



## 2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 43

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								
43	Senator	D	Mary Washington	Did not submit a response					
43A	Delegate	D	Reginald Benbow	Did not submit a response					
43A	Delegate	D	Regina T. Boyce						
43A	Delegate	D	Elizabeth Embry						
43A	Delegate	D	Logan Endow						
43A	Delegate	D	Sherricka Alayshia McGrier-Douglas	O	O	O	O	O	
43A	Delegate	D	Rikki Vaughn	Did not submit a response					
43A	Delegate	R	Gwendolyn O. Butler	Did not submit a response					
43B	Delegate	D	Bill Brooks	O	S	O	S	O	
43B	Delegate	D	Cathi Forbes	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?

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### Open-ended Candidate Answers

#### District 43A State Delegate Candidates

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**Sherricka Alayshia McGrier-Douglas (D)**

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I don't like the Baltimore City Public School System's Choice Schools method. I would like to change it. I want the public schools to be funded by the city and the "private" schools to be ran by the state and paid by the parents. The public schools will require testing and interview, but if the student cannot meet the requirements and qualifications, then the student must attend a city run private school. The goal is for parents to care about their child's/children's education. Also, public schools will no longer receive funding for attendance rate, but for graduation rate.

Q2: Public dollars: The term public dollars to me means "government funding." I do not agree with Baltimore City's Choice Schools method. Please refer to the explanation above.

Q3: Educational scholarships: Parents should not have the right. The state dollars allocated for all student's education should be used for all student's education. In Baltimore City Public Schools, there is too much financial fraud and embezzlement of education state dollars. I don't trust the schools, I don't trust the parents, and I don't trust the students. It's so easy for individuals to steal resources under the guise that they "need" it. I understand that there are actual individuals who need help; which is why I want to change the school system so that all students will get all the help needed to succeed academically.

Q4: BOOST: No, the BOOST Scholarship Program is not helping the problem of underfunding in public schools as a direct result of stealing from administration. We need to change the system.

Q5: Capital dollars: I want support for infrastructure or security upgrades and maintenance for all 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.