
R00A03

Funding for Educational Organizations

Maryland State Department of Education

Response to the Analyst's Review and Recommendations

Senate Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee –
February 24, 2012

House Education and Economic Development Subcommittee –
February 27, 2012



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Interim State Superintendent of Schools



Maryland Public Schools: ***#1 in the Nation Four Years in a Row***

The budget analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the goals and activities of the Funding for Educational Organizations budget. This budget provides grants to organizations with unique operations through the respective budgetary programs:

- **The Maryland School for the Blind**, assisted by the formula grant provided by the State, operates as a statewide resource center, providing outreach, school and residential services for students to reach their fullest potential by preparing them with the abilities to be successful, independent and well-rounded contributing members of their communities.
- **Blind Industries and Services of Maryland** (BISM) is dedicated to positively changing attitudes regarding blindness and low vision. Through innovative programs and services to individuals who are blind or have low vision, assisting them in achieving self-sufficiency, personal growth, and independence.

BISM provides a comprehensive thirteen week rehabilitation program for individuals who are legally blind. The program involves Orientation and Mobility training, computer skills training, Braille, and independent living training. To enhance the training, BISM provides a residential component that affords the individual an opportunity to live independently but yet also provides the necessary supports needed during their training program. The program is available to Maryland residents at no cost.

- **State-Aided Educational Institutions (SAI)** – The 39 non-profit organizations participating in the SAI program provide, to students and teachers, unique experiential educational opportunities that cannot be replicated in the classroom. All educational programs are aligned with the Maryland State Curriculum and all are preparing for the transition to the Common Core Standards. The majority of programs target Title I schools with high proportions of low-performing students.

Criteria for institutional eligibility include educational impact, budget request, number of students and teachers projected to be served, and safety factors. Each institution must prove 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, must provide for an annual independent audit, and must provide direct services to Maryland school groups. Additionally, the institution must generate more than half of its operating budget from sources other than State grants. For every State dollar invested in the institutions' education programs, they are able to leverage between \$3 and \$22 in additional support for their educational programming.

- **Nonpublic Textbook Program** – The purpose of the program is to provide funding for the purchase of textbooks, computer hardware and computer software for loan to students in eligible nonpublic schools. For schools where at least 20 percent of the students are eligible for the free and reduced price meals program, the distribution is \$90 per student. For the remaining eligible schools, the available funding is allocated on a per student basis, not to exceed \$60.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Concur with Governor's allowance.**
MSDE concurs.