



Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Annual Report 2012-2013

Submitted to Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly

By the Maryland Youth Advisory Council and the Governor's Office for Children

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Purpose

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) was established through the State legislature in order to ensure that Maryland youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. The MYAC members are appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, University System of Maryland Student Council, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council. All youth members must be 14-22 years of age, serve a one year term (September 1 until August 30), and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

As outlined in the parent bill, MYAC:

- Holds at least four meetings a year;
- Holds at least one public meeting on issues of importance to youth;
- Recommends one legislative proposal;
- Provides testimony before legislative bodies on youth issues;
- Conducts a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland youth; and
- Provides an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

MYAC fulfilled each of its responsibilities this year with the exception of recommending a legislative proposal and providing testimony. Council members did participate on a panel discussion regarding online learning for the Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning and attended Advocates for Children and Youth's Graduate Maryland event discussing how Maryland can increase its high school graduation rate. The following sections describe these actions.

Application Process and Outreach

The application (see Appendix I for application) for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council was available online on the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) website from May 1st to July 1st. The application was also sent to the appointing bodies, the Maryland Children's Cabinet, and other agencies and organizations working with youth. In order to apply for a spot on the Council, applicants are required to submit the completed application, a letter of recommendation, and a resume. Applications could be submitted by mail or e-mail. GOC received 105 applications representing 15 counties and 58 schools.

GOC staff review applications and submit recommendations to each appointing body for approval. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House review applications submitted and recommended by the legislators in addition to the GOC recommendations. The 2012-13 Council was composed of 47 members representing 16 counties and 34 schools; of the 47 members, 12 were returning second-year members, and 35 were first-year members. Due to an insufficient number of post-secondary applicants, the eight slots reserved for the University System of Maryland Student Councils and the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council were vacant.

Council Meetings

According to the legislation that established MYAC, the Council must meet at least four times each year and each meeting must be open to the public. The Council hosted five meetings and a Public Forum. The meetings were held on Saturdays from 1-4 pm at various Baltimore County library locations. The library locations were selected because of their accessibility to the council and members of the public and the close proximity to major highways for ease of travel. All meeting dates, times, and locations were available on the GOC website and meeting materials were also posted on the website before and after meetings.

Meeting #1: Saturday, September 15, 2012 – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Woodlawn Library, 1811 Woodlawn Drive, Woodlawn, MD, 21207

During the first meeting, the Council reviewed its roles and responsibilities, discussed past Council's legislative priorities, and voted on leadership positions. The Council also participated in a Community Conversations workshop facilitated by Youth As Resources, a youth-led grant making, community-organizing and leadership development organization led by young people ages 14-22 in Baltimore City.

Meeting #2: Saturday, October 27, 2012 - 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Arbutus Library, 855 Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus, MD 21227

During the second meeting, the Council conducted elections for the members of the Executive Board and for the Legislative Committee and Public Awareness Committee Chairs. The Council reported back on the results of their Community Conversation activities.

Meeting #3: Saturday, December 8, 2012 - Saturday, December 8, 2012 – 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Governor's Reception Room, State House, 100 State Circle, 2nd Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401

The Council was invited by Governor O'Malley to hold the third meeting in his Governor's Reception Room in the Maryland State House. The Governor joined the meeting to discuss with the Council members issues important to youth including affordable post-secondary education,

technology, driver's education requirements, stress in schools, and access to health services. The Council selected the use of technology in schools as its legislative priority.

Meeting #4: Saturday, February 2, 2013 – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208

During the fourth meeting, the Council met to discuss ways to approach the selected legislative priority at the MYAC Public Forum. The Council also deliberated on legislation introduced on behalf of the Council's Youth Co-Chair which would eliminate term limits for councilmembers. The council decided not to support the proposed legislation and requested that the bill be withdrawn.

Meeting #5: Saturday, June 8, 2013 – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Arbutus Branch Library, 855 Sulphur Springs Road Arbutus, Maryland 21227

During the final meeting, the Council reflected on the Public Forum and Council year and provided feedback and recommendations for the next Council year. The application process and outreach were also discussed and council members were encouraged to share the application with classmates and other student/youth organizations in their communities.

(See Appendix II for a complete list of meeting minutes.)

Legislative Priority Selection Process

In order to select a focus issue, councilmembers were encouraged to host community conversations or talk to their peers about issues important to them both in school and in the community. The Council discussed issues such as bullying and the Common Core Standards, because these were issues that were very broad. The Common Core Standards bring diverse state curricula into alignment with one another and are sponsored by the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. However, many other organizations have already focused their attention on these broader issues so the Council decided to select an issue that it could have an impact on and that they could make others aware of. After extensive discussion on a variety of issues, the Council narrowed down the topics based on a short majority vote (see Appendix III for voting results). The topic selected was Technology in Schools.

Many council members brought up schools' various technology uses and policies on BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). Some counties allow their students to use personal electronic devices while other counties do not allow any to be used during school hours. Policies also varied from school to school within each county in some cases. The Council believed that using various types of technology in schools allows students and school systems the opportunity to branch out in their learning techniques. The Council believed that gathering more information about what types of technology and how technology is used in schools would assist in better understanding the issues and developing solutions; this led to the decision to host the forum.

Public Forum

Each year, the Council conducts a public forum in which councilmembers, panel speakers, and guests are encouraged to discuss a current issue important to Maryland youth. During the 2012-13 year, the Council focused on the general topic of technology in schools, addressing a variety of subtopics from increased technological funding to the use of social media in classes.

