



## 2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 35

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](http://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						
35	Senator	R	Michelle Christman	Did not submit a response					
35	Senator	R	Frank Esposito	S	O	S	S	S	
35	Senator	R	Jason C. Gallion	Did not submit a response					
35A	Delegate	R	Mike Griffith	Did not submit a response					
35A	Delegate	R	Teresa Reilly						
35B	Delegate	R	Kevin Bailey Hornberger						
35B	Delegate	R	Travis Marion						
35B	Delegate	R	Adam Streight	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*

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**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 35B State Senator Candidates**

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**Frank Esposito (R)**

Q4: BOOST: I support increasing the household income to at least \$50,000.00

**District 35 State Delegate Candidates**

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**Adam Streight (R)**

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Education is a basic fundamental right and with some school districts failing our kids immensely, parental school choice is a must. Public schools take up the lion's share of governmental budgets with taxpayers footing the bill. As long as public schools are the only game in town, there is little incentive for them to properly adapt to meet the needs of our children. Parents having to fund public schools AND private school tuition is unfair and the State should provide vouchers to allow parents to be able to afford to send their children to the school of their choice that fits their educational and spiritual needs.

Q2: Public dollars: Again, if public schools are the only game in town and still refuse to meet the needs of all of our children, then it is only right and fair to provide a portion of the taxes they already pay as vouchers to allow them to afford to send their children to a school of their choice that fits their children's needs.

Q3: Educational scholarships: If public schools want all of the public educational funding, then they should take the initiative to properly educate all of our children. This does not include "woke" indoctrination or political stances best left to parents to instill in their children. Since many school districts fail in these aspects, providing vouchers with public money will allow parents to be able to afford to send their children to the school of their choice that will give them the education they need to compete in the real world and whose curriculum aligns with parental values.

Q4: BOOST: ALL of our children should have access to the best education available and I support any program that allows that to happen.

Q5: Capital dollars: Since the State of Maryland sets and monitors basic educational standards for all schools, then it takes on itself the responsibility to help maintain school infrastructure and security for all schools, including non-public, charter, and religious schools.

## Gubernatorial Candidates

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### **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.