The list below constitutes frequently asked questions about the State-Aided Institutions (SAI) Program. This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.

1. **Question:** Which SAIs are being funded in fiscal year 2025?
   Answer: You can find this information in the Budget Bill, Senate Bill 360. See page 153.

2. **Question:** I see that funds cannot be used for operating costs. What are operating costs?
   Answer: Operating costs are anything that is required to keep your business up and running, essentially, the costs of the day-to-day operation of your organization. Examples: property repair and maintenance, property taxes, insurance, utilities, furniture, salaries for office or leadership staff that are essential for business operations but don't work directly on the educational program, office supplies, rent, etc.

3. **Question:** How do we know if a school is a Title I school?
   Answer: MSDE tracks the number of Title I schools across Maryland for every school year. Visit this Title I webpage for information.

4. **Question:** How frequently are augmentation requests funded?
   Answer: According to COMAR 13A.05.13.04 MSDE must provide the opportunity for SAIs to request an augmentation. The last funding increase was in 2021.

5. **Question:** How are the goals in the education program narrative, the fiscal impact statement, and the augmentation section different?
   Answer: The goals for the education program narrative and the fiscal impact statement are the same and you can copy the goals from the program narrative to the fiscal impact appendix. In the augmentation section, if the additional funds serve the same purpose, existing goals may suffice. However, if the funds are designated for a different purpose, a new goal will be specified in the augmentation request.

6. **Question:** Is there a page limit for the application?
   Answer: No. The application has been condensed to collect just the pertinent information in the program narrative. Additional requirements are submitted via the appendices.

7. **Question:** Where is the link to the SAIs funded in FY 2025?
   Answer: Here is a link to the budget bill for fiscal year 2025, Senate Bill 360. See page 153.

8. **Question:** How should we track the number of students with a disability?
   Answer: You can track the number of students who have an IEP or 504 plan.

9. **Question:** Who should we count in our projected numbers in the Project Narrative?
   Answer: Provide participant numbers just for the SAI program and not the overall institution.

10. **Question:** What is the C-1-25 and how do we fill it out?
    Answer: The C-1-25 is the grant budget form that all grantees receiving funds from MSDE must submit. The first tab, "Grant Budget C-1-25", should be completed based on the budget totals in your application. For nonprofit organizations, all funds will be entered on line 214, which is for "214 Community Services", and across the categories at the top. The total at the bottom should align with the budget in your application.

11. **Question:** Should the C-1-25 be filled out for our baseline amount and include the augmentation?
    Answer: Just the baseline amount is provided on the C-1-25 budget form.

12. **Question:** How much funding should we request in our application?
    Answer: SAIs that are already funded should maintain their current funding level. New applicants should request funding in line with historical award amounts.

13. **Question:** What happens to our applications after we've submitted?
    Answer: A review committee at MSDE reviews submissions based on the rubric and provides the results to the State Superintendent for review in July. The results are then provided to the State Board of Education, who convenes to review and discuss them in August. The Governor releases the draft budget bill in January. The budget bill is reviewed by budget subcommittees and is ultimately voted on and published around April. This is when funding decisions are revealed to all stakeholders.

14. **Question:** How much funding increase (augmentation) should we ask for?
    Answer: There are no limits to your request. You will outline the projected costs needed to implement the additional programming and provide the justification for the additional funding.

15. **Question:** The application for fiscal year 2026 looks different than the last one. Why?
    Answer: Based on feedback from current SAIs, the application has been condensed to eliminate areas of redundancy and to ensure the application captured all the pertinent information in a simpler format. Some items are now located in the appendices section as they are necessary and required but don't take up space in the application.

16. **Question:** For the list of key personnel, do we have to list names? We have hundreds of employees!
    Answer: Not necessarily. Providing the position title is sufficient if you have many key personnel under one specific position.