The 2013 Public Forum was held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at the Community College of Baltimore County. The 47 attendees of this year's public forum resided in a variety of different areas of Maryland, and included a diverse mix of teachers, parents, administrators, and youth. In addition, a panel of experts was present to answer questions. The panel members included:

- Val Emrich, Director of Instructional Technology & School Library Media Program at the Maryland State Department of Education;
- Greg Barlow, Chief Information Officer of Anne Arundel County Public Schools;
- Brian Eyer, Principal of Digital Harbor High School; and
- Christian Hodges, State Chief of Staff of the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

Opening remarks were given by co-chairs Cody Dorsey and Christina Drushel, and included a brief summary of the history and the role of the Council and an overview of current statistics on the use of technology in public K-12 education. The discussion of technology in schools was allocated between a panel discussion and small group brainstorming activity. Within these two formats, the main two topics addressed included the handheld device policy in classrooms and the implementation of new technology in the curriculum. Additionally, other topics discussed included the environmental benefits of online assignments, the security of in-school social media resources, and the possible consequences of increased state funding for technology in public schools.

After the discussions, the Council encouraged participants to fill out an evaluation and feedback survey. The data was collected and recorded after the forum. Eighty-nine percent of the attendees were satisfied or very satisfied with the Public Forum and 94% said the information provided was useful or very useful. The attendees indicated that the roundtable discussions were favored but that they would like to see more non-councilmembers present.

(See Appendix IV for Public Forum flyer and presentation slides.)

Proposed Improvements for the 2013-14 Council Year

There was not enough time to work together:

Meetings were held in September, October, December, February and June. Less frequent meetings are ideal because many Council members have busy schedules and travel from a variety of locations. However, there was not enough time to accomplish everything.

Suggestions:

- **More meeting time:** Additional meetings or longer meetings, especially before the Public Forum, would be helpful because it would give MYAC more time to discuss and plan as a group. Longer meetings would give MYAC more time to work while not requiring Council members to commute more often.
- **More work and communication between meetings:** Between meetings, MYAC could be more productive by using assignments and action items. Then, Council members could communicate with each other by taking advantage of telephone conferences and online discussion forums.

Discussions were not well-organized:

Due to the large number of Council members at meetings and limited amount of time, it was difficult for all members to express their opinions during group discussions.

Suggestion:

- **Better organization:** During meetings, Council members could split into small groups to discuss a given issue. Then, all members could reconvene, and a representative from each group could report the key points from their group discussion. This would be an efficient way to allow more Council members to voice their opinions.

There was little legislative involvement:

The Council was not as involved in the legislative process and providing comments on proposed bills as previous years. This would have allowed MYAC to have a greater influence on the decisions that affect youth, which is the mission of MYAC.

Suggestions:

- **More active legislative committee:** The legislative committee could focus on helping Council members get involved in the legislature. This could be by sharing issues or opportunities, such as chances to offer testimony or write letters to the legislature.
- **Discuss issues:** MYAC could dedicate time to discussing current legislative issues.

Proposed Improvements for the 2013-14 Public Forum

Planning:

Not enough emphasis was put on the event beforehand, and many Council members did not commit to promoting the Forum.

Suggestions:

- **Goals and deadlines:** MYAC should assign deadlines and goals for planning to make the Forum a priority with expected results.
- **Conference calls:** The Executive Board or a small planning group should hold conference calls to plan the Forum between meetings.

- **Reporting back:** Council members should report back to MYAC on their progress and expected guests.

Attendance:

The Public Forum was held on Saturday April 20, 2013, with a total of 47 attendees. Twenty-one of the attendees were non-council members and 26 were Council members. Although this was a great turnout considering MYAC's newly adopted format for the Forum, in the future, MYAC would like to have higher attendance from people outside of the Council.

Suggestions:

- **Forum date and location:** In the future, it would be beneficial to discuss the best date, time, and location for the event in order to maximize attendance. Holding the forum on a weekday evening, Saturday morning, or Saturday evening are all things to consider, as well as the room location and spacing for the event.
- **Forum Promotion:** MYAC should make it a priority to promote the Forum, using e-mail reminders, social media, flyers, and the press. There should be a greater stress on distributing information about the event to school principals, PTA, students, and county board members.
- **Promotion Goals:** MYAC should create a goal to establish a set amount of people that each member is required to invite.

Interaction:

While the Forum gave MYAC a chance to gain new insight, there was not enough interaction between Council members and other attendees. There should also be a wider variety of speakers.

Suggestions:

- **Greeting attendees:** MYAC should have Council members and signs outside to guide and greet guests as they arrive.
- **Roundtable discussion rotations:** The roundtable discussions should allow attendees to interact with more people instead of only those seated at the same table. This would allow them to discuss with more people and gain a broader perspective of the topic.
- **Social Media:** MYAC should stress the use of social media, such as creating a Facebook event to advertise the Forum, live Tweeting to promote the topic of discussion, and/or live broadcasting of the event online to involve those unable to attend.

Recommendations for the Topic of Technology in Schools

The Council spent multiple meetings narrowing down its topic and in December reached a consensus that it would focus on technology in schools. The decision came far too close to the beginning of the General Assembly's Legislative Session to send any policy suggestions to bill drafters. It did, however, open a thought-provoking public forum which was attended by numerous students and public officials.

If the Council is to retain the 2012-2013 topic of technology in schools, it must narrow down this topic to include specific actions taken at the legislative or executive levels of government, in specific counties or as part of a Statewide initiative. The topic of technology in schools is quickly becoming one of the pillars of 21st-century primary and secondary education and one public forum is not enough time to fully discuss this issue.

The best way the Council can distill the topic of technology in schools down to a more actionable piece of policy or legislation is to widen the circle of discussion, earlier in the year. The Council could create surveys (to be distributed to students Statewide) about technology in schools - encompassing a variety of topics that could include online bullying, online privacy for teens, or the usage of cell phones in the classroom. If done early in the year, the Council could present a suggestion to the Maryland State Department of Education or a member of the General Assembly to draft policy recommendations or legislation. It is the opinion of the Council that technology as it relates to the classroom is the very future of the classroom itself.

