



# The SEED School of Maryland

Education Article § 8-708

Residential Boarding Program for At-Risk Youth

December 1, 2025



**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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# Table of Contents

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Overview	3
School Administration	3
Enrollment	4
Finances	6

## Overview

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Education Article §8-701 established the Residential Boarding Education Program for At-Risk Youth. The operator of the Maryland Residential Boarding Program for At-Risk Youth is the SEED School of Maryland. The SEED School is designed to provide a rigorous college preparatory education. The preliminary enrollment count for the 2025-2026 school year is 429 students enrolled in grades six to 12 from 12 local education agencies (LEAs).

The SEED School has been in operation since fall 2008. In July 2023, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved a contract renewal for the SEED School for a five-year term through July 2028. In the renewed contract, updates were made to reporting requirements and to academic and operational benchmarks.

Education Article §8-708 directs the Board of Trustees of the SEED School (Residential Boarding Education Program for At-Risk Youth) to report to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) information on the number, grades, and jurisdictions of students enrolled in the program in the current and preceding years. MSDE reports this information to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly, along with a recommendation regarding whether funds for the residential education program should be increased or decreased. This report does not include student names, so the report may be made available to the public.

This report includes: (1) projected student enrollment summary by grade and sending LEA for the 2025 -2026 school year for all 429 students in grades 6-12; (2) student enrollment summary by grade and sending LEA for the 392 students in grades 6-12 who attended the SEED School in the 2024-2025 school year; (3) actual expenditures for fiscal year (FY) 2025 and the projected budget for FY 2026; and (4) whether funds appropriated under §8-708 should be increased or decreased. As per §8-702, the program is operated under the supervision of MSDE. Ms. Carol Beck, Director, Office of School Innovations, is the contract monitor and meets at least monthly with the SEED School leadership team to review student progress, address program concerns, and identify areas where MSDE can provide technical assistance to the school. Ms. Beck also facilitates informal meetings, structured visits, and contact with others in the Department, as appropriate. Ms. Beck is supported by key MSDE staff including Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Student Support and Federal Programs, and Walter Sallee, Director of Student Services and Strategic Planning. The MSDE staff facilitates communications between SEED School staff, local Directors of Student Support, and other LEA staff members.

## School Administration

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Kirk Sykes is the Head of the SEED School of Maryland and begins his sixth year leading the school. Mr. Sykes holds a B.A. from Morgan State University, an M. Ed. in Education from Coppin State University, and is completing doctoral studies at Seton Hall University.

Mr. Sykes directs a leadership team including the Chief of Staff, Director of Academics, and the Director of Student Life. A 20 member Board of Trustees includes five appointees of the Governor of

Maryland. The SEED Foundation, Inc. provides guidance and support to the SEED School of Maryland, and three sister programs in Washington DC, Miami, FL, and Los Angeles, CA. The SEED Foundation founded the school and continues to provide direction in administration, strategic planning, programming, and fundraising.

Staff at the SEED School with leadership roles in reading, mathematics, library/media, science, social studies, physical education, Title I, and special education receive content-related information from MSDE. SEED School staff members are also invited to attend training sponsored by MSDE when the content is relevant. This includes professional development provided by the Division of Special Education Services, the Division of Assessment and Accountability, and the Division of Student Support and Federal Programs.

The SEED School is governed by a Board of Trustees. The chair of the Board is Steven Fedder. Trustees bring experience in law, education, higher education, and business and marketing. Per statute, five trustees are appointed by the Governor of Maryland, with the consent of the Senate of Maryland.

## Enrollment

As specified by statute, the September 30th enrollment is the official count used to determine billing for enrollment for each LEA.

Table 1 includes the number of students by grade and LEA for the 2025-2026 school year. In the 2025-2026 school year, the preliminary enrollment includes students from 11 counties and Baltimore City. The enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is preliminary and will be verified as of the official September 30 enrollment count. Table 2 includes the number of students by grade and LEA for the 2024-2025 school year. In the 2024-2025 school year, students represented ten counties and Baltimore City.

