
Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

Additional Pages

March 2026

R00A01
Headquarters
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A01.06 Office of Finance and Operations

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Qualifications: The committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education submit a report by August 1, 2026, with information from all local education agencies (*LEA*) on the educational and professional qualifications of each of their CFOs and the job training and professional development provided to them. The description of job training and professional development for CFOs should include the number of days of training and brief summaries of the information covered. *The report should also provide the position description and the qualifications listed in each LEA's job posting for CFOs.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CFO qualifications	Maryland State Department of Education	August 1, 2026
	LEA	

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendment

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose. Funds not expended shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: *The Maryland State Department of Education shall not transfer any funds budgeted for Aid to Education to any other program or purpose.*

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A02.07 Students With Disabilities

Report on the Autism Waiver Program: The committees request a report by October 1, 2026, on the Autism Waiver program, which is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This status update should provide information on the following:

- the current number of individuals on the Autism Waiver waitlist;
- the number of slots utilized in fiscal 2023 through 2026;
- the number of slots in use in fiscal 2027;
- the average cost per slot in fiscal 2023 through 2026 and forecasted for fiscal 2027 through 2032;
- a timeline for unfreezing enrollment and increasing utilized slots to the target level;
- MSDE’s strategy for managing high program costs, including specific cost containment measures implemented and anticipated savings from these measures; ~~and~~
- projected costs for Autism Waiver services through fiscal 2032 by year based on the timeline for increasing utilized slots,;
- *the process for enrolling in life skills classes and the costs associated with participation;*
- *the costs associated with allowing participants to attend school until age 21 by taking additional life skills courses if they are pursuing a diploma;*
- *the number of participants who received a diploma before the age of 21 in fiscal 2016 through 2026 and their age at graduation, provided separately by year;*
- *the number of students who graduated before age 21 who participated in life skills classes; and*

- *transition services that provide information and resources immediately prior to graduation.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the autism waiver program	MSDE	October 1, 2026

R62I00
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Committee Narrative

Tuition Exemption for Incarcerated Individuals: The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), in consultation with all segments of higher education, submit a report on how institutions might implement tuition exemption for incarcerated individuals. It is the intent of the committees that in order to qualify for the exemption, an incarcerated individual must apply for federal and State financial aid and similar to last dollar scholarship programs, the exemption would only apply to the amount of the tuition not covered by financial aid.

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Tuition exemption for incarcerated individuals</i>	<i>MHEC</i>	<i>November 15, 2026</i>

R62I00
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Committee Narrative

R62I00.01 General Administration

Report on Relocating the Office of Student Financial Assistance: The committees request that the Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the Department of Budget and Management, and segments of higher education, conduct a study evaluating options for removing the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) from the organizational structure of MHEC. Multiple options should be considered including, but not limited to, establishing OSFA as a separate agency in the executive branch or incorporating OSFA into another State agency. The report should include:

- *a survey of the administration of student financial assistance programs in other states including organization and structure;*
- *revisions to statute to effectuate the recommended relocation options of OSFA; and*
- *estimated costs associated with the relocation options including additional personnel and other operating costs.*

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Report on relocating OSFA</i>	<i>Department of Legislative Services</i>	<i>October 1, 2026</i>

R62I0010
Student Financial Assistance
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Committee Narrative

R62I00.10 Educational Excellence Awards

Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards: The committees remain interested in the impact that the 30-credit-hour requirement had on students in the 2025-2026 academic year and the 2026-2027 awarding year, specifically if students are meeting the requirement in order to receive the full amount of award, how many students had their awards prorated, and how many students lost eligibility. The report should also include the graduation rates, ~~of students who completed 30 credit hours compared to those who completed less than 30 credit hours~~ *average credits earned, and on-time degree completion rates for students who completed at least 30 credit hours compared to those who completed less than 30 credit hours.* The report should provide summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report should identify the updated funding disbursement, by Educational Excellence Awards (EEA) award type and by total credit attainment grouping, for the students from the most recent review cycle as well as what the total funding amount was, by EEA award type prior to those students having their award funding amounts revised. *Additionally, the report should discuss new initiatives currently in development to alert students who are in danger of losing their awards.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Impact of credit completion requirements on financial aid awards	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 1, 2026