2012-2013 MYAC Roster

Senator Roger Manno, Senate Co-Chair (representing the President of the Senate)

Delegate John A. Olszewski, Jr., House Co-Chair (representing the Speaker of the House of Delegates)

Christina Drushel, Governor's Office for Children Co-Chair (representing the Governor's Office)

Michael Hawkins, Governor's Office for Children Co-Chair (representing the Governor's Office)

Cody Dorsey, Youth Co-Chair (elected by Council youth members to 1 year term)

2012 – 2013 MYAC Youth Executive Board:

1. Cody Dorsey, Youth Co-Chair
2. Rahul Grover, Youth Vice-Chair
3. Jenny Park, Secretary
4. Ben Feshbach and Calvin Yeh, Co-Chairs, Legislative Committee
5. Emma Zyriek, Carmen Huynh, and Jessica Li, Co-Chairs, Public Awareness Committee
6. Rico Lizbinski, Justin Kim, Esther Omolola, and Devan Ogburn, MASC Appointees
7. Stephanie Chill, Jingyi (Tina) Huang, Martha Sanchez, and Salar Khaleghzadegan, Governor Appointees
8. Beatriz Alsavaprane, Elena Massetti, Karla Talley, and Gabrielle Winkey, Senate/House Appointees

Member Appointments:

Appointed by the Governor

- Appointed in 2011
 1. Cody Dorsey
 2. Caitlin McNamara
- Appointed in 2012
 1. Christian Bowman
 2. Stephanie Chill
 3. Alexander Daddone
 4. Cristina De Avila
 5. Ethan Estill
 6. Rahul Grover
 7. Jingyi "Tina" Huang
 8. Carmen Huynh
 9. Salar Khaleghzadegan
 10. Julie Mehta
 11. Michael Moore
 12. Martha Sanchez
 13. Kyle Wilson
 14. Emma Zyriek

Appointed by the President of the Senate

- Appointed in 2011
 1. Ethan McComb
 2. Gabrielle Winkey
- Appointed in 2012
 1. Tyler Argubright
 2. Robert Crumbaugh
 3. John DePass
 4. Chris Eyo
 5. Thomas Raskin
 6. Karla Talley

Appointed by the Speaker of the House

- Appointed in 2011
 1. Washiq Ahmed
 2. Vanice Antrum
 3. Jessica Li
 4. Elena Massetti
 5. Abigail Shriver
 6. Hamza Siddiqui
- Appointed in 2012
 1. Beatriz Atsavapranee
 2. Thaara Shankar

Appointed by the Maryland Association of Student Councils

- Appointed in 2011
 1. Mia Chase
 2. John Mannes
 3. Jenny Park
 5. Justin Kim
 6. Rico Lizbinski
 7. Devan Ogburn
 8. Esther Omolola
- Appointed in 2012
 1. Diane D'Costa
 2. Shannon Demehri
 3. Breana Echols
 4. Ben Feshbeach
 9. David Smith
 10. Emma Smyles
 11. Maura Smyles
 12. Calvin Yeh

Appointed by the Student Advisory Council to Maryland Higher Education Commission

- No appointments were made in 2012.

Appendix I: 2012-13 Application



MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2012-2013 Application

Maryland Youth Advisory Council

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council was established through the state legislature in order to ensure that Maryland youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. The Maryland Advisory Youth Council will be appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, University System of Maryland Student Council and the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Advisory Council. All youth members must be 14-22 years of age, serve a one year term (September 1, 2012 until August 31, 2013) and they cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Purpose

The Council's purpose and responsibility is to:

- Hold at least 4 meetings a year
- Hold at least one public meeting on issues of importance to youth (topics can include: education, a safe learning environment, employment opportunities, increasing youth participation in government, health care access and quality of care, substance abuse and underage drinking, emotional and physical well-being, the environment, poverty, homelessness, youth access to services, suicide prevention, and educational accessibility issues for students with disabilities.
- Recommend one legislative proposal
- Provide testimony before legislative bodies on youth issues
- Conduct a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the Council among Maryland youth
- Provide an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly

How to Apply:

If you think that you would like to be a voice for youth in Maryland, fill out the attached application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christina Drushel at cdrushel@goc.state.md.us or at 410-767-2547. We are requesting that applicants e-mail their application, as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is **July 1, 2012**.

Christina Drushel, Prevention Specialist
Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
2013-2014 Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ County _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: () _____ Other Phone: () _____
Name of School: _____
Type of School: _____
Year in School: _____ If not in school, when did you last attend full time: _____
Age: _____

Email: _____
Are you currently employed? Yes No Hours Worked Per Week: _____

Attach Resume if available

Parent / Guardian (if 18 years or under):

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____
Cellular Phone: () _____

1) Please describe any current or previous involvement in a youth organization/council:

2) Please list any current or previous extracurricular, volunteer experiences or leadership roles you have had in your school or community:

3) Briefly explain why you would like to participate in the Maryland Youth Advisory Council:

4) If you could make one change in your school, community, or the State of Maryland, what would it be?

5) What other problems or issues are most important to you?

6) If you are selected, you will be expected to reach out to your peers in the youth leadership organization that you represent. Please describe some ways you plan to engage your peers.

