



## 2022 Maryland Primary 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).

**\*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						
36	Senator	R	Rick Bowers	S	O	S	S	O	
36	Senator	R	Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.	Did not submit a response					
36	Senator	R	Heather Lynette Sinclair	S	O	S	S	S	
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.*

## 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 36 State Senator Candidates**

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**Rick Bowers (R)**

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Tax dollars follow the child regardless of their school choice.

Q2: Public dollars: Tax dollars follow the child to their chosen method of education.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Tax dollars belong to the parents and should follow the child.

Q4: BOOST: I believe children from all income levels deserve school choice. I am not familiar with the details of BOOST so I cannot comment on the support level.

**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 state 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 not 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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### **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.