

JOINT RESOLUTION
OF THE
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (24-02)
AND THE
ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD (24-01)
REGARDING
IMPLEMENTATION OF MINIMUM SCHOOL FUNDING
AND
COMMENSURATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

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, 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, charter school funding issues have historically been addressed through case-by-case adjudication rather than by regulation, most recently when the Maryland State Board of Education concluded that minimum school funding and commensurate funding are distinct school funding requirements that operate together in harmony (MSBE Op. No. 23-17);

WHEREAS, each local school system is required to report annually to the Maryland State Department of Education on school-level spending, including distribution to public charter schools, and the Department, in turn, reports to the Accountability and Implementation Board for purposes of monitoring minimum school funding (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 5-406);

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board have jointly resolved to use fiscal year 2025 (the 2024-2025 school year) as an opportunity to collect baseline data with which to evaluate compliance with minimum school funding requirements (Joint Implementation Policy #2); and

WHEREAS, the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future contemplates fair and equitable funding across all public schools, including public charter schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THEM BY THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TITLES 2 AND 5 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE, DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

- I.** The Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board aim to provide guidance on spending requirements for public schools, including public charter schools, under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
- II.** To inform this effort, the State Superintendent of Schools shall call on each local board of education to report to the Maryland State Department of Education, no later than August 15, 2024, school-level budget data for fiscal year 2025 that is sufficient to evaluate compliance with both minimum school funding and commensurate funding requirements under §§ 5-234 and 9-109 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- III.** The State Superintendent of Schools shall report to the Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board on the results of the local data submissions no later than September 15, 2024.
- IV.** The State Superintendent of Schools and Executive Director of the Accountability and Implementation Board shall form a workgroup of stakeholders, including but not limited to local school system finance personnel and charter school representatives, to develop a framework for regulations regarding charter school funding and report its recommendations no later than November 15, 2024.