



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

SB 882

Operating Budget – Education Programs – Mandated Spending

Date: March 3, 2021

Position: Support

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Tom Ackerman, Vice President Education

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** SB 882, which would restore funding to the State Aided Educational Institutions Program in the FY23 budget. For the second year in a row, the Governor's budget proposal zeroed out educational funding that had long been provided to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to support environmental education programs throughout the State. The State aid allows CBF to leverage additional financial resources and supports Maryland students and teachers in meeting Maryland's environmental literacy requirement.

MSDE's Budget Request for FY 2022 funding for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's educational programs was struck in the Governor's budget proposal

For 40 years, Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) award winning outdoor education programs has maintained a contract with MSDE through the State Aided Educational Institutions Program (SAI). In FY 2020, CBF was funded at \$437,341. In FY 2021, The Maryland State Department of Education included CBF in its budget request, but without warning, the money was eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget. The same sequence repeated itself for FY 2022: MSDE requested the funding, and then the funding was zeroed out in the Governor's Budget.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation helps local school systems meet environmental literacy graduation requirements

CBF provides professional learning courses for approximately 200 Maryland teachers and school administrators every summer that provide immersive multi-day field experiences that help them craft curricula on the Bay's ecology, Chesapeake history, and citizenship. CBF's education program supports Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems in meeting environmental literacy graduation requirements, curriculum standards, and state commitments. The State's funding enables CBF to reach educators and help them provide lessons on Maryland's rich natural heritage and the Chesapeake Bay.

The State's program funding extends unique opportunities to economically disadvantaged students and schools

Each year, CBF's six Maryland education programs serve over 10,000 MD students and teachers at education sites in Annapolis, Baltimore, Havre de Grace, and at island centers on the Eastern Shore. CBF education programs reach every school district in Maryland nearly every year. For many students, the CBF program represents their first time being out on the water and having a hands-on experience with all the

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living things that call the Chesapeake Bay home. With the State's educational funding, CBF is able to reduce program fees which benefits economically disadvantaged students and schools.

Without funding for Fiscal Year 2022 and future years, CBF may be forced to close programs and reduce service, depriving students of a rich real world learning opportunity that has been a unique part of Maryland education for over four decades.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 882.

For more information, please contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

Maryland school systems participating in CBF Education Programs

2015-2020	Teachers completing CBF Professional Development	Student Field Program Participants
Allegany	4	489
Anne Arundel	170	11,664
Baltimore	16	5,422
Baltimore City	106	8,643
Calvert	12	301
Caroline	1	0
Carroll	16	2,706
Cecil	5	82
Charles	7	195
Dorchester	0	91
Frederick	43	2,467
Garrett	0	362
Harford	57	2,548
Howard	46	3,613
Kent	3	510
Montgomery	275	14,305
Prince George's	123	1,681
Queen Anne's	4	1,172
Somerset	5	359
St. Mary's	46	970
Talbot	0	494
Washington	40	569
Wicomico	36	578
Worcester	2	778
TOTAL	1,017	59,999