MARYLAND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

WES MOORE, GOVERNOR
ARUNA MILLER, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Education is central both to fighting poverty and powering the Maryland economy. Our greatest future asset is our children, and to the extent that all of our children, regardless of where in the state they live, can graduate from high school prepared either for a successful career or to go on to college, we can transform the state into a more equitable and wealthier society. Education is perhaps the best example that equity and wealth need not compete but can be mutually reinforcing.

The FY 2024 budget provides record funding for K-12 education, investing $8.8 billion in Maryland’s public schools—funding Blueprint for Maryland’s Future programs and exceeding statutory funding formulas with $37 million in education hold harmless grants. Per pupil funding for K-12 education grows from $9,199 to $10,015, an increase of 9 percent.

Direct aid to local schools grows by $740 million (10 percent). Highlights include:

- Funding to support low-income students grows by $475 million (32 percent) over FY 2023. This includes $84 million in additional grant funding to expand wrap-around services in schools with high concentrations of poverty;
- Grants for students learning English jump by $48 million (11 percent);
- Formula funding for students with disabilities grows by $63 million (16 percent) over FY 2023.

This budget includes a proposal to allocate $500 million in surplus General Fund cash as a contribution to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund to extend the fund’s solvency an additional year through FY 2026.

The budget also includes:

- $15 million for a new teacher recruitment incentive program to address chronic staffing shortages at schools throughout the State.
- $22 million for bonuses for non-certificated education support professionals employed by public schools across Maryland.
- $51 million for supplemental instruction for struggling learners, an increase of $1.3 million over FY 2023.
- Record funding of $70 million in direct aid to local libraries, including a continued commitment of $3 million to expand operations at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.
- $9.5 million for the career ladder for educators established by the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation.

The Governor’s budget supports critical investments in school infrastructure, including: $1.097 billion in school construction funding across the state, a record level for school construction in any Governor’s proposed budget.

- $90 million for the Healthy School Facility Fund, which will enable local school systems...
to provide safe and supportive learning environments for students by making improvements to critical school infrastructure.

• $20 million in general funds for the revolving loan fund for local governments’ share of school construction projects.

• $1 million increase to the Maryland Center for School Safety for grants to address and prevent hate crimes at public and nonpublic schools, daycare facilities, and early childhood centers, for total funding of $3 million in FY 2024.

Early Childhood Education

The Governor’s FY 2024 budget:

• Expands access to early childhood education programs, including $99.6 million to support full-day pre-kindergarten for low-income 4-year-olds and 3-year-olds in the state.

• Includes $10 million in additional State funding for the Child Care Scholarship Program, bringing total General Fund support to a record $68.5 million.

• Includes $5.5 million in State funding for Patty Centers. Also known as Family Support Centers, Patty Centers provide families with at-risk children from birth to three years of age with training and support.

• Increases State funding for Judy Centers by $3 million, to a total $28 million in FY 2024. The Centers provide comprehensive, integrated, full-day and full-year early care and education services to families with the greatest needs. The Judy Centers provide two-generational program support to children and families so that all children, regardless of income, enter kindergarten ready to succeed.