

~~school year, as well as their reasons
for returning to public schools.; and~~

~~(13) the number of students who received
BOOST Program scholarships for
the 2017-2018 school year who
withdrew or were expelled from the
nonpublic schools they were
attending, and the reasons for
which they withdrew or were
expelled; the schools they withdrew
or were expelled from; and the
length of time students receiving
BOOST Program scholarships were
enrolled at a nonpublic school before
withdrawing or being expelled
provided that this
appropriation shall be for a
Broadening Options and
Opportunities for Students
Today (BOOST) Program that
provides scholarships for
students who are eligible for the
free or reduced-price lunch
program to attend eligible
nonpublic schools. The
Maryland State Department of
Education (MSDE) shall
administer the grant program
in accordance with the
following guidelines:~~

~~(1) To be eligible to participate in
the BOOST Program, a
nonpublic school must:~~

~~(a) participate in Program
R00A03.04 Aid to
Non-Public Schools
Program for textbooks
and computer hardware
and software
administered by MSDE;~~

~~(b) provide more than only
prekindergarten and
kindergarten programs;~~

1 (c) administer national,
2 norm referenced
3 standardized assessments
4 chosen from the list of
5 assessments published by
6 the United States
7 Department of Education
8 to qualify nonpublic
9 schools for the National
10 Blue Ribbon Schools
11 Program. The nonpublic
12 schools must administer
13 the assessments to all
14 students as follows:

15 (i) English/language
16 arts and
17 mathematics
18 assessments each
19 year for students in
20 grades 3 through 8,
21 and at least once for
22 students in grades 9
23 through 12; and

24 (ii) a science
25 assessment at least
26 once for students in
27 grades 3 through 5,
28 at least once for
29 students in grades 6
30 through 9, and at
31 least once for
32 students in grades
33 10 through 12; and

34 (d) comply with Title VI of the
35 Civil Rights Act of 1964 as
36 amended, Title 20,
37 Subtitle 6 of the State
38 Government Article, and
39 not discriminate in
40 student admissions on the
41 basis of race, color,
42 national origin, or sexual
43 orientation. Nothing

1 herein shall require any
2 school or institution to
3 adopt any rule,
4 regulation, or policy that
5 conflicts with its religious
6 or moral teachings.
7 However, all
8 participating schools
9 must agree that they will
10 not discriminate in
11 student admissions based
12 on race, color, national
13 origin, or sexual
14 orientation. If a
15 nonpublic school does not
16 comply with these
17 requirements, it shall
18 reimburse MSDE all
19 scholarship funds
20 received under the BOOST
21 Program and may not
22 charge the student tuition
23 and fees instead. The only
24 other legal remedy for
25 violation of this provision
26 is ineligibility for
27 participating in the
28 BOOST Program.

29 (2) MSDE shall establish
30 procedures for the application
31 and award process for
32 scholarships for students who
33 are eligible for the free or
34 reduced-price lunch program.
35 The procedures shall include
36 consideration for award
37 adjustments if an eligible
38 student becomes ineligible
39 during the course of the school
40 year.

41 (3) MSDE shall compile and certify
42 a list of applicants that ranks
43 eligible students by family
44 income expressed as a percent of
45 the most recent federal poverty

- 1 levels.
- 2 (4) MSDE shall submit the ranked
3 list of applicants to the BOOST
4 Advisory Board.
- 5 (5) There is a BOOST Advisory
6 Board that shall be appointed
7 as follows: 2 members appointed
8 by the Governor, 2 members
9 appointed by the President of
10 the Senate, 2 members
11 appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House of Delegates, and 1
13 member jointly appointed by the
14 President and the Speaker to
15 serve as the chair. A member of
16 the BOOST Advisory Board may
17 not be an elected official and
18 may not have any financial
19 interest in an eligible nonpublic
20 school.
- 21 (6) The BOOST Advisory Board
22 shall review and certify the
23 ranked list of applicants and
24 shall determine the scholarship
25 award amounts. The BOOST
26 Advisory Board shall take into
27 account the special needs of
28 students with disabilities when
29 determining scholarship award
30 amounts, and subject to the
31 scholarship award amount
32 limits in paragraph (8) below,
33 may award higher scholarship
34 amounts for students with
35 special needs.
- 36 (7) MSDE shall make scholarship
37 awards to eligible students as
38 determined by the BOOST
39 Advisory Board.
- 40 (8) The amount of a scholarship
41 award may not exceed the lesser
42 of:

1 (a) the statewide average per
2 pupil expenditure by local
3 education agencies, as
4 calculated by MSDE; or

5 (b) the tuition of the
6 nonpublic school.

