Maryland
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION







SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025 *IN REVIEW*

Annual Report Addendum

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Maryland At A Glance

1,420 Schools

880,231 Students Enrolled

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

Prekindergarten
30,533

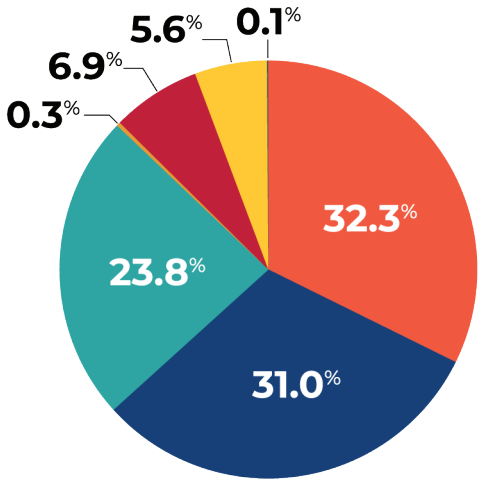
Kindergarten
59,204

Elementary Grades
320,348

Middle School Grades
196,253

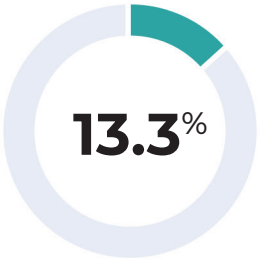
High School Grades
273,893

ENROLLMENT BY RACE

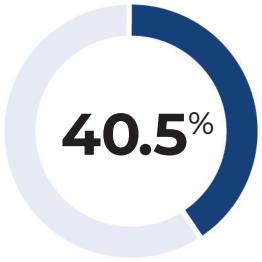


- Black/African American
- White
- Hispanic/Latino of Any Race
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Two or More Races
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

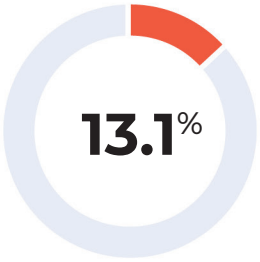
STUDENT GROUPS



Students with Disabilities



Economically Disadvantaged



Multilingual Learner

By the Numbers

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program

The 2025 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) results show continued progress across most student groups and subjects compared to the prior year, though large proficiency gaps among student groups remain.

Mathematics Proficiency

Grade	2023	2024	2025
Elementary	34.1%	34.8%	36.7%
Middle	19.8%	21.0%	23.1%
High	34.9%	29.8%	30.0%

English Language Arts Proficiency

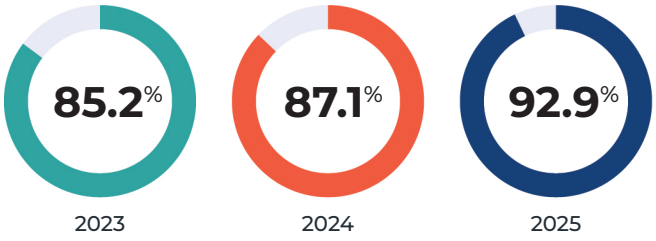
Grade	2023	2024	2025
Elementary	46.7%	47.2%	48.3%
Middle	47.9%	48.2%	51.2%
High	56.1%	59.4%	60.3%

College and Career Readiness

In 2025, MSDE updated the College and Career Readiness Standard to provide a greater range of students the opportunity to demonstrate their readiness for college and career through different methods. Additionally, MSDE developed Career and Technical Education (CTE) course-level standards that align with evolving workforce demands, high-value credentials, and rigorous academic expectations. Furthermore, with our partners around the state, including the CTE Committee of the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Department of Labor, and Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), we developed a Shared Vision for Career Pathways to fully prepare our students to be successful in 21st century careers and to meet the workforce needs of employers. Together, these will guide our collective work to ensure that high school students are prepared for entry-level credit-bearing courses or postsecondary training at state community colleges.

Percent of high school students who earned the Credit for Completion of a Well Rounded Curriculum

(Met standards beyond their required coursework, such as passing an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) test, earning dual enrollment credit or an Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC), or completing a Registered Apprenticeship.)



Prekindergarten Data

Expanding access to high-quality, publicly funded, mixed-delivery Pre-K is a critical investment in Maryland's future, ensuring every child begins school ready to thrive.

