



2022 Maryland Primary 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.

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 | | | | | | |
| 23 | Senator | D | Raaheela Ahmed | Did not submit a response | | | | | |
| 23 | Senator | D | Sylvia Johnson | | | | | | |
| 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 | Jocelyn Irene Collins | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Remi Duyile | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Keenon James | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Januari McKay | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Monica Roebuck | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Jacqui Steele-McCall | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Kym Taylor | | | | | | |
| 23 | Delegate | D | Valeria Tomlin | | | | | | |

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?

Maryland CAPE 2022 Candidate Survey
Open-ended Candidate Answers

District 23 State Senator 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 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.