Maryland Nonpublic School Overview

Nonpublic K-12 Enrollment in Maryland

Note that the steep decline in enrollment in 2008-09 is partially due to nonresponse to a request for enrollment information. For example, half of the nonpublic schools on record in Prince George’s County did not provide enrollment counts to MSDE for 2008-09. The nonresponse rate for other years ranges from 8% to 24%. The grey dotted line suggests a more probable decline for enrollments statewide.

Important Highlights:

- **10-year change:**
  45,937 fewer students (-32%)

- **Additional cost to Maryland’s public schools:** $672,379,869 PER YEAR!
  This reflects the cost to educate the Additional 45,937 students, based on the average Maryland public school per pupil cost in of $14,637.

- **For every 68 students who move from a nonpublic school to a public school, Maryland and its taxpayers pay an additional MILLION dollars.**

- **Total savings provided by nonpublic schools:** over $1.4 BILLION PER YEAR!
  This reflects what it would cost to educate the 96,043 students currently enrolled in Maryland’s nonpublic schools, based on the current cost of educating each public school student.
The graph above shows the number of nonpublic schools that provided a count of enrollments to MSDE, excluding preschools. While the number of nonpublic schools has declined over time, the dip in the graph in 2008 is probably due more to nonresponse, rather than a sharp drop in the number of nonpublic schools. (Data sources: Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Accountability and Assessment, Nonpublic School Enrollment State of Maryland.)

The Maryland Education Credit

Provides Opportunities to Low-Income and Working Families

☑ Allows nonpublic school families assistance with educational expenses, saving the state billions of dollars in annual expenditures.

☑ Gives public school students and families the extra support they need to meet core academic goals.

☑ Helps alleviate some of the overcrowding issues in our public schools.

☑ Increased business support stabilizes nonpublic enrollments, which improves schools’ financial viability. A higher nonpublic student enrollment, in turn, decreases the burden on public schools, which improves educational quality for all.

☑ Currently, the State of Maryland provides 25 different tax credits to various business sectors, but few that would benefit such a wide variety of businesses. Additionally, none of those tax credits provide a direct benefit to Maryland’s schoolchildren.

Benefits Maryland Businesses

☑ A business may receive a tax credit of up to $200,000 equal to 60% of their total donation to a state-registered nonprofit scholarship organization.

☑ Businesses eligible for the credit include corporations, sole proprietorships, partnerships and limited liability companies.

☑ Maryland businesses may receive up to $15 million dollars per year in tax credits, helping to stimulate the economy.

☑ Businesses can choose to donate to public and nonpublic school students.

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