



2022 Maryland Candidate Survey

State Legislative District 23

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.

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 follow the chart below.

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				
23	Senator	D	Ron Watson	S	-	S	S	S
23	Senator	R	Jesse Peed	S	O	S	S	O
23	Delegate	D	Adrian Boafo	Did not submit a response				
23	Delegate	D	Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.					
23	Delegate	D	Kym Taylor					

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 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 23 State Senate Candidates

Ron Watson (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: See comments below

Q2: Public dollars: Let me lay out my thoughts on this question and the prior one as the questions have a gray area. I SUPPORT the current public funding allocated to private schools. In fact I have many students in my district who have been able to benefit from this and I don't want to see this level of support removed. However, I do not support the expansion of additional funds at this time. We have worked too hard over the last couple of sessions to fund the Blueprint for Education bringing historic amounts of funding into classrooms. I was also a strong proponent of ensuring that the AIB (oversight for the Blueprint) had adequate representation throughout the state. I want to see the Blueprint implemented and THOROUGHLY assess the results before committing additional public funds. I know first hand the value of the BOOST program, and ensured that other areas in the budget continued to fund and support schools such as DeMatha and Seton.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Many years ago as the Vice-Chair of Prince George's County's school board, I was a strong advocate of "the \$\$\$\$ follow the child." Meaning, that whatever funding a child had access to based on need as defined by the state (FARM, ESOL, etc), would continue to be associated with that child regardless of the school he or she attended. I still believe this and don't see any reason why this would not apply to private or charter schools.

Q5: Capital dollars: See comment above regarding DeMatha and Seton.

Jesse Peed (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: The money should follow the students. Children should not be forced to go to failing schools. Competition will make the public school system better.

Q5: Capital dollars: One of the government's requirements is to keep our citizens safe, especially our children. Every school should have an armed resource officer. However, if the state supplies a voucher for the student to attend a nonpublic school. That school should use that resource, the voucher, for infrastructure, maintenance, and security upgrades.

Gubernatorial Candidate

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.