



- ▶ 2021 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES.....1
- ▶ BLENDED VIRTUAL PROGRAM - PILOT.....2
- ▶ ESMEC ENERGY TRUST.....3
- ▶ HIGH SPEED INTERNET.....4

ESMEC *focus*

MISSION: BE THE ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND BY GRADUATING STUDENTS WHO ARE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY.

2021 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

THE EASTERN SHORE SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING FOUR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR THE 2020 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION:



- **ESTABLISH RURAL BROADBAND:** With a high level of reliance on broadband to deliver instruction into student homes, we continue to struggle to meet the needs of all of our students.
- **SUPPORT KIRWAN FUNDING:** Provide additional state funds to continue the initiatives outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland’s future.
- **MODIFY STUDENT COUNT:** For this school year, with the challenges of COVID, the traditional student count to determine state funding will not be reliable. We are requesting that school systems be held harmless.
- **SUPPORT LOCAL CONTROL:** Oppose any legislation that negatively impacts the authority of the local boards of education and superintendents of schools.
- **SUPPORT CAPITAL PROJECTS:** Seek state funding for the capital requested capital projects.

BLENDED VIRTUAL PROGRAM - PILOT

The superintendents of the Eastern Shore of Maryland which include the following public school systems: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Somerset, Talbot, Queen Anne’s, Wicomico and Worcester, are developing and implementing a blended virtual school program for students across the shore in grades kindergarten through grade 12. This synchronous model of learning will be known as the “ESMEC: Blended Virtual Program (BVP)”. The BVP uses a regional approach to provide virtual synchronous programming across the nine school systems. The BVP will begin in the spring 2021. Students participating in the BVP will be enrolled in their home school. Each school system will develop a process to screen and select students for the program. Parents and students who are interested in the program should contact their local school system. Daily academic instruction will be virtually delivered. All teachers will be Maryland certified and the program will be aligned with the Maryland State Standards. Ms. Erin Crissman, an experienced teacher and leader in the Wicomico County Public Schools will serve as the Coordinator for the program. Ms. Crissman stated that the “...ESMEC BVP will give parents and students an option to learn from home while enrolled in a public school system and access to the resources available in each school system.” Once established the ESMEC BVP will be the first multi-school district virtual public school program in Maryland.



Dr. Karen Couch
2021 Maryland Superintendent of the Year

Selected by the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM), Dr. Couch was recognized for her outstanding leadership, accomplishments, and service. Appointed in 2013 as the Kent County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Couch has creatively addressed the challenges of leading a rural school system. Dr. Couch is a strong advocate for rural school systems serving on the Kirwan Commission and President of PSSAM and ESMEC. Dr. Couch has a distinguished career in public education serving as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. She has won numerous awards and recognitions including the New Mexico Superintendent of the Year. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Couch as a leader on the Shore!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jon M. Andes, Executive Director
Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium
c/o Queen Anne’s County Board of Education
202 Chesterfield Avenue | Centerville, MD 21617
Phone: 410-758-4885 | esmec@qacps.org | www.esmec.org

FY '22 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) - State Funding Requests

Project Title	Type of Project (addition and/or renovation)	Total Projected Project Costs	Anticipated State Share of Project:	Anticipated Local Share of Project:
CAROLINE COUNTY				
Ridgely Elementary	Roof Replacement	\$2,241,000	\$1,950,000	\$291,000
CECIL COUNTY				
Chesapeake City Elementary School	Replacement School	\$26,560,000	\$10,437,000	\$16,123,000
Cecil Manor Elementary School	Systemic Renovation – HVAC	\$2,419,000	\$1,597,000	\$822,000
Leeds Elementary School	Systemic Renovation – Boiler Replacement	\$530,000	\$350,000	\$180,000
Bohemia Manor MS/HS	Systemic Renovation – Cooling Tower Replacement	\$505,000	\$333,000	\$172,000
Elkton Middle School	Systemic Renovation (Roof)	\$1,665,000	\$1,047,000	\$618,000
DORCHESTER COUNTY				
Cambridge South Dorchester High School	Roof Replacement	\$2,079,750	\$1,705,387	\$374,363
Choptank Elementary School	Roof Replacement	\$1,995,000	\$1,558,000	\$437,000
Cambridge South Dorchester High School	Fire Alarm Replacement/Mass Notification Installation	\$1,321,000	\$1,000,000	\$321,000
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY				
Kent Island High School	Roof Replacement	\$4,690,000	\$2,142,000	\$2,548,000
Kennard Elementary School	Roof Replacement	\$1,515,000	\$663,000	\$852,000
SOMERSET COUNTY				
Greenwood Elementary School	Building Envelope	\$430,125	\$405,000	\$25,125
TALBOT COUNTY				
Easton High School	Systemic Renovation – Roof Replacement	\$5,072,000	\$2,415,000	\$2,657,000
WICOMICO COUNTY				
Beaver Run Elementary	Replacement School	\$49,180,000	\$27,399,000	\$21,781,000
Mardela Middle & High	Addition/Renovation	\$71,815,111	\$40,204,000	\$31,611,111
WORCESTER COUNTY				
Stephen Decatur Middle School	Addition	\$13,534,000	\$4,814,000	\$8,720,000

January 29, 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EASTERN SHORE SUPERINTENDENTS

Dr. Patricia W. Saelens
Superintendent
Caroline County Public Schools
Phone: 410-479-3250
E-Mail: saelens.patricia@ccpsstaff.org

Dr. Jeffrey A. Lawson
Superintendent
Cecil County Public Schools
Phone: 410-996-5499
E-Mail: jalawson@cccps.org

Mr. W. David Bromwell
Superintendent
Dorchester County Public Schools
Phone: 410-228-4747
E-Mail: bromwelld@dcpsmd.org

Dr. Karen M. Couch
Superintendent
Kent County Public Schools
Phone: 410-778-7113
E-Mail: kcouch@kent.k12.md.us

Dr. Andrea Kane
Superintendent
Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Phone: 410-758-2403
E-Mail: andrea.kane@qacps.org

Dr. John B. Gaddis
Superintendent
Somerset County Public Schools
Phone: 410-621-6249
E-Mail: jgaddis@somerset.k12.md.us

Dr. Kelly L. Griffith
Superintendent
Talbot County Public Schools
Phone: 410-822-0330
E-Mail: kgriffith@tcps.k12.md.us

Dr. Donna C. Hanlin
Superintendent
Wicomico County Public Schools
Phone: 410-677-4495
E-Mail: dhanlin@wcboe.org

Mr. Louis H. Taylor
Superintendent
Worcester County Public Schools
Phone: 410-632-5020
E-Mail: lhtaylor@mail.worcester.k12.md.us