



Public School Opportunities Enhancement Act: Report

Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment,
and Educational Policy

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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Mohammed Choudhury**

State Superintendent of Schools
Secretary-Treasurer, Maryland State Board of
Education

Dr. Sylvia Lawson Ph.D.

Deputy Superintendent for Organizational
Effectiveness

Mary L. Gable

Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Student Support, Academic
Enrichment, and Educational Policy

Larry Hogan

Governor

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Merin Thomas (Student Member)

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Implementation	4
Funding by Jurisdiction	8
Technical Assistance	9
Evaluation and Effectiveness	10
Funding to Support the Recruitment, Training, and Ongoing Professional Development of New Teachers	12
Summary	13

Introduction

Pursuant to Section § 7-1701 through 1706 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the PSOEP grant authorized the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to award grants to local education agencies (LEAs), community schools, and non-profit organizations to implement quality extended day or summer enhancement programs. In the 2017- 2018 school year, the MSDE implemented the first four -year cohort of the PSOEP grant. In the 2021 - 2022 school year, funding was made available to award grants for a second four-year cohort. As a result, the MSDE hosted a new PSOEP competition and awarded grants to 11 subgrantees in Baltimore City and Prince Georges' County. The award amount for the 2021 - 2022 school year was \$2,500,000 and will remain the same for subsequent years, given the continued availability of state funds.

Implementation

The original PSOEP award amount for the 2021 – 2022 school year was \$2,500,000. Funding was awarded to 11 community based agencies to expand or create extended day programs that provide access to enrichment opportunities that improve work habits, reduce academic achievement gaps, and improve academic skills. The PSOEP programs operated in two jurisdictions: Prince George's County and Baltimore City. The grantees are: YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc. (Baltimore City), Village Learning Place (Baltimore City), Kingdom Vision Ministries (Prince George's County), and McDougall International, LLC (Prince George's County).

Grantees and Programs

The PSOEP Total Grant Award per Jurisdiction and Lead Agency with the Program Name and Description				
Program Name	Local Education Agency	Lead Agency	Description	Grant Amount
Let's Invest in Neighborhood Kids (LINK) Summer and LINK Leaders Summer Program	Baltimore City	Village Learning Place	The programs directly address the need for summer learning support, social-emotional development, family engagement, and preparing students with the skills to successfully reach Maryland's College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS).	\$227,272
Bright Start Enrichment Program	Prince George's County	Kingdom Vision Ministries	The program implemented a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM)- based experience for elementary and rising middle school-aged children. The approach was designed to enhance the academic skills of participating students while exposing them to STEAM-based enrichment programming with a focus on environmental science.	\$227,272

The PSOEP Total Grant Award per Jurisdiction and Lead Agency with the Program Name and Description				
Gateway Enrichment Program at Princeton Elementary School	Prince George's County	McDougall International, LLC	The program implemented a STEAM- based experience for elementary and rising middle school - aged children. The approach was designed to enhance the academic skills of participating students while exposing them to STEAM- based enrichment programming with a focus on environmental science.	\$227,272
Gateway Enrichment Program at Samuel P. Massie Academy	Prince George's County	McDougall International, LLC.	The program implemented a STEAM- based experience for elementary and rising middle school-aged children. The approach was designed to enhance the academicskills of participating students while exposing them to STEAM- based enrichment programming with a focus on environmental science.	\$227,272
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Graceland Park O'Donnell Heights Elementary and Middle Schools	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland provided high - quality and engaging activities that improve academic performance, increase school attendance, and build parent engagement. The program integrates an evidence - based academic intervention and enrichment activities provided by thoughtfully selected partners to build environmental stewardship, heighten college and career-readiness, enhance scholar character, develop service learning, and encourage wellness.	\$227,272

The PSOEP Total Grant Award per Jurisdiction and Lead Agency with the Program Name and Description				
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Rosemont Elementary/Middle School	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland identified three areas that would benefit from targeted out-of-school time (OST) academic and enrichment programming: scholar improvement in reading and literacy, improved attendance, and increased parent engagement.	\$227,272
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Johnston Square Elementary School	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland provided high-quality and engaging activities that improve academic performance, increase school attendance, and build parent engagement. The program utilizes evidence-based academic intervention and enrichment activities provided by thoughtfully selected partners to build environmental stewardship, heighten college and career-readiness, enhance scholar character, develop service learning, and encourage wellness.	\$227,272
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Holabird Elementary/Middle School	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland provided high-quality and engaging activities that improve academic performance, increase school attendance, and build parent engagement. The program utilizes evidence-based academic intervention and enrichment activities provided by thoughtfully selected partners to build environmental stewardship, heighten college and career-readiness, enhance	\$227,272