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Code, Annotated, §9-2701, you may consider providing the following information:

a. Gender: (Please check appropriate box)

Male Female

b. Race/Ethnicity: (Please check appropriate box)

White, Non Hispanic
American Indian or Alaska Native
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
Other: _____

Black or African American, Non Hispanic
Asian
Hispanic

c. Disability: (Please check appropriate box)

Yes No

Please include at least one letter of reference – (teacher, coach, pastor, advisor, professor, principal, etc.) and a resume, if applicable.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature or Parent/Guardian (if under 18): _____ Date: _____

Appendix II: 2012-13 Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2012

**General Meeting
Baltimore County Woodlawn Library
1811 Woodlawn Drive, Woodlawn, MD 21207**

In Attendance

Council Members:

Carmen Huynh
John Mannes
Cristina De Avilia
Christian Bowman
Kyle Wilson
Shannon Demehri
Michael Moore
Alex Daddone
Breana Echols
Emma Zyriek
Rico Lizbinski
Martha Sanchez
Stephanie Chill
Diane D'Costa

Devan Ogburn
David Smith
Rahul Grover
Emma Smyles
Elena Massetti
Thaara Shankar
Washiq Ahmed
Cody Dorsey
Mia Chase
Tina Huang
Justin Kim
Jessica Li
Beatriz Atsavaprane
Salar Khaleghzadegan
Esther Omolola

Vanice Antrum
Ben Feshbach
Jenny Park
Abigail Shriver

Co-Chairs:

Delegate Olszewski
Christina Drushel
Michael Hawkins

Public Observers:

Richie Yarrow
Calvin Yeh
Sarena Kimia

Overview of MYAC and Member Responsibilities

- Reviewed the role and responsibilities, by-laws and code-of-conduct for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. For copies of these materials please see attached documents:
 - MYAC overview presentation
 - By-laws and code-of-conduct
 - Photo release form
- Members were asked to read and sign the code-of-conduct agreement and review the photo consent form to be filled out by members over the age of 18, or parents if member is under the age of 18.

Overview of Legislative Process

- See handout

Legislative Priorities Discussion and Public Hearing

- Discussed legislative priorities from previous Council years, and include:
 - 2009-2010
 - Mandatory financial literacy education in public schools (main focus)
 - Supporting full voting rights for Student Members of the Boards of Education (SMOB)
 - Community service requirements

- 2010-2011
 - Youth violence (main focus)
 - Bullying
 - Improving nutrition of school meals
- 2011-2012
 - Mandatory financial literacy education in public schools (main focus)
 - Bullying
- Public Forums are hosted by the Council to present selected legislative issue, provide testimony before a panel, and allow the community to engage with the council about the issue.

Community Conversations Workshop: Facilitated by Youth As Resources

- The council was divided into two groups and were led in a community conversation as a way to begin the conversation about youth-related issues for the Council’s legislative priority.
- The participation in the workshop was also to teach the council members how to facilitate a conversation that they can replicated in their own community.
- The discussion was broken up into three categories: Problems, Causes, and Solutions. For group notes please see the [Community Conversations Discussion Notes](#).
- For more information about Youth As Resources please see their [Informational Flyer](#) or to learn about community project grants please see their [Grant Seeker Workshop flyer](#).

Election Results

Youth Co-Chair – **Cody Dorsey**

Youth Vice Chair – **Rahul Grover**

Youth Secretary – **Jenny Park**

- Because of the long voting process during the meeting the voting for the following positions will occur at the next council meeting:
 - *Youth Executive Board*
 - *Legislative Committee and Chair*
 - *Public Awareness Committee and Chair*

Meeting Adjourned

Action Items

- Sign and return Code of Conduct forms and Media Release forms
- Members are encouraged to talk to other young people in their community, school, church, youth group, etc about issues impacting youth today. Members can use the

community conversations model, create a survey/poll, or use any other method of interacting with their peers.

- Council members that are from the same school are encouraged to work together.
- Council member should be prepared to discuss their outreach at the next council meeting.
- Members should think about which committee, Legislative or Public Awareness, they would like to join.
- Members should think about whether they would like to be a member of the Council's Executive Board.

Next Meeting

- Saturday, October 27th from 1:30-4:30pm at the Arbutus Library, 855 *Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus, MD 21227.*
- Agenda will focus on voting for the Executive Board and committee chairs, legislative issue discussion and next steps.

Community Conversation Discussion Notes

Group 1:

Problems	Causes	Solutions
Lack of activity for youth	No proper outlet for youth	Find people who are willing to give money and time Fine parents for illegal activity
People in the community are not involved		
Youth crime/gang violence	Looking for friendship Security Safety friends	Offering more afterschool activities Social rooms/rec centers More advertising for youth activities
Healthcare	Unemployment rates no jobs the economy is worsening	
Drug and alcohol use	Looking for escape social pressure media pressure no money – linking back to dropouts	Public Service Announcements (PSA)
Bullying	Social and cultural differences lack of empathy attention seeking lack of support and structure	Pointing out the good more than the bad Giving incentives for people who speak up and share
Lack of education about		

bullying		
Dropouts	Lack of motivation financial struggles too many course requirements prison architect restarting requirements hanging with the wrong crowd	
Lack of education	Undocumented students Ending up in poverty	
Cliques/gangs		
Lack of civic engagement		
Lack of education about substance abuse		
Negative attitudes/influences		
Unsafe driving		
Lack of youth voice		
No money		

Group 2:

Problems	Causes	Solutions
Pest control	Old schools Chemicals	
Drug abuse	Peer pressure To feel better Easy access	
Bullying	Diversity Insecure Different social perceptions	Improve relations between teachers and students
Getting resources (schools)	No participation	Bridge programs Career technology
Being prepared for school	Community Misfunding Standardized testing	Different communities/schools stress differently College councilors Redirection of funds
Self-esteem		
Disrespect toward women (media)		
Bridging the gap		
Students being unaware		
Unawareness (schools)		

October 27, 2012

**General Meeting
Baltimore County Arbutus Library
855 Sulphur Spring Rd., Arbutus, MD 21227**

In Attendance

Tyler Argubright
Emma Zyriek
Michael Moore
Alex Daddone
Stephanie Chill
Beatriz Alsavapranece
Rahul Grover
Breana Echols
Caitlin McNamara
Elena Massetti
Diane D'costa
Karla Talley

