



# CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS 2023-2024

## **Before and After School Programs**

(Adopted 1990, 1993; amended 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011; readopted 2014; amended 2016, 2019, 2021)

WHEREAS, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) believes that the parents and children in Maryland would best be served through a coordinated effort by all those charged with the care of school age children in the state; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education facilities are utilized for many community activities serving as focal points in the lives of school age children in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the need for before and after school child care is a community and business need as well as a school system need; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis severely negatively impacted the operation of before and after school programs by private providers; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education have the capability to identify age-appropriate education resources for before and after school programs; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education resources are utilized to provide quality instruction for students; and

WHEREAS, before and after school programs should support the formal education of participating children; and

WHEREAS, in December 2015 Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and ESSA authorizes federal funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative to support afterschool and summer learning programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the General Assembly enacted legislation to establish the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Grant Program within MSDE to assist local school systems, public community schools, and nonprofit organizations in expanding or creating extended day and summer enhancement programs for economically disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 legislation was enacted to establish state standards for community schools serving communities with high concentrations of poverty in order to promote (1) active family and community engagement; (2) expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities provided after school, during weekends, and in the summer that emphasize mastering 21st Century skills; and (3) collaborative leadership and practices for parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the preliminary Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation was enacted and, in part, established concentration of poverty grants to support staffing of community schools and the provision of wraparound services such as school-based health and mental health services, as well as extended learning time, including before and after school, weekends, summer school, and an extended school year; and

WHEREAS, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act of 2021 mandates the long-term phase-in of per pupil and personnel grants to establish and support community schools based on the percentage of school poverty; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 relief funding provided to states and local governments by the American Rescue Plan Act is available to support before and after school programs by public and private providers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MABE recommends that boards of education work collaboratively with state and local agencies and private providers to promote high quality, affordable before and after school programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MABE supports robust state and federal funding to support the development and expansion of community schools programs and initiatives adopted by local boards of education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any state or federal mandated program related to before and after school programs be fully funded.