



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 33

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						
33	Senator	D	Dawn D. Gile	Did not submit a response					
33	Senator	R	Sid Saab	S	O	S	S	S	
33A	Delegate	D	Marguerite R. Morris	S	O	S	S	O	
33A	Delegate	D	Andrew C. Pruski	Did not submit a response					
33A	Delegate	D	Michael J. Sopata	O	-	O	S	O	
33A	Delegate	R	Kim Mills	S	O	S	S	-	
33B	Delegate	D	John Wakefield	Did not submit a response					
33B	Delegate	R	Tyler Bailey	Did not submit a response					
33B	Delegate	R	Stuart Michael Schmidt, Jr.	S	O	S	S	S	
33C	Delegate	D	Heather A. Bagnall	Did not submit a response					
33C	Delegate	R	Kerry A. Gillespie	S	O	S	S	S	

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 candidate 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 33A State Delegate Candidates

Marguerite R. Morris (D)

Q5: Capital dollars: Sorry, but I think many public schools are still in need of more state dollars for improvements. However, I am open to learning more about private school needs on a case by case basis.

Michael J. Sopata (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: In general, I think that there certain are circumstances in which funds that are “public” would possibly go to non-public nonprofit schools.

Q2: Public dollars: Certain groups such as non-public schools may be eligible for public dollars when they meet criteria set by the state or federal government and there is cause.

Q4: BOOST: BOOST scholarships have been made available to many low income students, it would be improper to disrupt the student’s lives further and “take them out” of a school that they have become accustomed to. The State now has the obligation to continue the program for these particular students in order to avoid disruption and displacement. However, The future of this program needs to be looked into further.

Q5: Capital dollars: The state plays a role in setting and mandating criteria private schools must meet - - it is possibly foreseeable that there may be a day where private schools receive some kind of public funds for the safety and security of all of the students there.

Kim Mills (R)

Q5: Capital dollars: I would need more info/background on this before making a decision.

District 33C State Delegate Candidates

Kerry A. Gillespie (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: The tax dollars parents pay into schools should follow the child to whatever school the parents deem best.

Q5: Capital dollars: If parents decide to put their child in a nonpublic school, the state should provide the tax dollars the parents paid into the state funds towards their child's education to the nonpublic school. It would then be up to the nonpublic school to use those funds as they see fit, including for the infrastructure or security of the school.

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.