

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

R00A06

Maryland Center for School Safety

Response to DLS Analyst's Review and Recommendations

Joint Hearing with the
House Education and Economic Development Subcommittee –
and

Senate Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee –
January 29, 2021



Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) appreciates the opportunity to update the Committees on the activities of MCSS and respond to the issues raised and recommendations contained in the operating budget analysis prepared by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS).

Fiscal 2020 Safe Schools Fund Closeout

- 1. MCSS should provide the committees with the disbursement of all Safe Schools Fund monies by jurisdiction in fiscal 2020 as well as identify any unencumbered funds. MCSS should also explain why the additional \$8.5 million in general funds was needed and what steps it has taken to ensure that grants awarded from the Safe Schools Fund align with the authorized appropriation.***

A breakdown of the disbursement of the Safe Schools Fund can be found in Appendix A. There are no unencumbered FY 2020 funds.

The fiscal year 2020 budget for the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) included a unique feature whereby the Center's special fund grant programs were financed with general funds. As such, the grant programs are accounted for twice – once under general funds and once under special funds – in the display of the Center's budget. MCSS inadvertently made both the general and special funds available for the Center's school safety and school resource officer grant programs. MCSS worked with MSDE and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to resolve this issue. The resolution was a multi-pronged approach. The MCSS stopped issuing grant awards, sought the assistance of the Interagency Commission on School Construction on the availability of IAC School Safety program funds, and requested a deficiency appropriation from DBM. The FY 2020 deficiency appropriation, coupled with the reduced number of grant awards resolved this issue.

Moving forward, the MCSS is well aware of the unique manner in which these funds are budgeted and the authorized appropriation for these grant programs.



Key Observations

SRO Coverage Grant

The General Assembly may wish to consider modifying Sections 7-1508 and 7-1512(G) of the Education Article to remove the restrictions on the \$10.0 million SRO Coverage Grant. This would maintain the same level of funding for every jurisdiction in the State but would provide them with a wider breadth of permissible uses of the funding under Section 7-1512(F) should they decide to forgo employing SROs, as many schools already do. This action would require separate legislation.

MCSS concurs. MCSS always welcomes flexibility in its ability to distribute grant funds.

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

MCSS concurs.



Appendix A

Jurisdiction	FY2020 Safe Schools Fund Grant Awarded	FY2020 SRO Grant Awarded	FY2020 School Traffic Safety Enforcement Grant Awarded
Allegany County	\$229,814	\$155,082	\$33,011
Anne Arundel County	\$661,444	\$62,400	\$18,000
Baltimore City County	\$38,718	\$358,000	\$0
Baltimore County	\$709,019	\$1,230,552	\$179,138
Calvert County	\$272,187	\$172,462	\$22,908
Caroline County	\$213,271	\$70,721	\$5,000
Carroll County	\$326,801	\$282,885	\$32,625
Cecil County	\$228,620	\$226,308	\$15,000
Charles County	\$336,121	\$275,813	\$15,000
Dorchester County	\$207,333	\$84,866	\$30,000
Frederick County	\$424,888	\$204,000	\$7,125
Garrett County	\$152,789	\$84,866	\$35,000
Harford County	\$257,240	\$381,895	\$35,000
Howard County	\$510,133	\$19,712	\$0
Kent County	\$191,000	\$0	\$0
Montgomery County	\$1,074,972	\$1,436,172	\$0
Prince George's County	\$906,654	\$1,463,932	\$11,400
Queen Anne's County	\$0	\$106,082	\$32,000
Somerset County	\$196,570	\$70,721	\$39,000
St. Mary's County	\$284,673	\$198,020	\$0
Talbot County	\$206,629	\$63,649	\$20,000
Washington County	\$311,113	\$318,246	\$29,000
Wicomico County	\$266,628	\$183,876	\$22,730
Worcester County	\$218,492	\$0	\$18,063
Sub Total	\$8,225,109	\$7,450,260	\$600,000
Nonpublic Special Education Schools			
Crosswood (Pathways School)	\$2,394	\$0	\$0
Maryland School for the Deaf	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
St. Elizabeth School	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
The Ivymount School, Inc.	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Gateway Schools	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Sub Total	\$27,394	\$0	\$0
Grand Total	\$8,252,503	\$7,450,260	\$600,000

