



# 2022 Maryland Candidate Survey

## State Legislative District 7

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](http://www.mdnonpubs.org).

**\*Election Day is Nov. 8 (early voting Oct. 27-Nov. 3)\***

**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 are on following pages.**

District	Office	Party	Candidate	Non-public School Aid	Public \$ are Only for Pub Schools	Education Scholarships	BOOST	Capital Dollars
	Governor	R	Dan Cox	S	O	S	S	S
		D	Wes Moore	Did not submit a response				
7	Senator	R	J. B. Jennings	Did not submit a response				
7A	Delegate	D	Lydia X. Z. Brown	Did not submit a response				
7A	Delegate	R	Ryan Nawrocki					
7A	Delegate	R	Kathy Szeliga	S	O	S	S	S
7B	Delegate	D	Medford J. Campbell, 3rd	Did not submit a response				
7B	Delegate	R	Lauren Arian					

*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.*

### 2022 Candidate Questions | (Open-ended responses on following page)

**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?

## Open-ended Candidate Answers

### District 7A State Delegate Candidates

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#### Kathy Szeliga (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I support school choice. Ideally, parents should be given the choice of sending their children to their public school or be provided a voucher to use at a school or their choice or even for homeschooling.

Q2: Public dollars: When public schools are chronically failing, like many in Baltimore City, parents and students MUST be given the opportunity to receive a better education. Trapping students in failing schools by prohibiting them from seeking a good education is immoral and unconstitutional. The Maryland constitution guarantees each student an adequate public education. If the public school is failing, students must be given other options.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Absolutely

Q4: BOOST: Great program. I support expanding this program.

Q5: Capital dollars: A concern about the current regulations on public money to private schools is the inability for religious schools to practice their deeply held religious beliefs. If the money follows the child, the responsibility for a quality education falls to the parents and gets the government out of the way. Of course, there must be assurances that students are receiving an adequate or better education.

### District 7B State Delegate Candidates

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None of the candidates in the general election provided a statement.

### Gubernatorial Candidates

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#### 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.