



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

December 1, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller State Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: 2018\_p152\_MSDE\_BOOST Recommendations

Dear Chairman Kasemeyer and Chairman McIntosh:

This letter is submitted in accordance with the requirements on page 152 of the Fiscal 2019 Joint Chairman's Report (JCR) to provide information on the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students (BOOST) program. The JCR requires that the BOOST Board make recommendations regarding a policy to encourage nonpublic schools to admit students with special needs who receive BOOST program scholarships.

The BOOST Board discussed servicing the needs of special education students at several Board meetings during 2018. At a June meeting, the Board received a presentation from the Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which included information on the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the process for identifying students with disabilities, and equitable services; federal funding for students with disabilities who attend nonpublic schools.

The Board's discussion centered on several key points: meeting the needs of students in the most appropriate manner and the best interest of the entire program. The Board feels strongly that children should get what they need to be successful in school in the most appropriate setting for the child. Students who are parentally placed in a nonpublic school have an individual service plan (ISP) that is cooperatively developed between the parents, the public school, and the nonpublic school. While there is no requirement that students with disabilities receive the same services in a nonpublic school that would be provided in a public school, the ISP process identifies the services needed by the student, the services that can be provided, and the proportionate share of federal funds that can be used to support those services. In most cases, students receive related services, i.e. speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, through this process, and not academic services.

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The Board also discussed the impact of any recommendations on parents and families, and schools that participate in the program. Currently, participating schools may not charge more in tuition than the state average cost per pupil, as calculated by MSDE. Participating schools calculate tuition rates as total tuition revenue divided by total students. This calculation accounts for the varying tuition rates at

Individual schools, such as family and staff discounts, and additional costs for supplemental programs. Participating schools cannot receive more BOOST scholarship aid than the tuition rate. A recommendation to provide a large subsidy for special education students to attend nonpublic schools could result in returned, unused funds from schools. At its July 2018 meeting, the BOOST Board determined that students eligible for special education services should receive a \$1,000 adjustment to their scholarship award.

The 2018-2019 BOOST application allows parents to self-identify children as eligible for special education services. The 2018-2019 school enrollment confirmation process requires schools to confirm a student's eligibility for special education services and to provide the vehicle used to identify the student as a student with disabilities as well as the services that the student will receive. For the 2018-2019 school year, 251 scholarship awards were made to children whose parent identified the student as eligible for special education services. As of November 8, 2018, nonpublic schools confirmed that 145 BOOST scholarship recipients are eligible for special education services. These students reside in 13 counties across the State and attend 44 different nonpublic schools. The largest number of students are from Baltimore City, followed by Baltimore County, and Prince George's County. The following attachments illustrate the BOOST program awards and enrollment confirmations for students eligible for special education services.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the attached report, please contact Donna Gunning, Executive Director, Policy and Fiscal Analysis, at 410-767-0757 or [donna.gunning@maryland.gov](mailto:donna.gunning@maryland.gov).

Best Regards,



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

c: Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance and Administration  
Sarah Albert (DLS Library – 5 copies)  
Cathy Kramer

## BOOST - 2018-2019

### Base Scholarships Awarded to Students Eligible for Special Education Services

<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount for this Category</b>	<b>Total Value of Renewals*</b>
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Public School	All	38	4,400	167,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Public School	All	20	3,400	68,000
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Private School	All	53	1,400	74,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Private School	All	24	1,000	24,000
<b>Subtotal Renewals</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>333,400</b>

\* See note below

<b>NEW APPLICANTS</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount for this Category</b>	<b>Total Value of New Eligible Applications*</b>
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Public School	All	34	4,400	149,600
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Public School	All	11	3,400	37,400
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Private School	All	43	1,400	60,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Private School	All	26	1,000	26,000
Type of Prior School is None**	-	2	-	2,400
<b>Subtotal New</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>275,600</b>
<b>Total - All Applicants</b>		<b>251</b>		<b>609,000</b>

\*Renewal applicants who are still income eligible received an award based on their Free or Reduced Meal income status as indicated in the 2017-2018 application. The Public or Private designation for Renewal applicants is kept the same as it was in 2016-2017.

\*\*The award amounts for this category vary based on economic eligibility.

## BOOST - 2018-2019

### Base Scholarships Awarded to Students Eligible for Special Education Services

<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount for this Category</b>	<b>Total Value of Renewals*</b>
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Public School	All	38	4,400	205,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Public School	All	20	3,400	88,000
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Private School	All	53	1,400	127,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Private School	All	24	1,000	48,000
<b>Subtotal Renewals</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>468,400</b>

\* See note below

<b>NEW APPLICANTS</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount for this Category</b>	<b>Total Value of New Eligible Applications*</b>
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Public School	All	34	4,400	183,600
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Public School	All	11	3,400	48,400
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Private School	All	43	1,400	103,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Private School	All	26	1,000	52,000
Type of Prior School is None**	-	2	-	4,400
<b>Subtotal New</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>391,600</b>
<b>Total - All Applicants</b>		<b>251</b>		<b>860,000</b>

\*Renewal applicants who are still income eligible received an award based on their Free or Reduced Meal income status as indicated in the 2017-2018 application. The Public or Private designation for Renewal applicants is kept the same as it was in 2016-2017.