Thaara Shankar
Maura Smyles
Ethan McComb
Emma Smyles
John DePass
Christian Bowman
Jingyi (Tina) Huang
Salar Khaleghzadegan
Julie Mehta
Martha Sanchez
Calvin Yeh
Ben Feshbach

Jessica Li
Rico Lizbinski
Carmen Huynh
John Mannes
Justin Kim
Gabrielle Winkey
Chris Eyo
Jenny Park
Esther Omolola
Robert Crumbaugh
Devan Ogburn

Co-Chairs

Christina Drushel
Cody Dorsey

Public Observers

LaWanda Edwards (on behalf of Senator
Roger Manno)
Sareana Kimia

Election Results

- Youth Executive Board
 - MASC: Rico Lizbinski, Justin Kim, Esther Omolola, Devan Ogburn
 - Governor: Stephanie Chill, Jingyi (Tina) Huang, Martha Sanchez, Salar Khaleghzadegan
 - Senate/House: Beatriz Alsavapranece, Elena Massetti, Karla Talley, Gabrielle Winkey
- Legislative Committee Chair(s)
 - Ben Feshbach, Calvin Yeh
- Public Awareness Committee Chair(s)
 - Emma Zyriek, Carmen Huynh, Jessica Li

Separated into Legislative Committee and Public Awareness Committee

Outreach Report Back

Each member discussed a significant issue in his or her community. The issues were then categorized.

Education

Student evaluation of teachers	Grading Policy	Physical Education/ Health requirements	Driver’s Ed requirements
Stress	Start times for schools	Distribution of resources	Technology in schools
Schools “failing” (inefficient administration, counseling)	Affordable secondary education	Academic cheating	Inequalities in school system
Drop-out rate	Environment (teaching)	Language Barrier	Drop schedules

Health

Suicide rate	Safe sex/ teen pregnancy	Self-esteem	“Social determinant of health”
Underage drinking/ substance abuse	Abortion and birth control	Nutrition and childhood obesity	Awareness of Health services for youth

Safety

Redefine “closed campus” (safety on campus)	Suicide rate	App for school resources officers	Bullying
Bus driver identification	Domestic violence/ physical altercations	Texting while driving	Stress in school

Miscellaneous

Driver’s ed requirements	Voting age	Job opportunities for youth	Voice for youth (outreach)
Diversity			

Technology

Social media	Personal use of technology in schools	App for school resources	
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Legislative Priorities Discussion

After categorizing all the issues raised, members decided on a method to narrow down the choices. Each member will select his or her top issue from each category (for a total of 5 issues per member). At the next meeting, members will vote on an issue.

Next Steps

Members will vote on one issue at the next meeting. In the time between this past meeting and the next meeting, members will vote for one issue per category online, based on personal views or feedback from the community. Results will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

December 8, 2012

**General Meeting
Maryland State House
100 State Circle, 2nd Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401**

In Attendance

Tyler Argubright	Diane D'costa	Washiq Ahmed
Emma Zyriek	Karla Talley	Kyle Wilson
Michael Moore	Thaara Shankar	Calvin Yeh
Justin Kim	Robert Crumbaugh	Ben Feshbach
Stephanie Chill	Ethan McComb	Vanice Antrum
Beatriz Alsavaprane	David Smith	Mia Chase
Rahul Grover	Shannon Demehri	Carmen Huynh
Breana Echols	Christian Bowman	John Marnes
Hamza Siddiqi	Jingyi (Tina) Huang	Chris Eyo
Elena Massetti	Thomas Raskin	

Co-Chairs

Delegate Olszewski
Christina Drushel
Michael Hawkins
Cody Dorsey

Introduction/ Ice Breaker

Online Voting Results

- Top Picks:
 - Education:
 - Affordable post-secondary education
 - Technology in schools (combined with Personal use of technology in schools)
 - Health:
 - Awareness of health services for youth
 - Safety:
 - Stress in schools
 - Miscellaneous:
 - Driver's education requirements
 - Technology:
 - Personal use of technology in schools

Issue Discussion & Meeting with Governor O'Malley

The top issues for each category were discussed in order to help the council decide on legislative priority. Due to time limitations, the topic order was decided by a preliminary vote.

<p>(1) Affordable post-secondary education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ultimate goal: post-secondary education available for all that want it • Current progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Used to be 6th most expensive state education system → now we are down to the mid 20's ○ Governor's 4 year commitment to not increase tuition costs ○ Increased public education spending by 45% • Problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Low tuition institutions don't have enough space ○ Tax support/rates vary by region ○ Low income families ineligible for financial aid • Possible solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shorten terms by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early college credits in high school ▪ AP focus on STEM and CORE courses ▪ UMD System accepts greater number of AP Credits ▪ Combining undergraduate and focused graduate degrees ▪ Loan repayment gauged to post graduation income ▪ Integration of fields to improve conceptual understanding and collaboration
<p>(2) Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two issues: use of technology by students and integration of technology into the curriculum • Some counties (i.e. St. Mary's) are attempting to integrate technology and education by providing devices like Ipads • "Bring your own device policy" is being piloted in Fredrick County → little cost since it only requires a policy change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Problem encountered in schools with income disparities • Technology policies for school systems are outdated and teachers are not well informed about technology • Levels of cheating remain unchanged with or without the privilege of using devices during schools • It is a great way to improve learning and connectivity (ex. Twitter/Facebook) • Inconsistent policies among teachers and/or localities • (Motion passed to table the issue and move on to the next)

(3) Driver's education requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to be offered in high schools, but privatized to do a lack of public funds • Driver's education is necessary (both by law and the improved safety)- 40% decrease in likely hood of crash (need source) • Driving used to be a privilege now it is becoming an indispensable skill • No mechanism to subsidize substantial costs • Another issue is that the quality of the classes is low • Proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partial scholarships for students with financial need by increasing permit costs by \$10 ○ State waivers for students who receive free and reduced-price lunches
(4) Stress in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very broad category with a variety of roots • Issue is causes of stress or how to manage stress
(5) Awareness of health services for youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Birth control ○ Child hunger ○ Social services ○ Increasing public awareness about the issues and the service offered

Vote On Legislative Priority

After discussing the issues, the council voted on the legislative priority for the year 2012-2013.

