2017 Legislative Session Summary & Education Bill Highlights

May 4, 2017
The 2017 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 and adjourned “sine die” at midnight on Monday April 10, 2017. The session saw the introduction of 1672 House bills and 1208 Senate bills.

Of these 2880 bills and resolutions, MABE tracked more than 400 bills, and provided testimony and advocated on more than 60 House bills and more than 40 Senate Bills.
MABE’s top legislative priorities for the 2017 session included:

- Support for continued governance autonomy for local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets; and opposition to unfunded mandates;
- Support for full State funding for Maryland’s outstanding public schools;
- Support for robust State funding of at least $350 million for school construction and renovation projects; and
- Support for sustained local government investments in education.
MABE in Annapolis

- MABE provided written and oral testimony on priority bills.

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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 331, which would prohibit the use of physical restraint or seclusion of a student except in very narrow circumstances. MABE recognizes that the statute may be in need of updating, but respectfully requests that any statutory changes more closely reflect the regulations that now govern these practices.
New Laws Enacted in 2017

Student Assessments
• More Learning, Less Testing Act

State Accountability Plan
• Protect Our Schools Act

Employee Relations
• Whistleblower Protection Act
• Suicide Risk Response Training

Special Education
• Burden of Proof – Study
• Parental Consent – Limited to Three Decisions

Curriculum & Instruction
• Heroin/Opioid Education & School Health

State Budgets: Operating for Education & Capital for School Construction

Student Discipline
• PreK-Grade 2 Suspension Ban
• School to Prison Pipeline & Restorative Practices Commission

Safety
• Evacuation Plans for Disabled Students
• Fire Drill Adjustments

Environment
• Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water

Local Board Reforms
Student Testing Reforms


• By December 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter in odd numbered years, school systems and teachers unions must mutually agree to a limited amount of time that may be devoted to federal, State, and locally mandated assessments.

• Failure to mutually agree results in grade level caps of 2.2%; and 2.3% for 8th grade.

• In even numbered years, school systems must convene District Committees on Assessments comprised of parents and teachers selected by the exclusive bargaining unit to make recommendations on assessment policies regarding purpose, value, redundancy, and timing of results.
Consolidated State Plan and Support and Improvement Plans (Protect Our Schools Act of 2017) (HB 978) (Del. Luedtke)

- This bill governs the State’s consolidated state plan to improve student outcomes under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). MSDE must submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in September of 2017.
- The bill specifies parameters for academic and school quality indicators; comprehensive support and improvement plans; targeted support and improvement plans; and prohibits the State from imposing certain interventions.
- The combined total of the academic indicators may not exceed 65% of the composite score.
Whistleblower Protection for School Employees (HB 1145) (Del. Tarlau)

- This bill prohibits a public school employer from taking, or refusing to take, any personnel action as reprisal against a public school employee because the employee discloses or threatens to disclose unlawful behavior; provides information or testifies for an investigation of unlawful behavior; or objects to or refuses to participate in unlawful behavior.

- Importantly, as amended the bill requires that a school employee must exhaust any administrative remedies before instituting a civil action under the bill.
Suicide Risk Response Training *(HB 920)* (Del. Fraser-Hidalgo)

- This bill requires the State Board of Education to require, by July 1, 2018, all certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis to complete training by December 1 each year in the skills required to (1) understand and respond to youth suicide risk and (2) identify professional resources to help students in crisis.