\*\*The award amounts for this category vary based on economic eligibility.

## BOOST - 2018-2019

### Enrollment Confirmed for Students Eligible for Special Education Services

<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount for this Category</b>	<b>Adjusted Value of Renewals*</b>
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Public School	All	26	4,400	140,400
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Public School	All	11	3,400	48,400
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Private School	All	33	1,400	79,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Private School	All	12	1,000	24,000
<b>Subtotal Renewals</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>292,000</b>

\* See note below

<b>NEW APPLICANTS</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount for this Category</b>	<b>Adjusted Value of New Eligible Applications*</b>
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Public School	All	15	4,400	81,000
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Public School	All	3	3,400	13,200
Qualified for Free Meals, Attended Private School	All	27	1,400	64,800
Qualified for Reduced Meals, Attended Private School	All	17	1,000	34,000
Type of Prior School is None**	-	1	-	2,000
<b>Subtotal New</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>195,000</b>
<b>Total - All Applicants</b>		<b>145</b>		<b>487,000</b>

\*Renewal applicants who are still income eligible received an award based on their Free or Reduced Meal income status as indicated in the 2017-2018 application. The Public or Private designation for Renewal applicants is kept the same as it was in 2016-2017.

\*\*The award amounts for this category vary based on economic eligibility.

## BOOST - 2018-2019

### Schools Attended by Students Eligible for Special Education Services

<u>Nonpublic School</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Adjusted Award Amount</u>
ARCHBISHOP BORDERS SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	2	10,800
ARCHBISHOP CURLEY HIGH SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	3	9,800
BAIS YAAKOV SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - BALTIMORE	14	31,600
BISHOP MCNAMARA HIGH SCHOOL - FORESTVILLE	2	7,400
BISHOP WALSH MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL - CUMBERLAND	7	21,400
BNOS YISROEL OF BALTIMORE - BALTIMORE	1	2,400
CARDINAL SHEHAN SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	6	22,000
CATHEDRAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - BALTIMORE	17	82,400
CHESAPEAKE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - EASTON	1	5,400
COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - CAMBRIDGE	1	4,400
DON BOSCO CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL - TAKOMA PARK	1	2,000
ELIZABETH SETON HIGH SCHOOL - BLADENSBURG	2	7,400
ELVATON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - MILLERSVILLE	1	2,400
GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL - PERRYVILLE	2	7,800
GREATER YOUTH ACADEMY - BALTIMORE	2	4,800
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL - HILLCREST HEIGHTS	1	5,400
HOLY REDEEMER SCHOOL - COLLEGE PARK	1	5,400
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	6	23,000
JEWELS SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	8	26,400
LEO BERNSTEIN JEWISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS - SILVER SPRING	1	2,400
LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL - GREAT MILLS	1	4,400
MESIVTA NE'IMUS HATORAH - BALTIMORE	1	2,400
OHR CHADASH ACADEMY - BALTIMORE	3	9,200
OLNEY ADVENTIST PREPARATORY SCHOOL - OLNEY	1	2,400
OUR LADY OF VICTORY SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	1	2,400
SACRED HEART SCHOOL - GLYNDON	3	8,400
SCHOOL OF THE INCARNATION - GAMBRILLS	3	8,400
ST. CASIMIR CATHOLIC SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	1	5,400
ST. COLUMBA SCHOOL - OXON HILL	1	4,400
ST. FRANCIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - SILVER SPRING	4	8,800
ST. JEROMES ACADEMY - HYATTSVILLE	3	6,800
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	1	5,400
ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL - HAGERSTOWN	1	2,400
ST. MARK SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	10	40,200
ST. MARYS CATHOLIC SCHOOL - LANDOVER HILLS	3	6,800
ST. MICHAEL - ST. CLEMENT SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	2	7,800
ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL - RIDGE	2	4,800
ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL - LINTHICUM	3	16,200
ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL - BRADSHAW	2	4,800

<b>Nonpublic School</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Adjusted Award Amount</b>
ST. URSULA SCHOOL - BALTIMORE	2	4,400
TALMUDICAL ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE - BALTIMORE	7	16,000
TORAH INSTITUTE OF BALTIMORE - OWINGS MILLS	7	16,800
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL - JOPPA	3	11,800
YESHIVA OF GREATER WASHINGTON - SILVER SPRING	1	2,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>487,000</b>

**BOOST - 2018-2019**

**County of Residence - Students Eligible for Special Education Services**

<b>County</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Adjusted Award Amount</b>
Allegany County	7	21,400
Anne Arundel County	4	11,800
Baltimore City	64	220,000
Baltimore County	36	124,800
Cecil County	3	9,800
Charles County	1	2,000
Dorchester County	1	4,400
Harford County	3	12,200
Montgomery County	4	9,200
Prince George's County	17	54,400
St. Mary's County	3	9,200
Talbot County	1	5,400
Washington County	1	2,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>487,000</b>