Focus issue: Technology in schools/Personal use of technology in school

Next Steps

In the interim before the next council meeting, members will research the focus issue and will attempt to propose specific target. A method of online correspondence will be established to aid in the flow of ideas.

Meeting Adjourned

February 2, 2013

**General Meeting
Pikesville Branch Library
1301 Reisterstown Road Pikesville, Maryland 21208**

In Attendance

Abigail Shriver	Diane D'Costa	Martha Sanchez
Alex Daddone	Elena Massetti	Maura Smyles
Beatriz Attsavaprane	Emma Smyles	Mia Chasse
Ben Feshbach	Emma Zyriek	Michael Moore
Breana Echols	Esther Omolola	Salar Khaleghzadegan
Caitlin McNamara	Ethan McComb	Stephanie Chill
Calvin Yeh	John DePass	Thaara Shankar
Carmen Huynh	John Mannes	Tyler Argubright
Christian Bowman	Julie Mehta	Vanice Antrum
David Smith	Justin Kim	
Devan Ogburn	Karla Talley	

Co-Chairs

Christina Drushel
Michael Hawkins
Cody Dorsey

Introduction/ Ice Breaker

Legislative Update

- Governor O'Malley's State of the State Address
 - The Governor made a commitment to moving education into the 21st century with the inclusion of laptops, iPads, and smart boards into the classroom.
 - The Governor put \$335 million in the state budget for capital funds for school construction. The funds can be used for wiring classrooms and school buildings for technology.
 - Action Item:
 - Submit a letter to the Chair of Appropriations in support of the Governor's budget and the use of funds for improving technology in schools.
- MYAC Legislation – SB483
 - Cody contacted Senator Manno in order to submit legislation repealing term limits.
 - Current legislation states,
 - “A youth member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.”
 - Through current legislation a councilmember can serve more than two terms, but must take a year off before reapplying.
 - Impact of proposed legislation
 - If passed, councilmembers can serve an unlimited number of terms until the youth ages out at the age of 22.

- If passed, the legislation is effective October 1, 2013. This means that members wishing to serve for a third term would have to wait until the 2014-15 council year because the 2013-14 year begins on September 1, 2013.
- Council members raised concerns and discussed the impact of unlimited term limits for council members. Concerns included:
 - Fewer slots would be available for new youth to serve on the council
 - Council members would become complacent over time
 - Seniority would dominate the flow of ideas
- Council discussed next steps if the repeal of term limits passed.
 - The council would update bylaws and create internal processes to address the change in term limits.
- Decision:
 - The Council voted to request Senator Manno to withdraw the legislation.

Legislative Priority Discussion: Use of technology in schools

- Integrating technology into the curriculum
 - The Council supports the increase of funds for incorporating technology into the teaching of curriculum. This can include, but not limited to, the use of laptops and computers, iPads, smart phones, smart boards, and social media.
 - The Council supports the increase of training for educators for how to use the various forms of technology.
 - The Council does not want to mandate the use of technology in every classroom or subject matter, but to empower educators who wish to use technology and provide the needed resources and support to do so.
 - Action Item:
 - Submit a letter to the Governor asking for funds in the Supplemental Budget specifically for technology in schools.
 - Submit a letter to school superintendents and school boards requesting an increase in funding for technology in schools.
- Personal use of electronic devices in school
 - The council recognizes that each school has a different policy and implementation of that policy regarding the use of electronic devices in schools. The adherence to the policy also varies by individual teacher and classroom.
 - The council noted that many school of conduct policies regarding the use of technology and electronic devices are often outdated.
 - Action Item:
 - Submit a letter to each superintendent and school board recommending that school policies regarding technology and electronic devices are reviewed and revised every 2-3 years.

Public Forum Planning

- Objective of the Public Forum is for the Council to hear stakeholders' thoughts and opinions about the use of technology in schools and learn about the successful implementation of technology in schools.
- Format of the Public Forum

- Introductions
 - What is MYAC
 - Framing the conversation about technology in schools
 - Polling of the audience
- Panel Discussion
 - Panelists share experiences
- Breakout Discussions
 - Audience participates in small roundtable discussions
- Report backs from breakout discussions
- Call to Action
- Panelists:
 - Student
 - Parent
 - Teacher/principal (elementary, middle, and high)
 - Superintendent/school board member/State Board of Education
 - Chief technology/innovations officer
- Invitees:
 - Legislators
 - Education college students
 - Parents
 - Students
 - Teachers
 - Principals
 - School librarians
 - Student Member of the Board (SMOB's)
 - Student Council representatives
 - Robotics team members
 - STEM clubs or afterschool programs
 - School newspaper members
- Date and Location – TBD – will be held in March
- The Executive Board will continue to coordinate and plan the Public Forum and sharing information with the Council.
 - Action Item:
 - Christina will e-mail Executive Board members a task list and members will select tasks and roles.

Public Speaking Workshop

- There was not enough time to run the workshop.
- Tip sheets will be sent to councilmembers along with the meeting recap.
- Workshop materials are available, please contact Christina for copies.

