



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS*
DATE: October 24, 2017
SUBJECT: Update on BOOST Scholarship Program for 2017-2018

PURPOSE:

This item is to provide an update on the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Scholarship Program for 2017-2018.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The BOOST Program provides scholarships for students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price meal program to attend eligible nonpublic schools. For 2017-2018, the program is governed by language in House Bill 150 of the 2017 session (the Fiscal 2018 Budget Bill).

As required by House Bill 150, students who received a BOOST scholarship in 2016-2017 and are still eligible are given priority in receiving 2017-2018 awards. Among new applicants, students who attended a public school in 2016-2017 are given priority. The BOOST Advisory Board also determined that students with lower household incomes who qualify for free meals should be given priority over students who qualify for reduced-price meals.

SUMMARY:

Attachment A shows a summary of the scholarships that have been awarded and accepted as of October 2, 2017. Attachment B shows the same information by the applicants' county of residence.

A total of \$6.1 million is available for the BOOST Scholarship Program for 2017-2018. As of October 2, 2017, \$5.5 million has been awarded. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is working with participating schools to confirm enrollment of BOOST awardees. MSDE will continue to issue scholarship awards as directed by the BOOST Advisory Board. The next group of awardees will be eligible applicants who qualify for free meals and attended private school in 2016-2017. The awards will be issued so that applicants with the lowest household incomes are served first.

ACTION:

This item is provided for informational purposes.

Attachments A and B

Attachment A

BOOST Scholarship Data for 2017-2018

As of October 2, 2017

AWARDED AND ACCEPTED – BY CATEGORY

RENEWALS	Number of Students	Scholarship Amount for this Category	Value of Awards
Qualified for Free Meals , Attended Public School	257	\$4,400	\$1,130,800
Qualified for Reduced Meals , Attended Public School	85	\$3,400	\$ 289,000
Qualified for Free Meals , Attended Private School	1,023	\$1,400	\$1,432,200
Qualified for Reduced Meals , Attended Private School	330	\$1,000	\$ 330,000
Subtotal Renewals	1,695	--	\$3,182,000

NEW APPLICANTS	Number of Students	Scholarship Amount for this Category	Value of Awards
Qualified for Free Meals , Attended Public School	427	\$4,400	\$1,878,800
Qualified for Reduced Meals , Attended Public School	125	\$3,400	\$ 425,000
Subtotal New	552	--	\$2,303,800

Total Awards Offered and Accepted	2,247	--	\$5,485,800
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Notes:

Renewal applicants who are still income eligible received an award based on their Free or Reduced Meal income status as indicated in the 2017-2018 application. The Public or Private School designation for Renewal applicants is kept the same as it was in 2016-2017.

Attachment B

BOOST Scholarship Data for 2017-2018

As of October 2, 2017

AWARDED AND ACCEPTED - BY APPLICANT COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

Applicant County of Residence	Number of Students	Value of Awards	Percent of Total Award Amount
Allegany County	18	\$ 37,800	0.7%
Anne Arundel County	60	\$ 148,800	2.7%
Baltimore City	768	\$ 1,865,200	34.0%
Baltimore County	446	\$ 1,006,200	18.3%
Calvert County	6	\$ 17,400	0.3%
Caroline County	4	\$ 17,600	0.3%
Carroll County	24	\$ 48,600	0.9%
Cecil County	12	\$ 39,400	0.7%
Charles County	19	\$ 56,400	1.0%
Dorchester County	19	\$ 64,800	1.2%
Frederick County	21	\$ 55,200	1.0%
Garrett County	--	--	--
Harford County	47	\$ 149,400	2.7%
Howard County	34	\$ 109,400	2.0%
Kent County	--	--	--
Montgomery County	387	\$ 892,800	16.3%
Prince George's County	328	\$ 859,200	15.7%
Queen Anne's	--	--	--
St. Mary's County	19	\$ 39,200	0.7%
Somerset County	--	--	--
Talbot County	7	\$ 9,800	0.2%
Washington County	25	\$ 60,400	1.1%
Wicomico County	--	--	--
Worcester County	3	\$ 8,200	0.1%
Total	2,247	\$ 5,485,800	