



2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 41

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											
41	Senator	D	Jill P. Carter							Did not submit a response				
41	Delegate	D	Bilal Ali							S	O	S	S	S
41	Delegate	D	Dalya Attar	S	O	S	S	S						
41	Delegate	D	Tony Bridges	Did not submit a response										
41	Delegate	D	Chris Ervin											
41	Delegate	D	S. I. "Sandy" Rosenberg	S	O	O	S	S						
41	Delegate	R	Scott Graham	S	O	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?

Open-ended Candidate Answers

District 41 State Delegate Candidates

Bilal Ali (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: Governor Hogan's BOOST programming was one of the best initiatives to come from his administration. I personally know several African American families who benefited from this program, allowing their children to go to private institutions that their parents would otherwise not be able to afford. I am 100% in favor of this kind of programming.

Q2: Public dollars: Our city public schools are a disgrace in many aspects; therefore, our tax dollars should be going to families and students who can obtain a quality education at any institution of learning.

Q3: Educational scholarships: School choice is an understatement. It should be Parent/Student School Choice. If we truly cared about the education of our children, then we would not be arguing over public or private, charter or provocial schools; it should be left up to the parent on where they feel comfortable sending their children to garner the best possible educational experience.

Q4: BOOST: Please refer to Question #1 answer! I wholeheartedly support this initiative!

Q5: Capital dollars: State dollars are just that, dollars for institutions and programs within the State of Maryland - which should include nonpublic schools.

More delegate candidate responses on following page

S. I. "Sandy" Rosenberg (D)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I have a long standing record of support for nonpublic schools. The General Assembly has provided funding for BOOST and full implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. One does not take away from the other. I will continue to support efforts to provide quality education for all Maryland students.

Q2: Public dollars: My record demonstrates that we can provide public dollars for public and nonpublic schools in Maryland.

Q3: Educational scholarships: My record demonstrates that we can provide public dollars for public and nonpublic schools in Maryland.

Q4: BOOST: I have been and will continue to be an advocate for funding for the BOOST scholarship program.

Q5: Capital dollars: I support security upgrades comparable to those we are already providing for religious institutions in non-education settings. Any public dollars must be spent consistent with the First Amendment. The Supreme Court's decision in Carson v. Makin, which was argued this term, will provide further insight into what is permitted.

Scott Graham (R)

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I support \$s going to schools that work. Terms like non-profit don't mean much to me.

Q2: Public dollars: Statements like this are divisive. Where is the complexity? Where is the nuance? Summarizing something so complicated in such a simple way is simple minded, in my opinion.

Q3: Educational scholarships: I was speaking with a school administrator recently who said that even Maryland charter schools are operating with limited autonomy. I would like to see people asking how we improve educational outcomes. Everything should be on the table for discussion. So if that means looking at parochial schools, so be it.

Q4: BOOST: I don't know about this. If we can get a better outcome using the same outlay at a nonpublic school, I'd be interested in trying that. Competition generally improves performance. The status quo will not want more competition, but it will help them too.

Q5: Capital dollars: Hard to answer. There are private schools with large endowments which in my opinion do not need state support. I'm open to hearing the arguments pro and con.

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.