The PSOEP Total Grant Award per Jurisdiction and Lead Agency with the Program Name and Description				
			scholar character, develop service learning, and encourage wellness.	
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Fort Worthington	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland provided high - quality and engaging activities that improve academic performance, increase school attendance, and build parent engagement. The program utilized evidence - based academic intervention and enrichment activities provided by thoughtfully selected partners to build environmental stewardship, heighten college and career-readiness, enhance scholar character, develop service learning, and encourage wellness	\$227,272
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Moravia Park Elementary School	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland identified three areas that would benefit from targeted OST academic and enrichment programming: scholar improvement in reading and literacy, improved attendance, and increased parent engagement.	\$227,272
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Gwynn Falls Elementary School	Baltimore City	YMCA of Central Maryland, Inc.	The Y in Central Maryland identified three areas that would benefit from targeted OST academic and enrichment programming: scholar improvement in reading and literacy, improved attendance, and increased parent engagement.	\$227,272

Funding by Jurisdiction

The total percentage of funding and the number of grantees is outlined below:

- 73 percent of total funding awarded to four Baltimore City grants
- 27 percent of total funding awarded to four Prince George's County grants

There are a total of eleven grantees with seven programs providing school year only services, three programs providing school year and summer services, and one program providing summer only services.

Technical Assistance

The MSDE OST team also provided technical assistance to all grantees throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Assistance included support for grantees to remain in fiscal and program compliance. The MSDE OST staff conducted numerous online trainings and webinars. Professional learning and technical assistance topics included: national OST programming and online professional learning resources, Science, Technology, Education, and Math (STEM) summer learning programmatic practices, contracted services documentation, and accountability practices, grants fiscal management protocols, and budgetary amendment training.

The MSDE OST staff also partnered with You for Youth (Y4Y), an organization that provides support for federal programs to provide online professional learning and technical assistance which support out-of-school time programs. The Y4Y portal has a wealth of resources including course tools such as planners and checklists, professionalization resources, and external links. In addition, grantees were required to include in their budget proposals funding for two trainings, bi-monthly networking meetings, and State trainings.

To sustain a quality program, academic staff and volunteers who delivered academic support and enrichment services were provided with ongoing training and professional learning opportunities. Training was designed to ensure appropriate interactions with students and to prevent high rates of student turnover. Staff training focused on how to work with children, how to create powerful learning opportunities that increase youth engagement, how to negotiate and integrate restorative practices, how to address the needs of children of different ages, races, and cultures, as well as children with disabilities, and how to use Youth Program Quality Standards.

Legislation mandates that grantees follow the Maryland Out-of-School Time (MOST) Quality Framework. The MOST Quality Framework is a clear and accessible tool to assist OST programs in the State of Maryland as they serve youth ages five to 19. The framework can serve as a guide for program leadership to build or enhance a culture of continuous learning and improvement, focused on effectively serving the students. The framework is both foundational, setting standards for baseline program quality, and broad, providing a framework general enough for all types of programs. The framework can serve as a springboard to:

- Develop or refine program policies and procedures
- Promote staff conversations about program quality areas of success and needed improvement
- Share and compare concerns about programming and the organization
- Develop, revisit, and refine a collective vision, language, and message amongst staff
- Strengthen communication to external funders and stakeholders

The MSDE will continue to assist grantees during the implementation of extended day opportunities for Maryland students. It is essential to offer quality extended day and summer programs to assist students with academic and social skills throughout the year to avoid regression in learning.

Evaluation and Effectiveness

Grantees submitted evaluation reports in July 2022 and October 2022. The MSDE grant managers reviewed the Grant Renewal Application (GRA) consisting of a performance report of programmatic and fiscal data, as well as an evaluation report to determine the effectiveness of the programs.