**TABLE 1. PREMININARY ENROLLMENT BY GRADE AND LEA PROJECTED FOR 2025-2026**

County	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
<b>Allegany</b>					1			1
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	15
<b>Baltimore City</b>	34	26	22	42	42	36	22	224
<b>Baltimore County</b>	15	10	9	13	19	10	9	85
<b>Charles</b>				1			1	2
<b>Frederick</b>	1	2	1	1			1	6
<b>Harford</b>	2	1	2	3	1	1		10
<b>Howard</b>	2		1	2	2	2		9
<b>Montgomery</b>	2	1	2	4		1		10
<b>Prince George's</b>	7	9	10	8	17	8	6	65
<b>Washington</b>				1				1
<b>Wicomico</b>							1	1

County	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
<b>Total</b>	66	51	49	77	84	61	41	429

TABLE 2. ENROLLMENT BY GRADE AND LEA FOR 2024-2025

County	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
<b>Allegany</b>				1			1	2
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	2	2	5	3	3	2	1	18
<b>Baltimore City</b>	25	21	17	48	38	24	19	192
<b>Baltimore County</b>	8	8	10	19	11	10	7	73
<b>Charles</b>				2				2
<b>Frederick</b>	2	1	1	1		1		6
<b>Harford</b>	1		1				1	3
<b>Howard</b>		1	1	2	2	1	1	8
<b>Montgomery</b>	1	1	3		1		2	8
<b>Prince George's</b>	9	15	8	16	10	9	11	78
<b>Wicomico</b>						1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	48	49	46	92	65	48	44	392

## Finances

Each year, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriate funding for the SEED School in two parts. An appropriation of state general funds provides funding for the boarding program, administration, and transportation. In addition, there is a special fund appropriation. This amount estimates the contribution that will be made by LEAs, based on enrollment of SEED School students from each county or Baltimore City. MSDE invoices the LEA an amount that equals 85% of the local cost of education times the number of students enrolled.

In FY 2025, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly appropriated from general funds \$13,000,274 to the SEED School and \$13,621,664 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The Special Fund appropriation was \$5,295,514 in FY 2025 and the same in FY 2026. In FY 2025 the amount billed to LEAs for enrolled students was \$5,426,149 exceeding the appropriation by \$130,635. Additional revenue is provided through federal and state grants for which the school is eligible. The SEED School raises private funds to support enhancements to the program. Table 3 reports SEED school expenditures for FY 2025 and the budget for FY 2026. The SEED School reported operating expenditures for FY 2025 of \$21,116,304. The projected operating budget for FY 2026 totals \$20,261,331.

TABLE 3. SEED SCHOOL OF MARYLAND BUDGET SUMMARY

Revenue:

Revenue Source	FY 2025 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2026 Projected Approved Budget
State and Local Per Pupil Funding	5,458,283	\$5,551,851
State Special Fund for Boarding program	\$13,000,274	\$13,646,664
FARMS (Nat'l Food Program) and State	\$341,901	\$350,000
Federal Grants	\$1,185,885	\$920,554
Special Education	\$0	\$60,762
COVID Relief Fund	\$1,215,674	\$0
Other State: Concentration of Poverty	\$725,575	\$650,000
E rate	\$56,746	\$60,000
Medicaid	\$66,024	\$50,000
Private contributions	\$1,135,212	\$750,000
Other	\$164,096	\$138,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$23,349,670</b>	<b>\$22,177,831</b>

**Expenses:**

Expense	FY 2025 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2026 Projected Approved Budget
Salaries	\$10,009,606	\$10,011,578
Benefits and Taxes	\$2,191,016	\$2,567,970
Other Staff Expense	\$201,252	\$225,800
Occupancy	\$2,427,431	\$2,517,780
Direct Student	\$3,629,458	\$2,960,094
Technology	\$136,089	\$177,000
Development	\$161,179	\$150,000
General and Administrative	\$2,360,274	\$1,651,109
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>21,116,305</b>	<b>\$20,261,331</b>

**Change In Net Assets:**

Summary	FY 2025 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2026 Projected Budget
Revenue Minus Operating Expenses	\$2,233,366	\$1,916,500
Depreciation and Amortization	-\$1,443,627	-\$1,525,000

Summary	FY 2025 Actual (Unaudited)	FY 2026 Projected Budget
Interest Expense	-\$399,242	-\$385,000
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$390,497</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
Beginning Net Assets	\$30,112,918	\$30,503,415
Ending Net Assets	\$30,503,415	\$30,509,915