



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 5

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						
5	Senator	R	Justin Ready	S	O	S	S	S	
5	Delegate	R	Christopher Eric Bouchat	S	O	S	S	-	
5	Delegate	R	Dennis E. Frazier	Did not submit a response					
5	Delegate	R	Scott Jendrek						
5	Delegate	R	April Rose	S	O	S	S	S	
5	Delegate	R	Sallie B. Taylor	Did not submit a response					
5	Delegate	R	Chris Tomlinson	S	O	S	S	S	
5	Delegate	R	Stephen A. Wantz	Did not submit a response					
5	Delegate	R	Scott Willens	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 5 State Senator Candidates

Justin Ready (R)

Q2: Public dollars: They aren't "public dollars," they are dollars that are given to government by taxpayers and it stands to reason that there should be some flexibility in getting the best education outcomes for our kids that includes helping offset private education as well as strongly supporting public schools.

District 5 State Delegate Candidates

Christopher Eric Bouchat (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Competition drives achievement.

Q2: Public dollars: Competition drives achievement.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I did 1-8 grades in Catholic school and the County saved money yet didn't give my parents a tax break.

Q5: Capital dollars: Have to review the subject.

April Rose (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Parents should be able to choose where they want their children educated. State dollars are taxpayer dollars.

Q2: Public dollars: Public dollars are taxpayer dollars. Parents should be able to choose where they want their children educated. I would support vouchers and always support school choice.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I support this 100%.

Q4: BOOST: I support the BOOST program and would like to see it expanded. At the very least it should be protected at the current level. I have opposed and spoken against cutting this important program.

Scott Willens (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: My son attended a private Catholic middle school. It did not matter to us that we are observant Jews. The quality of education was superior to the public school, and my son received greater attention to his style and pace of learning. I paid tuition for him to attend, but not all families have that same capability to send their child to the school of their choice, based on academics, safety, ideology, special programs, or any other criteria. One of my daughters attended Patapsco High School for their magnet dance and music (violin) program because we were able to drive her. Again, not all families have the wherewithal to accommodate the needs and interests of their children and should not be constrained by cost or geography. Nor should they be trapped in a failing/failed school system, with substandard teaching or agenda-driven curriculum. Similarly, home schooled children should also be entitled to the funding and assets afforded to in-classroom students. Despite my tuition payments, as a middle class and active-duty military family, I would have appreciated a voucher.

Q2: Public dollars: For the reasons stated above in my answer to question one, I believe that public dollars are for education, period.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Similar response to question one.

Answers continue on next page

Q4: BOOST: Caveat: My support of the voucher system would largely negate the need for this program, as all students would have equal opportunity. Equal outcome (equity) is never assured and is anti-meritocracy, as students have different interests, abilities, and discipline.

Q5: Capital dollars: Support for vouchers and other school choice alternatives, including home schooling, is incomplete without consideration of infrastructure and security.

Gubernatorial candidate responses on next page

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.