

**MANSEF written Testimony SB 958.pdf**

Uploaded by: Flynn, Dorie

Position: FAV



**SUPPORT**

**Senate Bill 958:**

Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution - Increase

**OFFERED ON BEHALF OF**

The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities  
(MANSEF)

**BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAX**

**March 19, 2021**

The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF) offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 958. We offer this testimony on behalf of the 70 nonpublic special education schools across Maryland currently serving approximately 3800 publicly funded school children. Our member schools employ over 1500 teachers, clinicians and administrators.

Senate Bill 958 will help to align teacher salaries for those working in the nonpublic special education schools to that of their public school counterparts. Retaining skilled teachers continues to be a challenge and we cannot keep pace to competitively compensate our staff. After gaining valuable experience teaching in our nonpublic settings, teachers often leave for better paying positions in public school systems.

MSDE conducted a salary parity study. The results of study showed average teacher salaries in public schools and nonpublic special education schools differed by between \$3,600 and \$23,600, or between 7.3% and 25.8%, depending on teacher education and experience. After accounting for differences in teachers' total paid hours, teachers' wages in public schools and nonpublic special education schools differed by between 23.3% and 40.7%.

Additionally, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act (HB1300 of 2020) which has now been enacted, provides that public school teacher salaries will increase dramatically over the next few years; thereby, the pay gap between public and nonpublic special education school teachers will become even wider pulling crucial resources away from students most in need. MANSEF asks that this pay gap be addressed through additional funding to our schools.

Nonpublic special education schools are vital to the fulfillment of IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. IDEA mandates a "continuum of alternative placements to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services." Our nonpublic

special education schools are one component in that continuum and fulfill a unique and essential role in meeting students' particular educational needs and serve an important role for Maryland to comply with the federal law regarding education for special needs students.

The MANSEF schools are uniquely equipped to provide the specific, multidisciplinary, frequently intensive resources students with special needs require. The scope and depth of staff expertise afford specialized, integrated programming that goes beyond academic education and encompass the social and emotional well-being of each student. In addition to the skilled, highly trained teachers, nonpublic special education schools are staffed to provide other critical services such as behavior programs, crisis management and medical attention.

Because our teacher salaries are far behind the public schools, the gap between public and nonpublic special education school teacher salaries continues to grow. Our teachers are to be valued, recognized and appreciated. It is for these reasons that MANSEF respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 958.

**SB0958\_FAV\_Linwood\_Nonpublic Spec. Ed. Schools - S**

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Craig J. Zucker

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: March 19, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 958 – *Nonpublic Special Education Schools – State Contribution – Increase*

---

For more than 60 years, Linwood Center has been providing life-changing programs and services for children and adults living with autism and related developmental disabilities. Linwood currently supports child and adults on the autism spectrum from jurisdictions throughout the State of Maryland. Linwood is one of a handful of programs in the United States and one of only three in the state of Maryland that provides comprehensive education and residential programs throughout the lifespan under one service umbrella. Linwood offers program continuity from childhood into adulthood, developing lifelong relationships with individuals living with autism from elementary school through retirement and old age. Linwood's accredited nonpublic special education program and licensed residential programs provide intensive positive behavioral supports and long-term educational and vocational services to Maryland's autism community. All the students that Linwood serves in its special education program are students referred from public schools in Maryland. Linwood respectfully offers its **support** for Senate Bill 958.

Senate Bill 958 will begin to enable nonpublic special education schools to align their teachers' salaries with those of teachers in the public schools. MSDE recently completed a parity study of teacher salaries between public schools and nonpublic special education schools. The study found dramatic disparities despite the fact that nonpublic special education schools serve some of Maryland's most challenged children and youth. The enactment of the BluePrint for Maryland's Future, which includes enhanced teacher salaries, will only serve to exacerbate the current inequity and make teacher recruitment and retention for nonpublic special education programs even more challenging. Furthermore, the training and skills that Linwood and other nonpublic special education schools require of its teachers is often greater than that required in the public schools. Linwood, and other special education schools, are also 12-month programs, with no summer break. Consequently, the challenge of teacher recruitment and retention is especially problematic. Therefore, the need to address salary disparities is critically important if the State is to adequately support its special needs children who cannot be appropriately educated in a public-school setting.

