



## Frequently Asked Questions

### BOOST (Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today)

#### Scholarship Program

1. **Question:** When is reporting due?

**Answer:** See the schedule below:

Due Date	Item
October 11, 2022	Enrollment Confirmation is due, reporting on the current 2022-2023 school year
October 14, 2022	Teacher Certification Reporting is due, reporting on the current 2022-2023 school year
October 14, 2022	Assessments and Performance Reporting is due, reporting on data for the 2021-2022 school year
October 14, 2022	Withdrawal & Expulsion Reporting is due, reporting on data for the 2021-2022 school year

2. **Question:** If you had no BOOST applicants last year, do you still need to submit reports?

**Answer:** Yes. Schools must initiate and complete all reporting requirements stated above in the BOOST Online School Portal. If your school did not participate in BOOST or did not have BOOST students during the 2021-2022, your school would not have data to report, but you must initiate the report and respond to questions to satisfy this reporting requirement.

3. **Question:** What fees should be captured as part of the tuition?

**Answer:** Enter the published tuition rate (s) from your current website Plus other mandatory fees. Tuition Rates may differ for different grade groupings. Grades 9-12, for example may have higher tuition/fees than kindergarten through grade eight (8). If there is a specific charge for special education services, schools may add that cost for a particular student. If a fee is required of all students then they are in essence a tuition cost. A bus fee for example is not required for all students. Contact the BOOST Program to confirm fees to report as tuition

4. **Question:** What is the actual website to access the reporting portal? I cannot find it on the boost website.

**Answer:** On September 30, the BOOST Program sent emails to eligible schools with the link to the BOOST Online School Portal and the Enrollment Confirmation Portal. If your school did not receive this email, please contact the program immediately by sending an email to [boost.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:boost.msde@maryland.gov) or call Valerie Carpenter at (410) 767-0444

5. **Question:** What is the frequency of the science assessment? The other assessments?

**Answer:** In the technical assistance session on September 29, MSDE shared that the science assessment must be administered each year to students in grades 3-9, which was not accurate. See the table below for accurate and up-to-date assessment requirements:

English / Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be administered each year to all students in grades 3-8</li> <li>• Must be administered once to students in grades 9-12</li> </ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be administered each year to all students in grades 3-8</li> <li>• Must be administered once to students in grades 9-12</li> </ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be administered each year to all students in grades 3-5</li> <li>• Must be administered once to students in grades 6-9</li> <li>• Must be administered once to students in grades 10-12</li> </ul>

6. **Question:** Do we only report grades for which we have BOOST students?

**Answer:** No. Schools must administer assessments and provide data for **ALL** the required subjects and grades (see table above). Even if your school only had one student who was awarded a BOOST scholarship, it is a requirement that you administer and report on all of the required grades.

7. **Question:** Are we using assessment data from this current school year? Our school normally does not do science until the end of the year.

**Answer:** Schools must provide the Assessment Performance results of the assessments you administered during the 2021-2022 school year. Schools are required to administer assessments during the 2022-2023 school year from the list of assessments published by the U.S. Department of Education (see list of approved assessment test below):

<u>Test Name</u>	<u>Test Publisher</u>
Iowa Assessments (Form E,F,G)	Riverside Publishing
Stanford Achievement Test – 10 <sup>th</sup> Ed (Forms A & D)	Pearson Education
AIMSwebPlus	Pearson Education
Terra Nova 3 / Next	DRC/CTB/ McGraw-Hill
SAT 2017	College Board
ACT	ACT
Pre ACT	ACT
ACT Aspire	ACT
Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP) 4	Educational Records Bureau
Measures of Academic Program (MAP)	NWEA
Performance Series	Scantron
Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (Star)	Renaissance Learning
CLT, CLT10, CLT8 <sup>1</sup>	Classic Learning Initiatives
i-Ready Diagnostic <sup>1</sup>	Curriculum Associates
Edmentum Assessments <sup>1</sup>	Edmentum

8. **Question:** What is the difference between Reading/Language Arts and English?  
**Answer:** There isn't a distinction; the subject areas are the synonymous.
9. **Question:** Should 6th-8th teachers who are certified in their field of teaching be counted under both the elementary teachers or just under the content area numbers?  
**Answer:** A certified teacher should only be counted once under the content area.
10. **Question:** Is the teacher certification report due required of nonpublic schools?  
**Answer:** The State of Maryland does not have teacher certification requirements for nonpublic schools. However, the BOOST Program is required to collect data from nonpublic schools participating in the program about the number of teachers that are certified and non-certified.
11. **Question:** What is the actual website to access the reporting portal?  
**Answer:** The BOOST Program sent an email to participating schools with the link to the Enrollment Confirmation Portal and the BOOST Online School Portal. If your school did not receive this email, please contact the program immediately by sending an email to [boost.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:boost.msde@maryland.gov) or call Valerie Carpenter at (410) 767-0444
12. **Question:** Is there a place on the Confirmation Enrollment to show that the awarded BOOST scholarship exceeds total tuition cost?  
**Answer:** No. Schools must report a student's total tuition and non-BOOST financial aid. The BOOST Program is responsible for ensuring the BOOST Scholarship does not exceed total tuition costs. You are only required to provide an accurate response to the questions.

This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.  
Last update: October 5, 2022