

MEETING OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Special Virtual State Board Meeting

The following Board members were present:

Dr. Joshua Michael (Board President), Dr. Monica Goldson (Board Vice President), Dr. Kim Lewis, Ms. Chuen-Chin Chang, Dr. Irma Johnson, Mr. Chet Chesterfield, Mr. Kenny Clash, Ms. Xiomara Medina, Mr. Nick Greer, Dr. Irma Johnson, Mr. O'Marie Barnes, and Ms. Marcy Leonard were in attendance. Dr. James Bell, Ms. Nicole Murray-Lewis, and Mr. Samir Paul were absent.

State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen were also in attendance.

MEETING OPENING

Dr. Michael called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Mr. Schoen declared that a quorum was present.

COMAR 13A.02.10 MARYLAND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (PERMISSION TO PUBLISH)

Mr. Zach Hands, State Board Executive Director, shared COMAR 13A.02.10 Maryland Public Charter School Program, with one modification from the version authorized for publication on December 9, 2025. The proposed regulations establish the operational framework and funding formulas for public charter schools within Maryland local education agencies (LEAs). The version before the State Board revises the special education shared cost deduction, setting the adjustment at 10%. After receiving additional feedback from stakeholders, this change raises the ceiling on the special education adjustment provision from 8% to 10% to ensure fairness in the model.

Dr. Michael provided additional context on the timing of this meeting, explaining that approval would allow the regulation to remain on schedule for publication in the February edition of the Maryland Register for public comment. This timeline ensures that schools have sufficient time to incorporate the new requirements into their SY 2026–27 budget planning. Dr. Lewis clarified that posting for public comment means there is an additional period for public input on the regulation.

Ms. Medina asked how feedback was incorporated, and Dr. Michael outlined the stakeholder engagement process, including the AELR review, and clarified the distinction between the administrative fee and the special education adjustment. Ms. Chang asked about the financial impact of the change, and Dr. Michael explained that impacts vary across LEAs and charter schools. Ms. Medina raised similar concerns about differences by LEA size. Ms. Carol Beck, MSDE's Director of School Innovation, clarified that the special education adjustment is a cap rather than a requirement, and Dr. Lewis emphasized transparency as key to addressing these concerns.

ACTION: Dr. Michael called for a motion to republish the amended version of COMAR 13A.02.10. Mr. Greer motioned, Dr. Goldson seconded. (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0, Absent: 3)

STATE BOARD ADJOURN

Dr. Michael called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Chesterfield motioned, Ms. Chang seconded. (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0, Absent: 3).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carey M. Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carey" and last name "Wright" clearly distinguishable.

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: January 27, 2026

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented. The video recordings of the meetings are the official record and can be located at:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2025.aspx>

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found at:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx>

The next Maryland State Board of Education meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026.**

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days' notice prior to the event is required. Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.