Meeting Adjourned

June 8, 2013

**General Meeting
Arbutus Branch Library
855 Sulphur Springs Road Arbutus, Maryland 21227**

In Attendance

Beatriz Atsavaprane
Chris Eyo
Diane D’Costa
Jenny Park

Karla Talley
Michael Moore
Salar Khaleghzadegan
Stephanie Chill

Thaara Shankar
Tyler Argubright

Co-Chairs

Christina Drushel
Michael Hawkins
Delegate John Olszewski

Introduction/ Ice Breaker

Council Updates

- Graduate Maryland Event
 - Attended by Christina Drushel and Cody Dorsey
 - Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) convened a meeting of stakeholders with the goal of increasing the number of students graduating from high school. The larger group broke up into smaller groups to form workgroups around the following 4 areas:
 - Early Interventions
 - GED Preparations
 - Alternative Education Models
 - Strong Supportive Services
 - The use of technology was discussed in the Alternative Education Model group as a way to provide more engaging academic experiences and to personalize lessons for students.
- Governor’s Virtual Learning Advisory Council
 - Attended by Christina Drushel, Stephanie Chill, and Abby Shriver
 - Led by Val Emrich from MSDE, this group is tasked to provide a report to the Governor and the General Assembly about the implications of requiring all students to complete an online course as part of graduation requirements.
 - Abby and Stephanie participated on the panel and shared their experiences of taking an online course and offering recommendations and additional insight about current online courses offered in Maryland.

Reflection: Public Forum		
What Worked	What Didn’t Work	Better for Next Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtable discussion• Format – introduction, background info, panel,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance was low• More council members than guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting held on a weekday in the evening• Partner with the PTA to

<p>roundtable discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to talk to non-council members • Location of event – college campus • Polling for event dates and topics • Panel – different voices (state, county, school, student) • Smaller planning group (executive board) • Length of time was good, not too long • Invite letter and flyer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live tweeting • Consolidating tables 	<p>increase attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better directions to the location • More/Better Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ E-mail reminders ○ Use Facebook ○ Hang posters/flyers in schools ○ Put flyers in school newspapers ○ Council members share information ○ Send event information with principals and county board members • Create outreach goals – each member invites x number • Have members outside to guide and greet attendees • Make more interactive • Have more voices and opinions
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Reflection: Maryland Youth Advisory Council		
What Worked	What Didn't Work	Better for Next Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community input/conversations • Council members worked collaboratively • Productive conversations • Consistent meeting time, Saturdays from 1-4pm • Passion for the topic • Opportunity to share different topics of interest • Discussion time • State-wide representation • Meeting with the Governor at the State House • E-mail reminders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all members voiced their opinion • Did not know about the application in time/late • Travel is difficult for college students and students not living in central Maryland area • May 1st for applications is not good for college students, April is better. • Choosing an issue on time • Not clear roles/positions for committee and Executive Board members • Time management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More meetings, esp. before the Public Forum • More breaks during the meeting • Council members actively advertise the council and events • Better communication between meetings • Smaller breakout groups to discuss topics and report to larger group • Create sub committees • Hold conference calls on weekends • Set-up e-mail accounts for council members name@myac.com

	<p>during discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goggle Groups Discussion Board • No time for committees to meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create action items, assignments, talking points for council members between meetings – submitting assignments to exec board members • More guest speakers – Governor, Lt. Governor, legislatures, community members, etc • Historian position • Time keeper role • Review recommendations included in the Annual Report • Create a better sense of community within the council • Disclose meeting locations in the application and on the website • More opportunities to share issues, interest, events, and other opportunities with other council members • More legislative engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit letters of support ○ Provide testimony ○ Take positions on issues not related to focus topic • Dedicate a February meeting to legislative issues • More MYAC members deliver testimony
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Annual Report

- Council members reviewed the 2011-12 Annual report and made recommendations for the 2012-13 report:
 - Include graphics (voting polls for topic, picture with Governor, schools/legislative districts/counties of council members)
 - Include meeting minutes and public forum powerpoint as an appendix
 - Include council members’ schools and legislative districts on the roster
 - Include table of contents and executive summary
 - Include link to the website

- In narrative, focus on the process the council took to choose technology in school and plan for the public forum
- Add Meetings, Public Forum and Application Headers
- Include recommendations for next year based on the Reflection Exercise
- Make recommendations for next steps for Technology in Schools topic– this will provide a starting point for next year’s council if they choose to continue with technology in schools.
- The Executive Board will put together the Annual Report and share with the Council for comment.
 - Christina will send an e-mail to the Executive Board and assign roles.
- The Annual Report must be submitted to the Governor’s Office for Children by **August 1st** for review and will be sent to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly.

Applications

- Applications are available online at <http://goc.maryland.gov/MarylandYouthAdvisoryCouncil.html>
- Interested in a second year?
 - Council members who are interested in service a second year on the council must let me know by **Friday, June 21st**. Also, please note if you will be attending a different school or not participating in MASC next year.
 - Council members who are graduating from high school and attending college out-of-state are not eligible

Special Presentation

- Christina presented on behalf of Senator Manno, citations thanking members for their time of service on the Council. Citations were given out to meeting attendees.
- Council members not present during the meeting will receive the citation in the mail.

Meeting Adjourned

Appendix III: Topic Selection Voting Results

These graphs show the results of surveys taken during the topic selection process. Each MYAC member was to select one topic that most appealed to him or her in each category.

