

RESOLUTION
OF THE
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

25-01

**ADOPTION OF GUIDANCE ON COMMENSURATE FUNDING
FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) recognizes the importance of equitable funding for charter schools to ensure that all students have access to quality education;

WHEREAS, it is a longstanding requirement for local boards of education to disburse to a public charter school an amount of county, State, and federal money for elementary, middle, and secondary students that is commensurate with the amount disbursed to other public schools in the local jurisdiction (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 9-109);

WHEREAS, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future has recognized the importance of ensuring per pupil funding reaches the students it is intended to help and, as a result, requires local boards of education to distribute to each public school in the local jurisdiction minimum school funding amounts for applicable programs (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 5-234);

WHEREAS, the State Board has reviewed the memorandum issued by the State Superintendent of Schools, Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., on May 1, 2025 providing guidance on the formula for calculating commensurate funding for charter schools;

WHEREAS, the State Board has reviewed the memorandum issued by the State Superintendent on May 29, 2025, providing further guidance on the proportionate allocation of Blueprint funding to charter schools consistent with the eligibility of their student populations;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent's memoranda on these topics are incorporated by reference and attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has acknowledged the need for developing regulations to provide comprehensive guidance on charter school funding and understands that the proposal in development now will not be completed before local education agencies approve their fiscal year 2026 budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN IT BY THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TITLE 2 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

- I. The State Board adopts the memoranda issued by the State Superintendent as the State Board's guidance on commensurate funding for charter schools. This guidance shall be in effect while the State Board continues to develop regulations in accordance with the principles outlined in its prior decisions.
- II. The State Board directs all local education agencies to adhere to the guidance provided in the memoranda, ensuring that charter schools receive a proportionate share of all revenues for which they and their student populations are eligible unless there is a specified deduction, or in-kind services have been negotiated.
- III. To inform the development of regulations on charter school funding, the State Superintendent shall request each local board of education with charter schools to submit to the Maryland State Department of Education, no later than July 31, 2025, and each year thereafter, the following information:
 - a. The methodology that it uses for calculating commensurate funding;
 - b. School-level budget data for fiscal year 2026;
 - c. An explanation of any variations between traditional and charter schools in their final per pupil allocations, including any differences in their student profiles that would impact the applicable Blueprint funding streams; and
 - d. Policy or funding topics local boards would like additional clarification from the State Board on related to charter schools.

ISSUED THIS 29TH DAY OF MAY, 2025.