



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 34

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						
34	Senator	D	Mary-Dulany James	Did not submit a response					
34	Senator	D	Mary Ann Lisanti	S	O	S	S	S	
34	Senator	R	Christian Miele	S	O	S	S	S	
34	Senator	R	Walter "Butch" Tilley	S	O	S	S		
34A	Delegate	D	Sarahia Benn	Did not submit a response					
34A	Delegate	D	Steve Johnson						
34A	Delegate	D	Andre V. Johnson, Jr.						
34A	Delegate	R	Glen Glass	Did not submit a response					
34A	Delegate	R	Shekinah Hollingsworth	S	O	S	S	S	
34A	Delegate	R	David A. Martin	Did not submit a response					
34A	Delegate	R	Teresa Walter						
34B	Delegate	D	Gillian A. Miller	Did not submit a response					
34B	Delegate	R	Jay M. Ellenby						
34B	Delegate	R	Susan K. McComas	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 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 34 State Senator Candidates

Mary Ann Lisanti (D)

Q3: Educational scholarships: I really prefer to answer sometimes. I don't like to speak in absolutes as I have learned after 27 years in government service (16 elected), there are exceptions to every rule.

Q4: BOOST: I have consistently voted to support BOOST

Q5: Capital dollars: All schools should be a safe and healthy environment for our children.

Christian Miele (R)

Q2: Public dollars: I am a proponent of school choice and believe that education is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. Parents should be empowered to choose the educational setting that works best for their children based on the range of opportunities available to them.

Q4: BOOST: As a State Delegate, I voted to support the BOOST Scholarship Program. Given my demonstrated support for non-traditional and nonpublic education, as well as school choice in general, I am hopeful that Maryland CAPE will consider endorsing me for the Republican nomination for State Senate in District 34.

Walter "Butch" Tilley (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Parents of non-public school students are tax payers and they should have the ability to use some of those funds to support their children's education.

Q2: Public dollars: Competition is healthy and parents should have the right to choose where their kids are educated.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I support the concept that the money follows the student.

District 34A State Delegate Candidates

Shekinah Hollingsworth (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Creating more choices in children's education empowers parents, and ultimately creates healthy competition among nonpublic and public schools.

Q2: Public dollars: Taxpayers have the right to have their tax dollars fund amazing schools, especially when public schools are failing.

District 34B State Delegate Candidates

Susan McComus (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: There should be school choice and a certain portion of the funds for students should follow the student. Unfortunately, every time we try to give money to nonpublic schools, the teachers' unions have a fit. If we did not have nonpublic schools think of how many crowded classrooms there would be.

Q2: Public dollars: Parents need school choice and now with the failure to teach ethics, critical thinking, morality, and religious instruction it is not fair that parents that want their children to receive a religious education coupled with reading, writing, and math must pay twice - once with taxes and to provide for private education.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Parents not the government should make the ultimate choice what type of school to send their children to.

Q4: BOOST: I think efforts should be made to increase that amount of the Boost Scholarship Program. I have seen the movie "Waiting for Superman." It is obvious how important that it is for the children to get a great education and their future.

Q5: Capital dollars: The parents that send their children to nonpublic schools pay taxes and as is documented many of the public school children in Baltimore City are not graduating from high school with the appropriate reading level and are just advanced to the next grade without the skills to justify their matriculation. There needs to be a study about what happened to the children in the eleven failing schools that Governor Ehrlich wanted the state to take over and was prevented doing so by the Democratically controlled legislature.

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.