- Each local board must determine the method of training, which must be provided during (1) an in-service program or (2) a professional development requirement that may be met during time designated for professional development.
Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act *(HB 1)* *(Del/ Clippinger)*

- This bill requires an employer with more than 14 employees to have a sick and safe leave policy under which an employee earns at least 1 hour of paid sick and safe leave, at the same rate as the employee normally earns, for every 30 hours an employee works.
- An employer is not required to allow an employee to earn or carry over more than 56 hours of earned sick and safe leave in a year, use more than 80 hours of earned leave in a year, accrue more than 80 hours at any time, or use earned sick and safe leave during the first 90 calendar days worked or first 480 hours worked, whichever is shorter. The bill takes effect January 1, 2018.
School Responses to Opioid Crisis

Heroin/Opioid Education & School Health (HB 1082/SB 1060) (Del. Bromwell/Sen. Miller)

- This bill (1) requires the State Board of Education to expand an existing program in the public schools to encompass drug addiction and prevention education (specifically heroin and opioids); (2) requires each local board of education to establish a policy requiring each public school to store naloxone and authorize school personnel to administer it; and (3) requires each local board of education or local health department to hire a county or regional community action official or to develop an equivalent program.
Studies of Special Education Program & Services (HB 1240) (Del. Kaiser)

• By July 1, 2018, MSDE must contract with an outside entity to conduct a study of the individualized education program (IEP) process in the State. MSDE must report the findings and recommendations of the consultant to the General Assembly by July 1, 2019.

• MSDE, in consultation with school systems, must review and assess staff allocations and resources available to assist the parents and guardians of children with disabilities to participate in the IEP process, as well as current population densities of children with IEPs and of special education teachers.
Parental Consent for IEP Team Decisions *(HB 174/SB 710)*
(Del. Luedtke/Sen. Conway)

- This bill requires the individualized education program (IEP) team to obtain written consent from a parent if the team proposes to (1) enroll the child in an alternative education program that does not issue or provide credits toward a high school diploma; (2) identify the child for the alternate assessment aligned with the State’s alternate curriculum; or (3) include restraint or seclusion in the IEP to address the child’s behavior.
Seclusion/Restraint – Taskforce to Update Regulations (SB 786) (Sen. Zucker)

• This bill requires MSDE to convene a task force to examine policies and practices related to behavioral interventions in schools, including the use of restraint, seclusion, and trauma-informed interventions.

• The task force must develop proposed regulations and consider issues such as observation, locking mechanisms, duration of time, and discontinuation of use.

• The task force must report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly by October 1, 2017 on its findings and recommended regulations related to seclusion.

• New reporting requirements on the use of seclusion and restraint to be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year.
Specialized Intervention Services – Reports (SB 1) (Sen. Conway)

- This bill requires that, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each local board of education must, by December 1 of each year, submit a report on specialized intervention services to MSDE.

- The report must include information on the number of students in kindergarten through grade 3 receiving the services, the grades in which the services were provided, and the annual budget (including federal, State, and local funds) for the services.
Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Act **(SB 319)** (Administration)

- This Administration bill alters many aspects of the Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Program and establishes funding mechanisms for the program.

- A P-TECH school is a public secondary school selected by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) that partners with both a college partner and an industry partner. The P-TECH school provides a “pathway sequence” which is a curriculum or course of study that leads to a high school diploma and an associate’s degree that may be completed within a six-year period.

- The funding mechanisms require State and local funds that result in no cost to the student. The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.
More Jobs for Marylanders Act (SB 317) (Administration)

- This Administration bill, in part, establishes a 10-year income tax credit for specified manufacturing businesses in certain jurisdictions if the businesses increase employment and offer ongoing job skills enhancement training.
- SB 317 also requires the State Board of Education to develop statewide career and technical education (CTE) goals. Specifically, goals must be set for each year from 2018 through 2024 so that by January 1, 2025, 45% of high school students successfully complete a CTE program, earn industry-recognized occupational or skill credentials, or complete a registered youth or other apprenticeship before graduating high school.
Discipline – Ban on Early Grade Suspensions

Ban on Suspensions & Expulsions in Prekindergarten through Grade 2 (HB 425/SB 651) (Del. Lierman/Sen. Smith)

• This bill prohibits a child enrolled in a public prekindergarten program through second grade from being suspended or expelled from school, subject to exceptions. The bill allows a student in the specified grades to be expelled if required by federal law.

