

**Enhanced Program
Maryland School for the Blind**

Education Article, Section 8-311(f)

Maryland State Department of Education

August 2024

September 1, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building; 3 West Wing
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building; 3 East Wing
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Benjamin Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Enhanced Program-Maryland School for the Blind (MSAR# 11944)

Dear Senator Guzzone, Senator Beidle, Delegate Barnes, and Delegate Atterbeary:

Section §8-311 of the Education Article requires the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) to establish and operate a program of enhanced services for blind students who have other severe disabilities. The students served in the Enhanced Program shall be students who are at risk of requiring nonpublic placement in an out-of-state special education facility. The State pays the cost of serving students in the Enhanced Program based on an individual cost sheet on file at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Pursuant to Section §8-311 of the Education Article, MSDE shall report to the budget committees, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee, on or before September 1 of each year, the number of students enrolled in the Enhanced Program of the MSB and the annual costs for the program. In addition, the Department shall report on any anticipated enrollment growth and future costs related to the Enhanced Program.

Below are the number of students enrolled and the annual costs of the Enhanced Program at the MSB for school year 2023-2024. The preliminary data for the current school year, 2024-2025, reflects projected enrollment of 85 students at a cost of \$9,781,176 (\$615,140 in local costs and \$9,166,036 in State costs). The Enhanced Program's projected enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year decreases by 12 students from the previous school year with a decrease in State cost of \$164,046.

School Year	Enrollment	Costs		
		Local	State	Total
2023-2024 (final)	97	\$624,397	\$9,320,825	\$9,945,222
2024-2025 (projected)	85	\$615,140	\$9,166,036	\$9,781,176
Difference	(12)	(\$9,257)	(\$154,789)	(\$164,046)

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director, Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations, Office of the State Superintendent, at 410-767-0504. We look forward to our continued partnership in our vision to create a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for children with disabilities, birth through 21 years of age, and their families.

Sincerely,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

- c: The Honorable Wes Moore
- The Honorable Bill Ferguson
- The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones