

RE01
Maryland School for the Deaf – Capital

Capital Budget Summary

State-owned *Capital Improvement Program*
(\$ in Millions)

Projects	Prior Auth.	2021 Request	2022 Est.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.	Beyond CIP
Veditz Building Renovation – Frederick Campus	\$0.586	\$0.425	\$12.389	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
New Emergency Notification System – Columbia Campus	0.325	0.000	3.940	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
High School Boys’ and Girls’ and Middle School Residences – Frederick Campus	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.849	1.038	6.686	19.213
Total	\$0.911	\$0.425	\$16.329	\$0.849	\$1.038	\$6.686	\$19.213

Fund Source	Prior Auth.	2021 Request	2022 Est.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.	Beyond CIP
GO Bonds	\$0.911	\$0.425	\$16.329	\$0.849	\$1.038	\$6.686	\$19.213
Total	\$0.911	\$0.425	\$16.329	\$0.849	\$1.038	\$6.686	\$19.213

CIP: *Capital Improvement Program*
GO: general obligation

Key Observations

The 2021 capital budget includes funding to complete the design of the Veditz building renovation. The 2020 *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP) defers construction funding to fiscal 2022, which is the second year in a row that the construction phase has been deferred due to delays in completing the design phase. Funding to construct the new emergency notification system for the school’s Columbia campus has been deferred to fiscal 2022.

For further information contact: Samuel M. Quist

Phone: (410) 946-5530

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

1. Veditz Building Renovation

Approve the \$425,000 in general obligation bond funding for the Maryland School of the Deaf Veditz building renovation.

Budget Overview

Veditz Building Renovation – Frederick Campus

The fiscal 2021 capital budget provides \$425,000 to complete the design of the Veditz building renovation. The design contract using previously authorized funds has been executed, and design is expected to begin in March 2020. When the project first appeared in the CIP, it entailed a limited renovation to the first floor of the two-story building with an estimated total cost of \$1.7 million. With the submission of the 2018 CIP, the project scope had been revised to include a complete renovation of the building, including building systems at an estimated cost of \$9.8 million. While the initial revised project scope design phase was funded in fiscal 2019 and the construction funding was programmed for fiscal 2020 and 2021, it was determined that a complete building condition assessment would be required before executing a design contract. As a result, the 2019 CIP deferred the construction phase funding to fiscal 2021, and the 2020 CIP further delays the construction funding to fiscal 2022 at a revised total cost of \$13.4 million. **Exhibit 1** illustrates the changes to the project funding schedule beginning with the revised project scope reflected in the 2018 CIP.

Exhibit 1
Comparison of 2018, 2019, and 2020 CIP
Fiscal 2019-2022
(\$ in Millions)

<u>CIP</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018 CIP	\$0.586	\$4.681	\$4.570	\$0.000	\$9.837
2019 CIP	0.586	0.000	10.040		10.626
2020 CIP	0.586	0.000	0.425	12.389	13.400

CIP: *Capital Improvement Program*

Source: Department of Budget and Management

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This project will renovate the building in order to provide space for academic classrooms that better match the needs of the school’s Career Technology Education (CTE) program, to replace outdated and failing building systems, and to bring the building into Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The Veditz building was originally constructed in 1975 in order to provide vocational training. As employment trends have changed over the decades, the previous building layout that accommodated print shops and large printing presses, cutting and sewing rooms, and industrial art rooms is obsolete, and the needs of students would be better served by replacing these spaces with computer laboratories for graphic design and multipurpose spaces for science and health careers. This project will install walls that create modern classrooms, and some will include retractable walls that will allow for versatility in programming for these spaces. Drop ceilings with lay-in lighting designed for classroom applications will be installed and will allow for projectors to be mounted.

Renovations will reconfigure both floors of the building into classroom areas that will better match the needs of the courses for the career clusters recommended by the Maryland State Department of Education. The first floor renovation will redesign and reallocate space of the auto body shop, allowing for the addition of trades classrooms. The current auto body shop space is significant in size and is underutilized. The second floor renovation will convert the existing kitchen and sewing areas into regular classrooms, computer laboratories, classrooms for students in life-based education, and provide a new commercial kitchen to teach culinary arts. These renovations will provide students with a CTE program that is comparable to other county public schools and will better enable students with the desire to learn a trade to be workforce ready upon graduation from high school.

Additionally, this project will address significant deficiencies that were revealed during a Department of General Services (DGS) building condition assessment for this project. The building’s HVAC, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems are all either severely deficient or failing. The building is also not ADA compliant, so this project will renovate all entryways and restrooms to be wheelchair accessible, among other upgrades.

Operating Budget Impact Statement

Executive’s Operating Budget Impact Statement – State-owned Projects
Fiscal 2021-2025
(\$ in Millions)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Veditz Building Renovation – Frederick Campus					
Estimated Operating Cost	\$0.027	\$0.322	\$0.027	\$0.000	\$0.000
Estimated Staffing	0	0	0	0	0

It is expected that this project will require the renting of relocatable temporary modular classrooms for students during the time period that the Veditz building is under construction.

Summary of Other Projects in the Capital Improvement Program

New Emergency Notification System – Columbia Campus

This project will construct and install a new visual emergency notification system in two classrooms and one dormitory building on the school’s Columbia campus. This system will utilize color-coded strobe lights to notify students and staff of emergencies and will also send messages to other electronic devices, including emails, text messages, and television and smart board messages. Currently, the Maryland School for the Deaf only has a visual communication system for fire drills at its Columbia campus; however, seven types of emergency drills are required to be conducted during the school year. Because all students and the majority of staff are hearing impaired or deaf, these drills must be conducted visually. This project will bring the school into compliance with current regulations.

Funding for this project first appeared in the 2019 CIP with plans to fund the entire design and construction of a new emergency notification system at the Columbia campus in fiscal 2020 at a cost of \$3,975,000. At the time, the plan entailed a short design phase followed by the installation of an off-the-shelf, vendor-supplied emergency notification system. However, due to concerns with the recent installation of the emergency notification system at the Frederick campus, which has been cited as noncompliant by the State Fire Marshal, the decision was made to fund only the design phase in fiscal 2020 to ensure that it incorporates fully compliant system features. Because a full assessment of the Frederick campus system is still underway, DGS is not anticipating the award of the design contract until summer 2020, negating the need for construction funds until fiscal 2022 as programmed in the 2020 CIP. **The Department of Legislative Services recommends that DGS update the committees on the status of the assessment of the Frederick campus emergency notification system, including a timeframe for reaching compliance and an estimate of any additional work and funding needed to bring the system up to compliance.**

High School Boys’ and Girls’ and Middle School Residences – Frederick Campus

Funds are included in the five-year CIP to construct a new high school boys’ residence and student center, a high school girls’ residence, a middle school residence, a satellite health center, and central offices at the Frederick campus. New residences are required to address ADA and fire code deficiencies, allow for proper student supervision, and provide a more home-like environment for students. The estimated total cost of this project is \$27.8 million, or a \$3.75 million increase from the prior year’s estimate. Initial design is programmed for fiscal 2023 and 2024, with construction set to begin in fiscal 2025. The current schedule reflects a one-year deferment from what was included in last year’s CIP to accommodate other higher priority projects.

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Approve the \$425,000 in general obligation bond funding for the Maryland School for the Deaf Veditz building renovation.