



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 4

The Maryland Council for American Private Education (CAPE) advocates for the interests of the 125,000-plus nonpublic students in Maryland and their families. We invited all gubernatorial and General Assembly candidates to respond to a brief candidate survey (“support” or “oppose”), and provide a brief comment on each answer, on critical issues for non-public schools in Maryland. All of the survey responses and election links are online at www.mdnonpubs.org.

Primary Election is July 19 (early voting July 7-14)

NOTE: Some districts have new boundaries due to redistricting

Response key:

S: agree; **O:** disagree; - : no response | D: Democrat | R: Republican

Full questions and written comments follow the chart below.

District	Office	Party	Candidate	Non-public School Aid	Public \$ are Only for Pub Schools	Education Scholarships	BOOST	Capital Dollars	
	Governor	D	Peter Franchot	S	O	S	S	S	
		D	Douglas F. Gansler	S	-	S	S	S	
		D	Ralph Jaffe	S	O	S	S	S	
		R	Dan Cox	S	O	S	S	S	
		R	Robin Ficker	S	O	S	S	S	
		R	Kelly Schulz	Did not submit a response					
		R	Joe Werner						
		D	Jon Baron						
		D	Ashwani Jain						
		D	John King						
		D	Wes Moore						
		D	Tom Perez						
		D	Jerome M. Segal						
4	Senator	D	Carleah M. Summers	Did not submit a response					
4	Senator	R	Stephen Barrett	Did not submit a response					
4	Senator	R	William "Bill" Folden	S	O	S	S	S	
4	Delegate	D	Andrew Duck	Did not submit a response					
4	Delegate	D	Brandon Duck						
4	Delegate	D	Millicent A. Hall						
4	Delegate	R	Heath S. Barnes	S	O	S	S	S	
4	Delegate	R	Barrie S. Ciliberti	Did not submit a response					
4	Delegate	R	April Fleming Miller	S	O	S	S	S	
4	Delegate	R	Jesse T. Pippy	S	O	S	S	S	

MD CAPE does not endorse or oppose any candidate and no inference of endorsement or opposition should be concluded as a result of the information here.

Maryland CAPE 2022 Candidate Survey

2022 Candidate Questions

(Submitted responses on following pages)

1. Aid to Nonpublic Schools

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose state dollars going to nonprofit nonpublic schools to support educating the children who attend?

2. “Public Dollars”

Do you support or oppose the statement “Public dollars are only for public schools”?

3. Education Opportunity Scholarships

Do you support or oppose the statement “Parents should have the right to utilize the state dollars allocated for their child’s education at whatever school they choose for them, whether public, private or charter”?

4. BOOST Scholarship Program

Do you support or oppose funding for Maryland’s existing BOOST Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to low-income students to be used to attend nonpublic schools, at its current levels for new students?

5. Capital Dollars for Private Schools

Do you support or oppose state support for infrastructure or security upgrades and maintenance being allocated to nonpublic schools in the state budget?

Maryland CAPE 2022 Candidate Survey
Open-ended Candidate Answers

District 4 State Delegate Candidates

Heath S. Barnes (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I believe tax dollars that parents pay in should be able to be allocated to the school of their choice for their child.

April Fleming Miller (R)

Q2: Public dollars: In every Maryland public school budget there is funding for students to be sent to nonpublic school. There are many times that the public school system cannot meet the educational or environmental needs of a student and they are offered a non-public placement and the school system may be required to pay for it. This is especially important for our students with special needs and abilities.

Q3: Educational scholarships: One of the lessons parents learned from the pandemic is what their children are actually learning in school and they are very concerned. Then between the mandatory masking, the lack of in-person interaction and the academic challenges of transition to online learning, many parents made different choices for their child's education and for their family. Homeschooling, private schooling and applications to charter and career/tech schools have increased dramatically. Even public schools with specialized programs are in demand, children benefit when their participation in a program is valued and not just taken for granted. A zip code should not determine your educational opportunities in life. I believe to some degree, funding should follow the child or parents should get tax relief for educational expenses. MD charter schools are public schools but there have been some discrepancies over full funding and on funding capital budgets.

Q4: BOOST: One of the saddest moments of the Obama Presidency is when he removed the voucher program that allowed children from low-income families in DC to attend, for example, the same private school his daughters would. The tuition there was over 30,000 but they accepted the 7,500 payment for tuition for these students and considering that the per pupil allotment in DC was around 18,000 that was a savings and the right thing to do for kids. A zip code alone should not determine the opportunity a child is given for an education, so I support scholarships for low-income students to attend a school that will meet their academic needs, especially if their districted school is failing.

Q5: Capital dollars: This is going to be very interesting in the next year. The passage of the MD Blueprint for Education will bring another level to public-private partnerships especially with the mandatory pre-k program expansion. If private community pre-K's are given public funding to expand the quality of their program, then that should include added upgrades and security measures as needed.

Jesse T. Pippy (R)

Q4: BOOST: Should increase.

Gubernatorial Candidates

Peter Franchot (D)

Q1: Nonpublic school aid: I will increase funding in our grant programs and award funding to organizations that provide grassroots support for the communities they serve. Preference will always be given to public schools and state programs. However, if a nonpublic school demonstrates that they are philanthropically engaged in their communities, do not discriminate against any students, and are in need of financial assistance, I am willing to award funding on a case-by-case basis.

Q2: Public dollars: I will be an education-oriented governor, and I am committed to improving all of Maryland's public schools so that there is not a disparity in the quality of education between private and public education. That said, I have committed to maintaining the BOOST program, so long as funding is used specifically for those students who would not be able to otherwise attend the school.

Q3: Education scholarships: My funding priority will be the state's public schools. I believe support for private schools should be limited and strategic.

Q4: BOOST: I am on record in support of doubling the BOOST program to support families in need.

Q5: Capital dollars: Investment in our public schools will be the priority. I am willing to explore on a case-by-case basis the state providing support to ensure that all Maryland students can learn in a safe environment.

Douglas F. Gansler (D)

Q1: Nonpublic school aid: I support both robust investment in public schools as well as support for non-public schools, particularly in the areas of security, mental health professionals, and tuition assistance so that parents are empowered to send children to the school of their choice. Furthermore, as a Jewish man, I recognize and respect that some parents want to send their children to religious schools.

Q2: Public dollars: I think the sentence "public dollars are only for public schools" is loaded and suggests a zero sum game that pits private and public schools against each other. Maryland is sitting on an unprecedented surplus. I support the Blueprint's once-in-a-generation opportunity to make historic investments in our public schools, and I will work hard to implement it. I also believe that we should expand educational opportunities at non-profit and religious schools so that parents are empowered to choose the school that is right for their child.

Q3: Education scholarships: I support the use of tax dollars to empower parents to choose the right school for their child. However, Maryland should ensure that the schools who benefit from this support are held accountable to inclusive and non-discriminatory environments.

Q4: BOOST: I support increasing funding for BOOST to empower low-income families, including families who want to send their children to a religious school, to be able to afford the school of their choice.

Q5: Capital dollars: My number one priority for all schools is to ensure the safety of the students, educators, support staff and everyone on school grounds. I support allocating state tax dollars for both security and infrastructure upgrades so that all schools are safe learning environments.

Dan Cox (R)

Q1: Nonpublic school aid: I support the dollars following the children by parental choice.

Q4: BOOST: And I would expand this program.