26,831 Three and Four Year Olds Enrolled in Publicly-Funded, Mixed-Delivery Pre-K *(80% of whom are from Tier I*)*

↑ **Up from 20,199** in 2022-2023

*3-or 4-year-old children from families with a gross annual income ≤ 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or children experiencing homelessness. For FY 26 only, children with disabilities and multilingual learners from families with a gross annual income ≤ 600% of the FPL are Tier I -eligible.

Chronic Absenteeism

In 2024, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) established a statewide Attendance Task Force, partnering with Attendance Works and key stakeholders to develop strategies and resources aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism across the state. In addition to releasing two toolkits to support schools and districts, MSDE has also begun monthly data collection with local education agencies of students at risk of chronic absenteeism, a national best practice.

During the 2025 legislative session, **House Bill 879 *Task Force to Improve Attendance and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in Schools*** was signed into law, which, among other things, required MSDE to update regulations related to chronic absence.

2025 Chronic Absence Rates

21.6% Elementary	**21.4%** Middle	**33.0%** High

Maryland's rate of chronic absence has decreased 1.5 percentage points from 2024, down 4.6 percentage points from 2023.

Workforce Retention and Diversity

MSDE is committed to strengthening and sustaining a diverse and highly-qualified educator workforce, ensuring every student has access to fully-licensed educators dedicated to success. In 2025, MSDE launched the Maryland Educator Workforce Dashboard, which provides demographics and other key data on public school staff as well as Maryland's teacher pipeline.

64,191 Teachers

33.4% Teachers of Color	**3.6%** Nationally Board Certified

Teacher vacancies decreased by 45.3% in 2025-2026 from the previous year. Special education vacancies decreased by 21.4% and elementary education vacancies decreased by 63.3%.

2024 Graduation Rate

87.6%

In 2024, Maryland celebrated the highest four-year high school graduation rate since 2017, with the largest increases among Hispanic students and multilingual learners. Additionally, the four-year cohort dropout rate was lower than the previous year.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is administered to all kindergarten students in Maryland during the first few weeks of school, per the *Ready to Read Act*. A new KRA assessment launched in the 2025-2026 school year with comprehensive training and communications during the 2024-25 school year to support the transition.

2026 KRA Math	2026 KRA Early Literacy*
55.3% of Students Proficient	**57.0%** of Students Proficient

Economically Disadvantaged Students Proficient
46.4% Math | 44.2% Early Literacy

*based on English version

MSDE in the News

Standards Revisions Updates

In the summer of 2025, MSDE and the State Board approved new College and Career Ready Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, spanning Prekindergarten through Grade 12. These new standards are the result of over a year of work by the statewide Standards and Frameworks Validation Committees (SFVC), which included educators, district leaders, higher education faculty, and parents. These new standards improve usability for teachers and families and ensure expectations are developmentally appropriate, measurable, and rigorous.

Math Policy

The PreK-12 Maryland Mathematics Policy supports the foundational goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by ensuring that all students have equitable access to a coherent and high-quality mathematics education. The policy aims to prepare students to apply mathematical knowledge in real-world contexts, enhancing their readiness for daily life, higher education, and future careers.

Literacy Policy

The 2025–2026 school year is the first full school year under the Comprehensive PreK-3 Literacy Policy, with full implementation required in the 2027-2028 school year. All districts are actively working toward meeting the policy's requirements, and MSDE continues to provide technical assistance, resources, and guidance to support districts as they build the systems, practices, and capacity needed for strong implementation and community understanding. To date, more than 7,000 Maryland educators have completed Science of Reading–aligned professional learning required under the policy. MSDE is also developing Maryland's inaugural Grades 4-12 Adolescent Literacy Policy, positioning Maryland as a national leader in establishing a comprehensive literacy continuum from early childhood through high school.

Updates on Professional Learning

Reaching nearly 45,000 participants, MSDE has led a shift in its professional learning opportunities for educators and administrators to a more intentionally designed, sustained learning experience that centers positive changes in educator practice and improved student outcomes.

