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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education’s Education Transformation and Finance Committee

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

**DATE:** March 11, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2026 Budget – Mid-session Update

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the fiscal year 2026 budget midway through the 2025 Legislative Session.

### **Executive Summary**

The Office of Finance is providing a mid-session update on the fiscal year 2026 budget. The presentation will review the fiscal impact of proposed legislation to date, a review of the Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act, and review of the Governor’s Supplemental Budget.

### **Action**

No action required; this information is for discussion only.

### **Attachment**

FY 2026 Budget – Mid-session Update.pptx



Office of Operations and Finance

# Fiscal Year 2026 Budget – Mid-Session Update

March 25, 2025

Presented By | Donna Gunning, Assistant State Superintendent



A teacher with curly blonde hair, wearing a green shirt, is giving a high-five to a young student with curly dark hair wearing a yellow and black striped shirt. They are in a classroom with other students in the background.

# Presentation Outline

1. Legislation
2. Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act
3. Supplemental Budget

# FY 2026 Budget – What's New?

## LEGISLATION with FISCAL IMPACT

- Of the more than 200 pieces of legislation that the Department has been asked to review, 25% have a potential fiscal impact.
- Fiscal impact ranges from staffing a workgroup or creating a new report to establishing a pre-kindergarten 529 plan or reviewing all of the AI tools used in classrooms across the State and establishing a list of best practices.
- So far, the Department has reviewed 8 early childhood and child care bills, 6 curricular bills, 4 students with disabilities and discipline/safety bills, and 3 IT bills.

# FY 2026 Budget – What's New?

## Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act

- Governor's legislation to reform the Blueprint to slow the implementation of several programs to give the LEAs and the Department and the AIB the opportunity to implement components of the Blueprint effectively.
- The legislation as introduced would save approximately \$1.8 billion over four years. The proposed reinvestment of just under \$1 billion, leaves a net savings of \$900 million.

# FY 2026 Budget – What's New?

## Academic Excellence Program

- The legislation included expanding the implementation timeframe for Collaborative Time and the Concentration of Poverty program.
- The reinvestment programs include statewide, comprehensive Math and Literacy support to teachers, schools, and students.
- The legislation includes programs to increase the number of “home grown” teachers, particularly current non-certificated staff.

# FY 2026 Budget – Supplemental Budget

## Additional Positions

- Back in January, we discussed the 18 new positions in the Governor's Allowance.
- In the Supplemental Budget, the Governor included the additional positions created from the Department's review and repurposing current long-term vacant permanent positions, and a number of contractual positions that were never converted.
- The additional positions include five reading and math positions, two apprenticeship coordinators, and additional operations support positions.