Maryland
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BOOST Scholarship Program (2026-2027 school year) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Schools

Updated: January 27, 2026

1. **Question: What are the requirements for schools to participate in BOOST?**
   Answer: Schools must be approved to participate in the Nonpublic Textbook Program; offer at least a 1st grade full-day education; and comply with all reporting requirements.

2. **Question: What are the reporting requirements?**
   Answer: Schools must submit the following reports. Reporting requirements come from the approved Budget Bill for fiscal year 2026 (HB 350). These requirements are subject to change once the Budget Bill for fiscal year 2027 has passed, which is anticipated to take place in April 2026. Schools must:
   - Complete an online application
   - Administer an approved English, Math and Science assessment to all students in specified grade bands in the 2025-2026 school year and report the results to MSDE in the fall of 2026 (see list of approved assessments).
   - Report the number of certified and non-certified teachers
   - Report data on any students who received BOOST and were withdrawn or expelled
   - Complete enrollment confirmation for BOOST students

3. **Question: Tell me more about the assessment requirement.**
   Answer: Schools must administer an approved English, Math, and Science assessment to all students in the following grade bands, whether they received BOOST or not.

English Language Arts Assessment	• Each year for students in grades 3 through 8 • At least once for students in grades 9 through 12
Mathematics Assessment	• Each year for students in grades 3 through 8 • At least once for students in grades 9 through 12
Science Assessment	• At least once for students in grades 3-5 • At least once for students in grades 6-8 • At least once for students in grades 9-12

4. **Question: What's the deadline to submit these reports?**
   Answer: Schools must submit all the required reports by September 25, 2026. Schools that do not complete the reporting requirements on time may be ineligible from participating in BOOST and may not charge the student tuition and fees. Noncompliant schools may be placed on a Corrective Action Plan.

5. **Question: Is there a way to see and track which parents have submitted an application for the 2026-2027 school year in the Submittable portal?**
   Answer: No. If the parents have submitted an application, they will be provided a four-digit application number for the 2026-2027 school year.

6. **Question: When are we notified of our awarded students? Can we locate the list in the portal?**
   Answer: Schools will be notified of their awarded BOOST students by the beginning of September 2026. The parent application closes in May, legislation is enrolled in April, and the BOOST Advisory will meet during the summer of 2026. A list of awarded applicants will be sent to the submitted school application via Submittable as an additional form, "Enrollment Confirmation Report 2026-2027 School Year."

7. **Question: What if my school does not receive any awarded BOOST recipients. ? Do we still need to complete the reporting requirements?**
   Answer: Yes. There are instances where students transfer mid-year. If a student were to enroll at your school, the reporting requirements would need to be completed in order for MSDE to transfer funds. If the school has not completed the reporting requirements by the specified deadlines, the school will cover the remaining BOOST funds.