• A student may be suspended for up to five school days if the school administration, in consultation with a school psychologist or other mental health professional, determines that there is an imminent threat of serious harm to other students or staff that cannot be reduced or eliminated through interventions and supports.
Commission on the School-To-Prison Pipeline & Restorative Practices (HB 1287) (Del. A. Washington)

• This bill establishes the Commission on the School-to-Prison Pipeline and Restorative Practices, staffed by the Center for Dispute Resolution at the University of Maryland School of Law.

• The commission must study current disciplinary practices in Maryland public schools; investigate potential implementation options regarding incorporating restorative practices; document relationships between educational histories of Maryland students, including suspensions, expulsions, retention rates, and dropout rates; and establish a Collaborative Action Plan for a statewide framework for redesigning public school discipline practices.
Safety – Disabled Student Evacuation Plans

Education - Emergency and Evacuation Plans - Individuals With Disabilities (HB 1061) (Del. A. Washington)

• This bill requires MSDE to update the Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools by December 1, 2017, to accommodate, safeguard, and evacuate students, staff, and visitors with disabilities on public school grounds in accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

• By July 1, 2018, each local school system must update its emergency plan to comply with the updated guidelines and regulations.

• If a student with an IEP or 504 Plan requires specific accommodations for evacuation, then the students IEP or 504 Plan must address the student’s needs.
Safety – Fire Drill Reforms

Fire Drills Requirements (HB 1066/SB 201) (Del. Ebersole/Sen. King)

• Local school systems must hold a fire drill in each public school in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code instead of at least 10 times per school year and at least once every 60 days.

• For educational facilities, the code requires those with automatic sprinkler systems to hold five fire drills per year, with at least two occurring in the first four months of the school year.

• Educational facilities that are not fully protected by automatic sprinkler systems must hold eight fire drills annually, with at least three scheduled in the first four months of the school year.
Anonymous Two-Way Electronic Tip Programs (HB 669) (Del. Arentz)

• This bill authorizes, but does not require, a local board of education to establish a two-way electronic tip program for the anonymous reporting of bullying, harassment, or intimidation of a student.

• The purpose of the program is for a student, parent, guardian, or close adult relative of a student or a school staff member to report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
Open Meetings Act Training (HB 880/SB 450) (Del. Morales/Sen. Manno)

- Beginning October 1, 2017, a public body may not meet in closed session unless at least one member of the body has been designated to receive training on the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. If at least one such individual cannot be present at an open meeting of the public body, the body must complete a specified compliance checklist developed by OAG and include the checklist in the meeting minutes.

- The classes are offered online at no charge and last between 30 and 60 minutes.

- This bill adds MABE as an approved organization for training purposes.

- This bill requires a custodian of a public record who denies an application for inspection of a public record under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA), to include in the written statement that explains the reasons for the denial an explanation of why redacting information would not address the reasons for the denial.

• This emergency bill establishes a Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for four-year-olds.
• MSDE must designate a chair of the workgroup and provide staff. By September 1, 2017, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The bill terminates one year from the date it is enacted.
Individualized or Group Behavioral Counseling Services (HB 786) (Del. Angel)

- This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), in conjunction with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), to recommend best practices for local boards of education to provide to students (1) behavioral needs assessments and (2) individualized or group behavioral health counseling services with a health care provider through a school-based health center or community-partnered school-based behavioral health services.
Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water (HB 270) (Del. Lafferty)

• This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment, in consultation with MSDE, the Department of General Services, and Maryland Occupational Safety and Health, to adopt regulations to require periodic testing for lead in each “drinking water outlet” located in an occupied public or nonpublic school building.

