



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 21

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													
21	Senator	D	Jim Rosapepe							S	O	-	S	-
21	Senator	R	Lee Havis							-	-	-	-	O
21	Delegate	D	Ben Barnes	Did not submit a response										
21	Delegate	D	Mary A. Lehman											
21	Delegate	D	Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk											

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

State district and gubernatorial responses follow

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 21 State Senator Candidates

Jim Rosapepe (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Depends on specifics and amounts and not at expense of public schools

Q2: Public dollars: Maryland and the federal government provide a variety of support for students in private pre-k, k-12, and higher ed

Q3: Educational scholarships: It's complicated and depends on the specifics.

Q5: Capital dollars: Depends on specifics and amounts

Lee Havis (D)

Q1: What are "state dollars"? Tax revenue, which is then allocated to fund so-called "public schools"? I support parent choice of education of their children. Better "funding" of education is by tax exemption and lower taxes for educational purposes, for example, based on number of dependent children within a certain age range. With an end to compulsory schooling, there would be even less incentive for state taxation to support those schools that function under government legislative and regulatory control.

Q2: What is a "public school"? If that term were defined to include non-government alternatives, the use of "public dollars" would be more wisely spent. However, control and regulation of such alternatives must not be used for purposes of censorship and monopoly control, such as may occur through business cartels and non-government special interest groups.

Q3: Educational scholarships: The general concept of allocating so-called "state dollars" is better directed to parents for their own choice of education. However, regulation and control is always an issue and obstacle where government funds are involved. The better approach is to end all government funding in "public education", except for those in the category of low-income poverty. Parents, in general, make wiser choices for education of their children when they are spending their own money for that purpose. Reducing taxes, by raising the "dependent" allowance is wiser approach than taxing first, and then allocating funds through the inefficient, wasteful system of government management.

Q4: BOOST: Not familiar with this program. Any time government funds anything, the question of control, censorship, and monopoly emerges as an issue to stifle free marketplace choice in any field. However, private non-government scholarship funding is certainly a useful and valuable way to advance many types of progress and benefit in society.

Q5: Capital dollars: Government funds directly to private institutions is a danger and moral risk of misuse of such funds. Private funding of private institutions is a wiser means to support the benefit of competition and choice, especially in the field of education.

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.