Linwood appreciates that there will need to be a revision to the current tuition/salary expense rate setting process for nonpublic special education schools if the current disparity is to be fully addressed. However, passage of Senate Bill 958, which provides an increased State contribution to the cost of educating children with disabilities in nonpublic schools, will give nonpublic special education schools a short term but meaningful adjustment to the current rate structure to address the salary inequities and assist with teacher recruitment and retention. Linwood believes that MSDE will be able to permanently address the salary inequities with the input from relevant stakeholders and the data collected from the disparity study. Linwood looks forward to working with MSDE and others moving forward but believes that the two-year funding requirements of Senate Bill 958 are more than justified and are necessary for the nonpublic schools in meeting the needs of the children they serve. Linwood respectfully requests a favorable position.

**For more information call:**  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
410-244-7000

# **SB 958 Nonpublic Special Education Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Zucker, Senator Craig

Position: FAV

**CRAIG J. ZUCKER**  
*Legislative District 14*  
Montgomery County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Chair, Education, Business and  
Administration

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 122  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3625 • 301-858-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Fax 410-841-3618 • 301-858-3618  
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 958 - Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution - Increase.**  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**March 19th, 2021**  
**11:00am**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Good afternoon Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 958 - Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution - Increase.**

The purpose of this legislation is to increase the amount of state contribution towards educating children in non-public schools and programs. The enrollment of the State's nonpublic special education schools consists primarily of public school students who are assigned to a nonpublic school due to their need for specialized services that cannot be offered by their local school system. An increase in state contribution toward these non-public schools and programs would help ensure a higher-quality education for special-needs children across Maryland.

As drafted, Senate Bill 958 would require the State contribution to the cost of educating children with disabilities in nonpublic programs to be increased by 4% in fiscal year 2023 over the amount approved by the State Department of Education in fiscal year 2022.

This legislation would also require the State contribution to be increased in fiscal year 2023 by not less than an additional 2% or the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

The purpose of this legislation is to require an increase in the State contribution to the cost of educating children with disabilities in nonpublic schools by 4% in fiscal year 2023 specifically to address salary issues. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 958. Thank you for your kind consideration.

**SB958\_KennedyKrieger\_LOI\_TeacherParity.pdf**

Uploaded by: Arneson, Emily

Position: INFO



Kennedy Krieger Institute

**Bradley L. Schlaggar, MD, PhD**

President and CEO

Zanvyl Krieger Faculty Endowed Chair

*A comprehensive resource  
for children with disabilities*

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: SB958 - Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution - Increase**

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

On behalf of Kennedy Krieger Institute, we thank the committee for the opportunity to share information on Senate Bill 958. In addition, we thank the Governor and the Maryland legislature for their ongoing support for nonpublic special education.

Kennedy Krieger is proud to serve the state of Maryland through our nonpublic schools, currently providing educational and related clinical services for over 500 publically funded students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, often in the setting of medical complexity. This year, as is typically the case, our students come from over half of the school districts in Maryland. We employ nearly an equal number of highly trained teachers, related-service clinicians, and support staff. We have long-standing partnerships with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Local School Systems based upon our specialized expertise and commitment to children with disabilities.

Our schools are able to provide exemplary service for students with significant special education needs, as well as related clinical and behavioral supports, in large part because of our highly skilled and educated workforce of teachers and support staff who are completely dedicated to the children we serve. Unfortunately, because of the sizeable salary disparities between public and nonpublic school teachers, our educators annually face the decision to remain with our program, or seek higher wages with the public school systems.

Kennedy Krieger is grateful for the legislature's budget narrative during the 2020 legislative session that formed a Salary Parity workgroup at the MSDE. As a member of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF) and with an ongoing collaborative partnership with MSDE, Kennedy Krieger was honored to participate in the workgroup. The group, composed of representation from the Local School Systems, Nonpublic Schools, MSDE and Legislative Services, reviewed survey data compiled in two separate studies. Both studies found a gap of between \$3,600 and

707 North Broadway • Baltimore, Maryland 21205 • [KennedyKrieger.org](http://KennedyKrieger.org)

main 443.923.9300 • facsimile 443.923.9317 • tty 443.923.2645 • email [Schlaggar@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:Schlaggar@KennedyKrieger.org)

\$23,600 (7.3% and 25.8%, respectively) when comparing annual salaries between a nonpublic educator and a public school educator.

SB958 ensures that nonpublic schools can maintain the professional talent necessary to provide the level of service and care needed by our student population. It will also ensure correct compensation for professionals and staff commensurate with their level of education and training to their public school peers.

Once again, Kennedy Krieger thanks the committee members for their thoughtful consideration of Senate Bill 958 and for their commitment to all Maryland students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley L. Schlaggar".

Bradley L. Schlaggar, MD, PhD  
President and CEO