facility projects that would not have otherwise qualified for state funding. The Aging Schools Program provides much needed targeted resources to local school systems for school repairs that are necessary to maintain older public schools. Eligible expenditures under the program include asbestos and lead paint abatement; fire protection systems and equipment; painting; plumbing; roofing; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; and other renovation projects. Therefore, MABE requests your approval of the allocation of the \$6 million provided in the State Budget for this important program.

Again, thank you for your leadership and support for public education, and for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact MABE for information or assistance on this or any other education issue.

Sincerely,



Brig.Gen. (Ret) Warner I. Sumpter
President

WIS:kwb

Copy to:

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Ms. Frances Hughes Glendening, MABE Executive Director
MABE Board of Directors
Board Presidents/Chairs
Superintendents of Schools/Chief Executive Officers
Mrs. Renee M. Spence, PSSAM Executive Director