• Regulations must (1) require initial testing to be conducted by July 1, 2018; (2) phase in the testing, as specified; and (3) establish specific follow-up actions for positive test results. A waiver from the required testing may be granted under specified conditions. The bill also establishes reporting requirements. The bill takes effect June 1, 2017.
Hunger-Free Schools Act (HB 287/SB 361) (Del. Hixson/Sen. Madaleno)

• This bill extends through fiscal 2022 the provision in law that altered the enrollment count used to calculate State compensatory education aid in FY 2017 and 2018 for local boards of education that participate, in whole or in part, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

• The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 amended the National School Lunch Act to provide an alternative to household applications for free and reduced-price meals. LEAs and schools must meet a minimum level of students directly certified for free meals (40% of enrollment) and serve free lunches and breakfasts to all students.
Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program (HB 257/SB 359) (Del. Hixson/ Sen. Madaleno)

- This bill authorizes secondary schools that participate in the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-classroom Breakfast Program (MMFA) to serve breakfast in any part of the school, including from “Grab and Go” carts, after arrival of students to the school.

- The bill also clarifies that schools that provide breakfasts in the classroom through MMFA, to students at all grade levels, must serve the breakfasts after arrival of students to the school. The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.
Pregnant & Parenting Student Absence Policy (HB 616/SB 232) (Del. Atterbeary/Sen. Manno)

• This bill requires that a student’s absence due to pregnancy or parenting needs is a lawful absence. Each local board of education must develop a written attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students.

• In addition to home and hospital services, the school may allow the student to make up the work that the student missed in a time period that equals at least as many days that the student was absent.

• The student may choose to retake a semester; participate in an online course credit recovery program; or allow the student six weeks to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date. The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.
School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Civil Penalty (SB 154)  
(Sen. King)

• This bill increases the maximum civil penalty for a violation recorded by a school bus monitoring camera for failure to stop for a school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights to $500.

• Today, the maximum fine is $250, however the judiciary has the set the standard fine at $125. Therefore, the outcome of this legislation is intended to be a standard fine of $250.
School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Exclusion of Vehicle Rental Companies \((\text{HB 263})\) (Del. Carr)

- This bill, by repealing an exclusion, subjects a motor vehicle rental company, as the owner of a vehicle, to enforcement of violations recorded by school bus monitoring cameras.
Maryland Education Development Collaborative (SB 908) (Sen. Ferguson)

- This bill establishes the Maryland Education Development Collaborative (EDCO) as an instrumentality of the State, managed by a governing board.
- EDCO is to advise and make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the General Assembly, and local school systems regarding statutory and regulatory policies necessary to promote twenty-first century learning and to enhance socioeconomic and demographic diversity across the State’s public schools. EDCO is to foster partnerships between public schools, private businesses, universities, government, and nonprofit entities; and authorize funds and innovation grants.
State Aid for Public Education in FY 2018

State Operating Budget for Education (HB 150) (Administration)

• The FY 2018 State Budget totals $43.5 billion, and includes the State education aid for FY 2018 to fund public schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

• Maryland’s 24 local school systems will receive $5.6 billion in FY 2018, and overall direct aid to local school systems will increase by $96.4 million, or 1.7%.

• Funded Programs: Foundation, Compensatory, Limited English Proficient, Special Education, Transportation, Geographic Cost of Education Index, Guaranteed Tax Base, Net Taxable Income, Supplemental Grants, and others.

• State payments to the pension system for retired teachers totals $734 million.
## State Aid for Public Education in FY 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Program</td>
<td>2,961,988</td>
<td>3,005,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Taxable Income Grant</td>
<td>39,702</td>
<td>49,170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Increment Financing Grant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographic Cost of Education Index</td>
<td>136,898</td>
<td>139,127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Grant</td>
<td>46,620</td>
<td>46,620</td>
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<td>Foundation Special Grant</td>
<td>19,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declining Enrollment Supplemental Grant</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compensatory Education Program</td>
<td>1,309,146</td>
<td>1,305,545</td>
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<td>Special Education Program</td>
<td>279,608</td>
<td>284,873</td>
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<td>Nonpublic Special Education</td>
<td>$121,618</td>
<td>$123,618</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficiency</td>
<td>227,020</td>
<td>248,684</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guaranteed Tax Base</td>
<td>54,511</td>
<td>50,304</td>
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<td>Student Transportation</td>
<td>270,801</td>
<td>276,341</td>
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<td>Prekindergarten Expansion</td>
<td>4,300</td>
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<td>Prekindergarten Supplemental Grant</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aging Schools ¹</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,109</td>
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<td>Other Programs ²</td>
<td>65,877</td>
<td>78,919</td>
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<td><strong>Direct Aid Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,537,519</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,651,160</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Teachers’ Retirement</strong></td>
<td><strong>$786,950</strong></td>
<td><strong>$734,454</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,324,469</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,385,615</strong></td>
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The BOOST Voucher Program