Grantees were responsible for implementing required activities based upon the program requirements. The GRA noted that grantees addressed most of the activities. The percentage of grantee implementation by activity is outlined below:

- 100% of programs established new educational or recreational partnerships with local parks, recreation councils, local public schools, public libraries, institutions of higher education, private sector businesses, and other non-profit organizations
- 100% of programs provided opportunities to learn about the environment, the student's place in the environment, and what they can do to protect it
- 100% of programs provided opportunities to learn about the environment to improve understanding of how nature, science practice, society, and social responsibility are intertwined, and exposed students to careers in environmental fields, green jobs, or sustainable practices
- 55% of the programs supplemented transportation costs for program sites that are not easily accessible to outdoor education centers or park sites
- 100% of the programs connected youth to their environment and provided time outdoors for free play and discovery

Additionally, grantees were required to develop program objectives based on the following accountability measures:

- Features that had a measurable impact on the well-being for children and youth as identified by the Maryland Out-of-School Time Programs' Quality Standards Framework
- Educational component that assisted students in meeting academic, on grade level requirements (for extended day programs)
- Learning and enrichment activities that assisted students in achieving at or above grade level in the next school year
- Exposure of students to future learning and life opportunities (for summer enhancement programs)
- Enhancement of the educational purpose of the school day or enhanced students access to physical, social, and emotional support (for educational programming during the school day)
- Leveraging of private and existing funding sources

The status of self-reported performance objectives provided in the original proposal are annually reported. The findings demonstrated that grantees met or demonstrated progress towards meeting these objectives. The data reported that an average of 28% of grantees had met or were progressing towards the identified objectives. The data reported an average of 72% were classified as "unable to measure." The PSOEP programs unable to provide measurement at the time of the submitted report cited justifications including the inability to effectively assess student performance because of evaluation results not yet being available or the evaluator's analysis of data was not yet due to be completed (ie: extended day and summer enhancement programs).

Grantees were responsible for hiring an external evaluator as outlined in the Request for Proposals. The external evaluator was responsible for developing a plan to assess progress toward meeting objectives, milestones, and anticipated outcomes. In addition, the external evaluator must have been an integral element in the project's planning, design, and implementation. The evaluation enables project managers to determine which strategies and activities have been successful, and those that need to be revised. Most of the external evaluation reports found that the majority of the annual milestones were met. These milestones included academic performance, school readiness, classroom participation, assignment completion, offering high quality educational, developmental, and recreation services, parental involvement, and family literacy.

Funding to Support the Recruitment, Training, and Ongoing Professional Development of New Teachers

In fiscal year 2019, a budget amendment to the PSOEP program specified that \$500,000 of the funding be authorized to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to support existing educational programming during the school day, including recruitment, training, and ongoing professional learning of new teachers. The competitive grant was open only to nonprofit [501(c) (3)] organizations that target LEAs with at least 50% of public-school students that qualify for free lunch under the National School Lunch Program.

Teach for America (TFA) was awarded the Public School Opportunity Enhancement Professional Learning Program (PSOEPLP) grant. Teach for America is a nationally validated program that recruits, selects, and trains new teachers for placement in schools serving low-income students. With the funding from the MSDE, TFA made improvements to their training for new teachers to strengthen their capabilities to increase the academic and personal growth of students in Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

In the 2021 - 2022 school year, TFA supported 210 corps members in 87 schools throughout Baltimore City and Prince George's County, reaching approximately 13,000 students. Corp members completed at least four observation cycles with their one-to-one TFA coach, and consistently attended biweekly content sessions with content specialists who are expert teachers in their areas of focus. In addition, TFA offered financial planning support through TFA's Black Educators Promise Initiative and offered stipends for all Black third-year teachers who continue to teach at a school in a predominantly low-income community.

Summary

In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly enacted the PSOEP grant (§ 7-1701 through 1706 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland). The statute requires the MSDE to submit a report on the effectiveness and an evaluation of programs funded annually. The MSDE is submitting this report in order to provide the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly with information requested by the Education Article (§ 7-1701 through 1706 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.) The MSDE will continue to assist grantees during implementation of OST programs and support existing educational programming during the school day, including recruitment, training, and ongoing professional learning of new teachers. The number of students served in the first year of the second cohort implementation of the PSOEP grant is indicated below.

PSOEP Grantee and Total Number of Students Served in 2021 - 2022	
Grantee	# of Students Served 2021 - 2022
Let's Invest in Neighborhood Kids (LINK) Summer and LINK Leaders Summer Program	119
Bright Start Enrichment Program	151
Gateway Enrichment Program at Princeton Elementary School	108
Gateway Enrichment Program at Samuel P. Massie Academy	106
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Graceland Park O'Donnell Heights	133
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Rosemont Elementary/Middle School	60
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Johnston Square Elementary School	67
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Holabird Elementary/Middle School	106
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Fort Worthington	76
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Moravia Park Elementary School	75
Y in Central Maryland Afterschool Enrichment at Gwynn Falls Elementary School	44
TOTAL	1,045