Grow Your Own and Teacher Apprenticeships

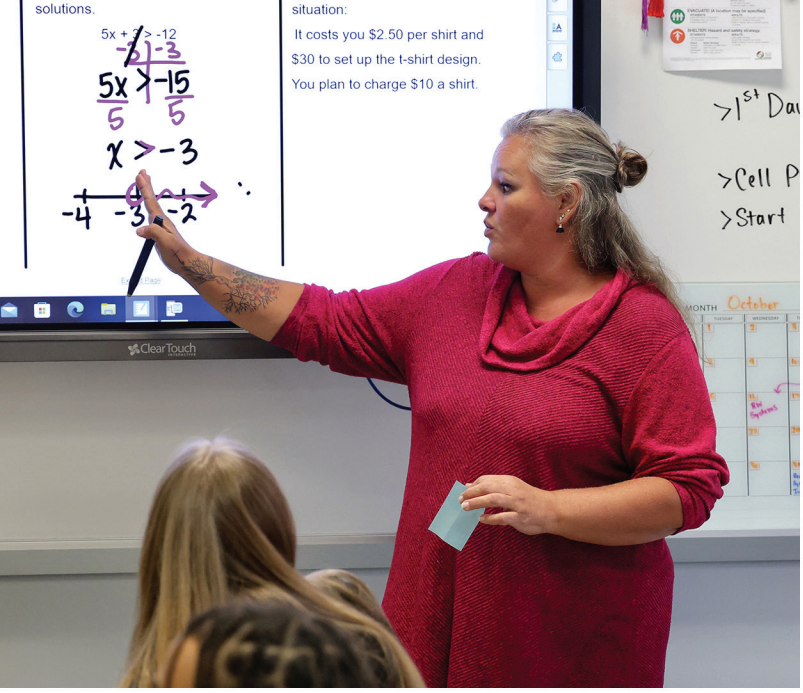
In 2025, Maryland opened applications for Grow Your Own (GYO) programs as envisioned by the Grow Your Own Educators grant that was enacted during the 2024 legislative session and fully funded during the 2025 session. The program will award grants to local school systems, in partnership with unions and institutions of higher education, for employees of the local school system to complete a pathway to teacher licensure. Intertwined with this is Maryland's first state-sponsored Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program, which launched in the fall of 2025. Both initiatives address the financial barriers to entering the profession by making it easier for participants to gain paid, on-the-job experience while earning full licensure.

Phones in Focus

In spring 2025, MSDE and the State Board convened a task force of stakeholders from around the state to draft a guidance document to support local school systems in navigating student cell phone policies. As part of a statewide partnership with researchers studying this issue nationally, preliminary survey results from nearly 8,000 Maryland educators showed that the stricter the cell phone policy, the less students are distracted in class, and the more satisfied educators reported being.

Restorative Practices Schools

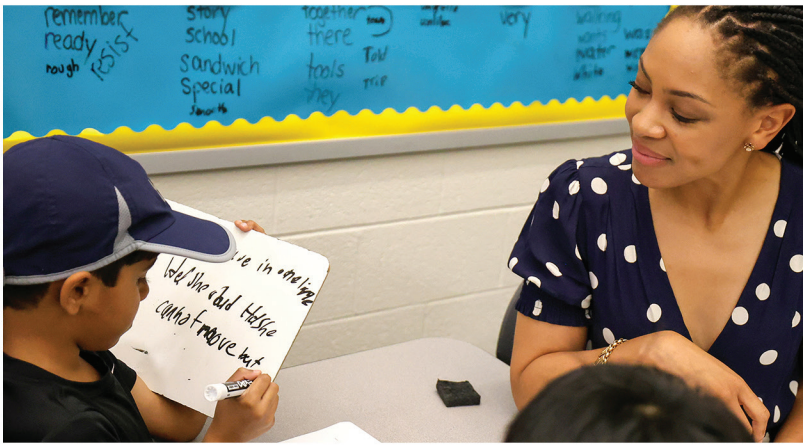
In alignment with the General Assembly's vision for stronger, relationship-centered school communities as outlined in House Bill 197 (2025), which expands the opportunity for Restorative Practices Schools in Maryland, MSDE has convened a dedicated workgroup to guide development of the required statewide framework to support districts.


solutions.
situation:
It costs you $2.50 per shirt and
$30 to set up the t-shirt design.
You plan to charge $10 a shirt.
ClearTouch








remember
ready
rough
story
school
Sandwich
Special
together
there
tools





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