



# 2022 Maryland Candidate Survey

## State Legislative District 36

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).

**\*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				
36	Senator	R	Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.	Did not submit a response				
36	Delegate	R	Steve Arentz	Did not submit a response				
36	Delegate	R	Jeff Ghrist	S	O	S	S	S
36	Delegate	R	Jay A. Jacobs	Did not submit a response				

*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

*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?

## Open-ended Candidate Answers

### District 36 State Delegate Candidates

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#### Jeff Ghrist (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I was the primary sponsor of the “Right to learn Act” this past legislative session. The bill was written for the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date each year, each county board of education to provide certain information to the parents or legal guardians of students who attend a failing school under certain circumstances; requiring a failing school to retain that designation until a certain condition is met; requiring students who are attending a failing school to be provided the opportunity to attend an alternative school; requiring a parent or legal guardian of a certain student to notify the county board of a certain decision by the student on or before a certain date; establishing the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Program; requiring a certain county board to remit certain funds to the Department under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to alternative school options for students who attend failing schools.

Q2: Public dollars: Public dollars are parents’ dollars and parents should have choices of where to send their child to school. Unfortunately, MSDE has been negligent in funneling federal EANS money to our private schools. I’ve done what I could to ensure that they use the vendor that more than half of the private schools in the ayate have been comfortable with using. Unfortunately, there is very little accountability with MSDE.

Q3: Educational scholarships: The “Right to Learn Act” did just that. I also support any parent having access to a scholarship to send their child to their school of choice regardless of whether or not it is a failing school. Sadly the leadership in the general assembly would t even consider the students who are suffering in the worst public schools in the state.

Q4: BOOST: I serve on the education subcommittee in Appropriations. I’ve fought the attrition not these times since it started a few years ago.

### Gubernatorial Candidates

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#### 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.