State Operating Budget for Education (HB 150) (Administration)

- The State Budget provides $5.5 million for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) program and alters funding specifications and reporting requirements.
- The House approve a much lower amount of $2 million and the Senate recommended the full amount requested by the Governor of $6.85 million.
- MSDE is required to report on the distribution of the BOOST Program scholarships, information on the students receiving scholarships and teacher certifications for participating non-public schools.
Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - County Boards of Education Payments *(HB 1109/SB 1001)*

- This bill relieves county boards of education, including the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, from their FY 2017 obligation to pay $19,695,182 of their share of the employer normal cost for their employees who are members of the Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) or Teachers’ Pension System (TPS).
# Teachers’ Retirement – FY 2017 Gap Closure

Reductions in Retirement Payments Owed by School Systems in FY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegany</td>
<td>$187,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel</td>
<td>1,661,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
<td>1,740,968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>2,297,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>350,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline</td>
<td>116,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>509,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecil</td>
<td>340,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>569,211</td>
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<td>Dorchester</td>
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<td>Frederick</td>
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<td>Garrett</td>
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<td>Harford</td>
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<td>Howard</td>
<td>1,474,783</td>
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<td>Kent</td>
<td>44,105</td>
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<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>4,111,848</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince George’s</td>
<td>2,951,205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s</td>
<td>159,946</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
<td>347,165</td>
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<td>Somerset</td>
<td>69,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talbot</td>
<td>89,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>440,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wicomico</td>
<td>318,624</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>179,422</td>
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</table>

$19,695,182
State Grants for Education Aid (HB 684/SB 1024)

- This bill provides enrollment-based and PreK supplemental grants to eligible local boards for FY 2018 through 2020.
- A local board is eligible for an enrollment-based supplemental grant if the county’s most recent prior three-year moving average full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE) is greater than the FTE in the previous school year.
- A local board is eligible for a prekindergarten grant if the local board offers a full-day program for all four-year-olds who are enrolled in public prekindergarten. PreK supplemental grant award amounts are phased in over a three-year period. Baltimore City Public Schools’ state grants are conditioned on additional local funding.
- PreK Grants: Baltimore City: $10 million; Garrett $248,000; Kent $73,000; and Somerset $455,000.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Supplemental Grant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegany</td>
<td>$793,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
<td>13,545,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>239,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>1,606,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecil</td>
<td>189,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garrett</td>
<td>208,900</td>
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<td>Harford</td>
<td>356,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>142,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s</td>
<td>21,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talbot</td>
<td>133,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,236,900</strong></td>
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FY 2018 Capital Budget for School Facilities

- The combined State investment in public school construction for FY 2018 totals more than the $350 million requested by MABE.
- The FY 2018 Capital Budget provides $285 million for the Public School Construction Program, and additional funding initiatives.
- $62.5 million is included in the budget for the Supplemental Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems. This program provides funds to systems with enrollment growth exceeding 150% of the statewide average or with 300 or more relocatable classrooms.
- The Aging School Construction Program for public schools is fully funded at $6.1 million. And the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program is funded at $4.8 million.
State Capital Budget (HB 151) (Administration)

• On March 29, 2017, the Maryland General Assembly passed the FY 2018 Capital Budget (HB 151).

• A conference committee amendment to the capital budget added a provision eliminating the role of the Board of Public Works (BPW) in granting final approval of the decisions made by the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC).