Education

1. Education?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Student evaluations of teachers		6.7%	2
Grading policy		6.7%	2
P.E./ Health requirements in schools		0.0%	0
Driver's ed requirements		0.0%	0
Stress		10.0%	3
Start times for schools		3.3%	1
Distribution of resources		3.3%	1
Technology in schools		16.7%	5
Schools "failing" (inefficient counseling, administration, etc.)		3.3%	1
Affordable secondary education		16.7%	5
Academic cheating		6.7%	2
Inequalities of education system		10.0%	3
Drop-out rate		10.0%	3
Environment (teaching)		0.0%	0
Language Barriers		3.3%	1
Drop Schedule		3.3%	1
		answered question	30
		skipped question	0




Health

2. Health?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Suicide rate		10.3%	3
Safe sex/ teen pregnancy		10.3%	3
Self-esteem		13.8%	4
"Social determinant of health"		10.3%	3
Underage drinking/ substance abuse		17.2%	5
Abortion and birth control		0.0%	0
Nutrition and childhood obesity		17.2%	5
Awareness of health services for youth		20.7%	6
		answered question	29
		skipped question	1




Safety

3. Safety?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Closed campus (safety for campus)		16.7%	5
Suicide rate		3.3%	1
App for school resource officers		16.7%	5
Bullying		20.0%	6
Bus driver identification		6.7%	2
Domestic violence/ Physical altercations		3.3%	1
Texting while driving		6.7%	2
Stress in school		26.7%	8
		answered question	30
		skipped question	0

Miscellaneous

4. Miscellaneous?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Driver's Ed requirements		24.1%	7
Diversity		10.3%	3
Voting age		17.2%	5
Job opportunities for youth		17.2%	5
Environment		10.3%	3
Voice for youth (outreach)		20.7%	6
		answered question	29
		skipped question	1

Technology

5. Technology?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
Social media		40.0%	12
Personal use of technology in school		46.7%	14
App for school resource officers		13.3%	4
		answered question	30
		skipped question	0

Appendix IV: Public Forum Materials

Public Forum Flyer



Maryland Youth Advisory Council Public Forum: Technology in Schools Saturday, April 20, 2013, 1-4 pm

MYAC's public forum will focus on technology and education. Please join us and a panel of experts to discuss and share your views on technology in schools.



The forum will be held at CCBC Catonsville, 800 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228, Room K-100.

Free parking available in Lot #5, across from K-Building.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Christina Drushel,
christina.drushel@maryland.gov, or 410-767-2547.

2013 MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC FORUM: TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOL

[#TECHINSCHOOL](#)

Saturday, April 20, 2013

Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville Campus

What is MYAC?

- Established in 2008 through the state legislature.
- Provides feedback and recommendations on public policy and programs that impact youth.
- Council members are ages 14-22 and represent youth from across Maryland.



Why Technology in School?

- Part of a large national discussion:
 - ▣ Digital learning
 - ▣ Online learning
 - ▣ Focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers
 - ▣ Better understanding about how students learn and improved teaching methods.



"We need to make digital learning the norm rather than the exception. Every day should be digital learning day." – Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education

Why Technology in School?

"We must continue to promote innovation in our classrooms to prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow." – Governor O'Malley

- Growing Support in Maryland
 - ▣ Innovation Funds - \$7million
 - ▣ Capital funds for school improvements - \$300 million
 - ▣ Expansion of online learning
 - ▣ Digital textbooks
 - ▣ Technology in the classroom – smart boards, tablets, laptops, wireless access, social media, etc

The Debate

Do we need technology to learn?

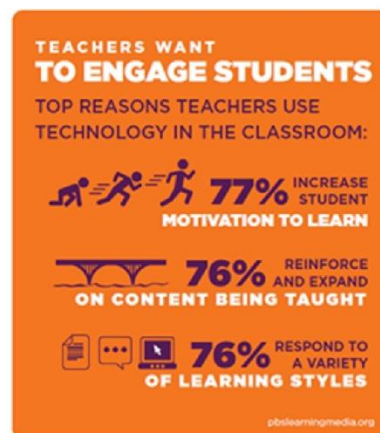
- How do we measure success?
 - ▣ Successful case studies, but difficulty in replicating programs in other schools and districts
- How to separate the teaching from the technology?
- Does technology instruct or distract?
- Is there value in paper, pencil, and books?



The Debate

What is the best way to use it?

- Technology creates enthusiasm in the classroom and students are actively engaged in the material.
- Technology should not replace teachers but aid in the learning process.



The Debate

How to we go from this...

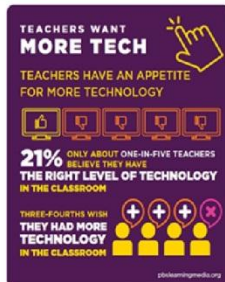


The Debate

To this?

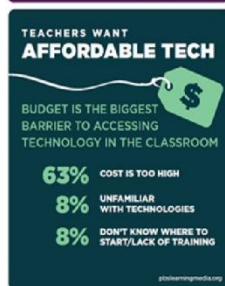


The Debate



Education and Technology must be a priority!

- Invest in Research and Development
- More funding available to schools



How to pay for it?

- School budgets are being reduced
- Classroom size is increasing
- Technology is costly

Resources

- “In Classroom of Future, Stagnant Scores,” New York Times, Matt Richtel. September 3, 2011.
 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/04/technology/technology-in-schools-faces-questions-on-value.html?pagewanted=2&r=4&sq=education%20and%20technology&st=ce&scp=1&>
- “Digital Learning Day: No Better Time to Consider Our R&D Investment in Technology and Education,” U.S. Department of Education. February 5, 2013.
 - <http://www.ed.gov/oii-news/digital-learning-day-no-better-time-consider-our-rd-investment-technology-and-education>
- We must invest in research and development in education: Jim Shelton at TEDxMidAtlantic 2012
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=p_2b8TbNtF8
- “From Digital Doubter to Tech Guru,” U.S. Department of Education, Laurie Calvert. February 6, 2013.
 - <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/02/from-digital-doubter-to-tech-guru/>