



## 2022 Maryland Primary 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).

**\*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						
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	Joseph C. Boteler, III	S	O	S	S	S	
7A	Delegate	R	Ryan Nawrocki	Did not submit a response					
7A	Delegate	R	Steve Redmer	S	O	S	S	S	
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 Arikan						
7B	Delegate	R	Russ English, Jr.						
7B	Delegate	R	Nicholas Gladden	S	O	S	S	O	
7B	Delegate	R	Rick Impallaria	S	O	S	S	S	
7B	Delegate	R	Rocky Wagonhurst	S	O	O	S	O	

*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)*

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### 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?

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## Open-ended Candidate Answers

### District 7A State Delegate Candidates

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#### Joseph C. Boteler, III (R)

Q3: Educational scholarships: Have consistently supported bills to allow parents to use the money to send the children to the school of their choice.

Q4: BOOST: Should be increased. Voted against the bill to eliminate the Boost Program.

#### Steve Redmer (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I believe that state education dollars should be "attached" to the children, so their parents can decide where their children will get the best education.

Q2: Public dollars: Parents are the best ones to determine what school their children attend, not their zip code.

Q3: Educational scholarships: 100% support

Q4: BOOST: I'm not fully read up on this topic, but I generally support any program that increases "School Choice"

Q5: Capital dollars: On this topic I am not sure how comfortable I am giving a firm answer without more information. I answered in "support" mostly because the question involved "security" upgrades, and if state dollars are being used for tuition, then a general level of security should be ensured.

**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.

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**District 7B State Delegate Candidates**

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**Nicholas Gladden (R)**

Q2: Public dollars: I believe the Public dollars are for the student. If the school is failing to provide a great service the student should be given the chance to move schools taking the dollar amount with them.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I support but they will have to be approved schools. I don't want people keeping their kids home to just get a check.

Q5: Capital dollars: I believe they should be using the money from the students to do upgrades to their infrastructure.

**Rick Impallaria (R)**

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: All children should be treated the same.

Q2: Public dollars: The money comes from the taxpayers regardless where the child goes to school.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Parents need to have more of a say where Their children go to school and where their tax dollars go.

Q4: BOOST: It's a fantastic program. I have supported it from the first day

Q5: Capital dollars: Funding for schools should be outcome based. Right now failing schools get the most dollars per student. What is the motivation for any school to do a good job.

## Gubernatorial Candidates

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### **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.