• By removing the BPW process from the final approval role on school construction project spending, this provision eliminates the purpose of the annual “Beg-A-Thon” at which school systems have traditionally made such requests.
Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs)

Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (HB 153) (Administration)

• This Administration bill authorizes the Board of Public Works to issue $4,823,000 in interest-free Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) by December 31, 2017, and grant the proceeds to the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the renovation, repair, and capital improvements of qualified zone academies, including public charter schools.

• Proceeds from the sale of QZABs must be spent no later than three years after the issuance of the bonds. The bill takes effect June 1, 2017.
Anne Arundel County - Board of Education (HB 716) (Anne Arundel County Delegation)

- This bill restructures the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from a nine-member appointed board to an eight-member elected board consisting of seven elected members (one from each of the seven councilmanic districts on a nonpartisan basis) and one student member.
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Members - Appointment and Removal (HB 562/SB 1012) (Del. Hayes/Sen. Conway)

• This bill repeals the role of the Governor in making appointments to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The bill also repeals the Governor’s role in filling board vacancies and removing board members for certain causes.

• As a result, board members will be appointed solely by the Mayor of Baltimore City on the effective date of the bill. The bill establishes the Baltimore City Public School Board Community Panel (which the mayor must convene) to select nominees to be recommended to the mayor.
Selection of Members to the Baltimore County School Board (HB 88) (Baltimore County Delegation)

- This bill prohibits the Governor from appointing as a member of the Baltimore County Board of Education an individual who is a candidate for election to the board during an election year.

- Prior to recommending to the Governor nominees for appointment to the board, the commission must hold at least three public hearings, each in a different councilmanic district.

- The bill also requires the commission, rather than the Governor, to designate one of its members as chair of the commission by a majority vote.
Howard County Board of Education - Elected School Board (HB 1299) (Howard County Delegation)

• This bill restructures the Howard County Board from an eight-member board consisting of all at-large members to an eight-member board consisting of five members elected from each of the five councilmanic districts and two at-large members, in addition to one student member.

• The members of councilmanic districts must be residents of their respective districts. If the boundary line of a district is changed, the term of an incumbent member who no longer resides in the district because of the change is not affected for that term. Elected members will serve staggered four-year terms.

• The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

- This bill would have altered the procedures for suspending or dismissing a teacher, principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, or other professional assistant by authorizing such an individual to request a hearing before an arbitrator instead of the local board of education.
- Under the bill, the local board of education would have been required to pay the full cost and expenses of the arbitration. The school system share of the cost was reduced to 75% in the Senate by amendment to SB 760.
- HB 497 was not acted on in the House. However, SB 760 passed the Senate 32-15, but was not acted on in the House.
Stormwater Remediation Fees for School Systems (HB 656) (Del. Barve)

- This bill would have subjected property owned by the State or a unit of State government, a county, a municipality, a public college or university, or a local school system, to stormwater fees.

- School Systems would have been subject to fees if the property is subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued to the county or municipality; the property is eligible for credits against the fees or charges to the same extent as other property located in the county or municipality; and the local jurisdiction and the property owner have not entered into a mutually agreed upon alternative arrangement in lieu of a stormwater remediation fee or charge.
Identity Protection and Credit Monitoring Services (Student Identity Protection Act) (HB 704) (Del. Vogt)

• This bill would have required the State Board of Education to provide identity protection and credit monitoring services for at least five years to any current or former student whose personal information has been compromised by a breach of a public school’s or local school system’s computer network, computer control language, computer, computer software, computer system, computer service, or computer database in violation of the Criminal Law Article.

• This bill did not pass. However, it was referred to interim study.
MABE’s 2017 Legislative Session Summary
An overview of education-related budget and legislative highlights from the Session. Intended to prepare local boards of education and local school systems for the implementation of the new laws, regulations, policies and procedures.

90 Day Report: A Review of the 2017 Legislative Session
The General Assembly’s Department of Legislative Services (DLS) comprehensive summary of all policy and budget matters considered during session.