7 (9) In order to meet its BOOST
8 Program reporting
9 requirements to the budget
10 committees, MSDE shall specify
11 a date by which participating
12 nonpublic schools must submit
13 information to MSDE so that it
14 may complete its required
15 report. Any nonpublic schools
16 that do not provide the
17 necessary information by that
18 specified date shall be ineligible
19 to participate in the BOOST
20 Program.

21 (10) Students who received a BOOST
22 Program scholarship award in
23 the prior year who still meet
24 eligibility criteria for a
25 scholarship shall receive a
26 scholarship renewal award.
27 For students who are receiving
28 a BOOST Program scholarship
29 for the first time, priority shall
30 be given to students who
31 attended public schools in the
32 prior school year.

33 Further provided that no scholarship
34 awards shall be made after March 1,
35 2018, for the 2017-2018 school year to
36 eligible individuals who have not yet
37 been offered an award. Any
38 unexpended funds not awarded to
39 students for scholarships in the
40 2017-2018 school year shall be
41 encumbered at the end of the fiscal
42 year and available for scholarships in

1 the 2018–2019 school year.

2 Further provided that the BOOST
3 Advisory Board shall make all
4 scholarship awards no later than
5 January 15, 2019, for the 2018–2019
6 school year to eligible individuals. Any
7 unexpended funds not awarded to
8 students for scholarships shall be
9 encumbered at the end of fiscal 2019
10 and available for scholarships in the
11 2019–2020 school year.

12 Further provided that the BOOST
13 Advisory Board shall make
14 recommendations regarding a policy
15 to encourage nonpublic schools to
16 admit students with special needs who
17 receive BOOST Program scholarships.
18 The BOOST Advisory Board shall
19 report its recommendations to the
20 budget committees no later than
21 December 1, 2018.

22 Further provided that \$600,000 of this
23 appropriation shall be used only for
24 higher scholarship awards for
25 students with special needs in
26 accordance with paragraph (6) above.

27 Further provided that MSDE shall submit
28 a report to the budget committees by
29 January 15, 2019, that includes the
30 following:

31 (1) the number of students
32 receiving BOOST Program
33 scholarships;

34 (2) the amount of the BOOST
35 Program scholarships received;

36 (3) the number of certified and
37 noncertified teachers in core
38 subject areas for each
39 nonpublic school participating
40 in the BOOST Program;

- 1 (4) the assessments being
2 administered by nonpublic
3 schools participating in the
4 BOOST Program, and the
5 results of these assessments.
6 MSDE shall report the
7 assessment results reported by
8 nonpublic schools to the budget
9 committees in an aggregate
10 manner that does not violate
11 student data privacy;
- 12 (5) in the aggregate, for each
13 BOOST Program scholarship
14 awarded (1) the nonpublic
15 school and grade level attended
16 by the student; (2) the school
17 attended in the 2018-2019
18 school year by the student; and
19 (3) if the student attended the
20 same nonpublic school in the
21 2017-2018 school year, whether,
22 what type, and how much
23 nonpublic scholarship aid the
24 student received in the
25 2017-2018 school year and will
26 receive in the 2018-2019 school
27 year;
- 28 (6) the average household income
29 of students receiving BOOST
30 Program scholarships;
- 31 (7) the racial breakdown of
32 students receiving BOOST
33 Program scholarships;
- 34 (8) the number of students
35 designated as English language
36 learners receiving BOOST
37 Program scholarships;
- 38 (9) the number of special education
39 students receiving BOOST
40 Program scholarships;

(10) the county in which students receiving BOOST Program scholarships reside;

(11) the number of students who were offered BOOST Program scholarships but declined them, as well as their reasons for declining the scholarships and the breakdown of students attending public and nonpublic schools for students who declined scholarships;

(12) the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year who are attending public school for the 2018-2019 school year, as well as their reasons for returning to public schools; and

(13) the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year who withdrew or were expelled from the nonpublic schools they were attending, and the reasons for which they withdrew or were expelled; the schools they withdrew or were expelled from; and the length of time students receiving BOOST Program scholarships were enrolled at a nonpublic school before withdrawing or being expelled ..

~~8,850,000~~
~~5,000,000~~
7,000,000

SUMMARY

Total General Fund Appropriation	30,154,318
Total Special Fund Appropriation	13,040,000

