



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 11

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						
11	Senator	D	Shelly Hettleman	S	O	O	S	S	
11	Senator	R	Ruth Goetz	S	O	S	S	S	
11A	Delegate	D	Cheryl E. Pasteur	Did not submit a response					
11B	Delegate	D	Lisa Belcastro	Did not submit a response					
11B	Delegate	D	Jon S. Cardin						
11B	Delegate	D	Dana M. Stein	S	O	S	S	S	
11B	Delegate	R	Jim Simpson	S	O	S	S	O	
11B	Delegate	R	Tyler A. Stiff	Did not submit a response					

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?

Open-ended Candidate Answers

District 11 State Senator Candidates

Shelly Hettleman (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I support a targeted program that focuses on the needs of lower income families at schools that charge below a certain tuition level.

Q2: Public dollars: There are many places where government funds go to private institutions, including our higher education institutions. I am a strong supporter of public schools and will continue to fight to ensure they are funded adequately, and I also support programs that are carefully crafted to enable students who wouldn't be adequately served by public schools, to get the assistance they need.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I am most comfortable with a carefully tailored program along the lines of the currently configured BOOST.

Q5: Capital dollars: I have introduced legislative bond initiatives to address the capital needs of certain nonpublic schools because I still believe there is a public purpose in ensuring that the infrastructure in which our children learn is important to keep safe and secure. I do believe, however, that schools that have the financial ability to address these needs themselves should not benefit from public financial assistance in the same manner.

Ruth Goetz (R)

Q2: Public dollars: If everyone is going to be taxed to pay for public schools everyone should benefit. I support the education funds follow the student to whichever school they house private or public.

Q4: BOOST: I support Boost money for private school students.

Q5: Capital dollars: All children need to be safe.

District 11 State Delegate Candidates

Dana Stein (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I support state dollars going to nonprofit, nonpublic schools. I have supported state funding for the BOOST program and for security, textbook, and transportation funding for nonprofit, nonpublic schools. I support increasing funding for these programs. I also introduced legislation that would have authorized local jurisdictions to provide funding for nurses in non-public schools and have sponsored bond bills for nonpublic schools.

Q2: Public dollars: Substantial public funds should be available through the State budget for nonpublic schools. Nonpublic schools provide essential education services for many students in the State.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I generally support the statement. I support the allocation of funds to parents for their children to attend nonpublic schools through the state budget. I do not support the use of state dollars to support attendance at expensive private schools regardless of family income.

Q4: BOOST: I have supported and continue to support funding for Maryland's existing BOOST program.

Q5: Capital dollars: I have supported state funding for infrastructure and security upgrades and maintenance for nonpublic schools through the budget and through the bond bill process.

Jim Simpson (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: All tax dollars currently devoted to public education should only be paid by those taxpayers whose children attend public school, i.e. if a student chooses private or home school, the taxpayer should be exempt from paying those amounts dedicated to public schooling. Alternatively, tax refunds should be given to those who choose private or home school.

Q2: Public dollars: Taxpayers should only be paying taxes to support public schools if their children attend public schools. There should either be a rebate program for families who send children to private or home school, or those people should not pay public education taxes at all.

Q5: Capital dollars: My preference for abolishing education taxes among taxpayers whose children attend private school or home school includes those taxes that would otherwise be spent upgrading public schools.

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.

