

Quality of Life

K-12 Education

For the seventh consecutive year, the Hogan administration is providing record funding for K-12 education. The FY 2022 budget invests nearly \$7.5 billion in Maryland's public schools—fully funding state aid programs. Direct aid to local schools grows by \$167 million (or 2.6%). The governor's budget proposes \$500 million for initiatives consistent with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Highlights include:

- \$71.9 million to expand services for 289 community schools, enhancing services for students eligible for free-or-reduced price meals (FARM).
- \$65.5 million for special education grants;
- \$54.7 million for the expansion of early childhood initiatives; and
- \$53.7 million for pre-kindergarten supplemental grants.

The budget reinforces the governor's support for supplemental instruction for struggling learners, dedicating \$23 million more in FY 2022 for a total of \$69 million in funding since FY 2020. These grants are focused on providing additional academic support to students who perform below grade level in English/language arts or reading in kindergarten through third grade, and combines one-on-one instruction with small-group tutoring from a certified teacher or teaching professional.



Additional education initiatives are supported with the following allowances:

- \$151.6 million for targeted tutoring grants in every local jurisdiction across the state;
- \$4.5 million for Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) to provide extended academic programming for at-risk students;
- \$2.5 million for the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative;
- \$2 million for the Career Technology Education Innovation grant program; and
- \$250,000 to expand teacher outreach and recruitment.

By formula, FY 2022 statutory education funding formulas would have reduced education aid because of declining enrollments. Governor Hogan's education budget provides an additional \$213 million to hold local jurisdictions harmless for this decline and ensure that every school system receives more in education aid than they did in FY 2021.

Early Childhood Education

The governor's FY 2022 budget includes \$53.7 million to support full-day pre-kindergarten for every 4-year-old in the state, regardless of whether full-day services are available to them in the jurisdiction's pre-kindergarten program. This brings the governor's total commitment in this area to \$149.4 million since FY 2020.

Expansion of access to early childhood education programs continues under the FY 2022 budget, wherein the governor invests \$5 million in additional state funds, a nearly 12% yearly increase, to reinforce support for the Child Care Scholarship program and maintain current eligibility and enrollment.