

# Quality of Life



## K-12 Education

- For the fifth consecutive year, the Hogan administration is providing record funding for K-12 education. The FY 2020 budget includes a \$6.9 billion state investment in Maryland's public schools, fully funding state aid programs. Direct aid to local schools grows by \$311.7 million or 5.3 percent, the largest increase to date under Governor Hogan.
- The governor's education budget goes above and beyond required statutory funding formulas to ensure that every Maryland jurisdiction receives more direct education aid than in FY 2019. Baltimore City will receive an additional \$11.1 million and Cecil County nearly \$800,000.
- Consistent with passage of the constitutional amendment establishing the education "lock-box," \$125 million in gaming revenues are dedicated to the following educational enhancements: \$65 million for school construction (including \$20 million to start a revolving loan fund to assist local jurisdictions), \$15 million for prekindergarten expansion, \$4.5 million for Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) to provide extended academic programming for at-risk students at schools, \$2.5 million for the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative, \$2 million for innovative Career Technology Edu-

cation programs, \$250,000 to expand teacher recruitment and outreach, and \$35.8 million for future initiatives as determined by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

- In addition, \$200 million in state funding remains reserved to implement recommendations of the Kirwan Commission.

## School Safety and Accountability

- The safety of Maryland's children is a top Hogan administration priority. In 2018, the governor launched a series of initiatives supporting school safety, including new funding, an executive order, a new tip line and mobile app, and emergency legislation.
- The FY 2020 budget continues this commitment with \$10 million in capital grants to local school systems to make safety-related improvements to school facilities; an additional \$3.5 million is included for safety improvements at non-public schools.
- \$10.6 million is provided for local school systems to hire school resource officers and to implement other best practices; approximately \$400,000 is provided to support new school resource officers at the Maryland School for the Deaf.
- The governor's budget doubles to \$2 million the amount available for upgrades and security personnel for schools and child care centers in Maryland deemed at-risk for hate crimes.
- An additional \$1.4 million and 11 positions are included to support the newly created Education Monitoring Unit and Office of Compliance and Oversight, enabling the Maryland State Department of Education and the State Board of Education to evaluate and investigate allegations of misconduct and corruption in local school systems.

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## Early Childhood Education

- \$20 million in state funding is included in the FY 2020 budget to expand access to prekindergarten throughout the state, bringing total state enhancement funding to \$43.5 million. Under the Hogan administration, state funding to expand access to prekindergarten education has grown by 1,011 percent.
- The Hogan administration has taken great strides this past year to enhance the Child Care Subsidy program, raising subsidy rates by 8 percent, eliminating the waitlist, and doubling income eligibility requirements. The FY 2020 budget includes an additional \$34 million for the program to implement these policy changes and further increase subsidy rates.
- State aid for local Head Start programs grows to \$3 million in FY 2020, an increase of \$1.2 million compared to FY 2019.



## Other Education Programs

- The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program grows by \$3 million to \$10 million, fulfilling the governor's commitment to double funding for the program over three years. BOOST provides scholarships for low-income students from areas with under-performing schools to attend non-

public schools, giving them the opportunity for a better education.

- The budget contains \$1.8 million in additional state funds for school lunch and breakfast programs, including \$1.1 million to make all reduced-price meals free for students and \$650,000 to expand the Maryland Meals for Achievement program. This brings total state support to \$12.3 million in FY 2020.
- The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), which promotes the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities, receives \$122.8 million in FY 2020. Due in part to enhancement funding provided by the administration, the wait list for DORS has fallen by 41 percent in the past two years.
- The budget fully funds the state aid formula for the Maryland School for the Deaf at \$33.1 million and the Maryland School for the Blind at \$23.9 million.
- The budget includes a \$3 million or 3.7 percent increase to fully fund aid to local libraries at \$84 million.

## School Construction

- School construction projects total \$438.1 million, comprised of: \$280 million for the traditional public school construction program, \$65 million from dedicated education lockbox revenues, an additional \$43.5 million from the General Fund, \$40 million in supplemental funding for public school districts with high enrollment growth or relocatable classrooms, and a combined \$9.6 million between the Aging Schools and the Non-Public Aging Schools Programs.

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- The budget also includes \$30 million for the Healthy School Facility Fund, \$10 million for the Public School Safety Improvements Grant Program, and \$20 million for the Local Share of School Construction Cost Funds, which will assist local governments with financing the required matching funds. At least four percent of the funding for the Healthy School Facility Fund will be available for charter schools.
- \$1 million and 11 positions are provided to the Interagency Commission on School Construction, Maryland State Department of Education, and the Maryland Department of Planning to enhance state support of local school maintenance and construction efforts.

## Healthcare

- The FY 2020 budget includes nearly \$11.5 billion for Maryland's Medicaid program, which provides basic health coverage to nearly 1.4 million Marylanders, including more than 153,000 children through the Maryland Children's Health Program.
- The governor's budget for Medicaid includes an additional \$77 million in total funds for Community First Choice services to keep elderly and disabled adults out of nursing homes, \$29.3 million to expand treatment access for those

with Hepatitis C virus, nearly \$6 million in new funding for a pilot program to reduce the incidence of diabetes, and an additional \$4.2 million to provide a limited dental benefit to adults under the age of 65 who are dual eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

- Nearly \$130 million is provided in FY 2020 to fund a 3.5 percent rate increase for behavioral health and developmental disabilities service providers and a 3 percent rate increase for most other healthcare providers. Included in this total is \$42.5 million for the Developmental Disabilities Administration to benefit direct-care workers serving some of Maryland's most vulnerable individuals.
- The FY 2020 budget provides \$1.3 billion for developmental disabilities community services, including an additional \$46 million to expand services and nearly \$15 million to continue two waiver programs to reduce the waiting list.
- The governor's budget includes an additional \$6 million over two years to address increasing costs in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Program.
- The FY 2020 budget includes \$15 million to continue operating support for the new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Prince George's County.

