



- ▶ 2022 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES.....1
- ▶ BLENDED VIRTUAL PROGRAM – PILOT UPDATE.....2
- ▶ 2022 SOY.....3

# ESMEC *focus*

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

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

**THE EASTERN SHORE SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING FOUR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR THE 2022 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.
- **TEACHER SHORTAGE:** Institutions of higher education (IHE) in Maryland do not graduate sufficient numbers of teachers to address school system needs.
- **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. See FY '23 Capital Project requests below.

## BLENDED VIRTUAL PROGRAM – PILOT UPDATE

The ESMEC Blended Virtual Program (BVP) is the first multi-district virtual public school program in Maryland. The 2021-22 school year began with over 350 students in grades 6-12 from eight Eastern Shore counties – Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester – enrolled as full time BVP students. All ESMEC BVP students are enrolled in their local public school but receive their daily academic instruction virtually and they do not have to report in-person to a school. All BVP teachers are Maryland-certified and teach utilizing a blend of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. BVP students are eligible to receive any services that in-person students at their local school have access to, including food and nutrition services, health care services, special education and English language learner services, and technology support. Many BVP students are also taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities with their local school. The BVP team is currently focusing on improving the student success rate and planning improvements for the upcoming school year. The ESMEC BVP has received a lot of positive feedback from both students and families with 76% of families indicating an intent to continue in the BVP for the 2022-23 school year.



**Dr. Kelly L. Griffith**  
**2022 MARYLAND**

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR**

Selected by the Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM)., “I am very honored to be chosen by my fellow Maryland Superintendents to represent our state at the national level,” said Dr. Griffith. “Together we have navigated an unimaginable situation and faced daunting challenges during this past year by working collaboratively as a team. I am also thrilled to be able to celebrate what we have accomplished in Talbot County during my time as Superintendent, none of which would have been possible without the steadfast commitment, creativity, and initiative of our team of educators. Our strategic planning process has been our compass to help us navigate this past year with many successes. Every individual who has worked on behalf of the children of Talbot County deserves our appreciation now more than ever. Teachers, bus drivers, administrators, custodians, and support staff, along with our very supportive Board of Education have all made essential contributions to our school district and I am proud and grateful beyond words.”

[Full Press Release](#)



**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 | Centreville, MD 21617**  
**Phone: 410-758-4885 | [esmec@qacps.org](mailto:esmec@qacps.org) | [www.esmec.org](http://www.esmec.org)**

## FY '23 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:
<b>CAROLINE COUNTY</b>				
Ridgely Elementary	Full Roof Replacement	\$2,316,909	\$1,950,000	\$366,909
<b>CECIL COUNTY</b>				
North East Middle/High School	Requesting Local Planning & initial design fees for a Replacement School Project	\$155,263,000	\$85,606,000	\$69,657,000
Elkton Middle School	Systemic Renovation - Roof	\$2,085,000	\$1,376,000	\$709,000
<b>DORCHESTER COUNTY</b>				
Choptank Elementary	Roof/Rooftop Equipment Replacement	\$4,932,350	\$3,988,770	\$943,580
Maple Elementary School	Roof Replacement	\$2,305,061	\$2,091,421	\$213,640
South Dorchester School	HVAC Replacement	\$10,718,710	\$8,307,000	\$2,411,710
Vienna Elementary School	HVAC Replacement	\$2,880,000	\$2,232,000	\$648,000
<b>KENT COUNTY</b>				
Kent County High School	Roof Replacement	\$7,865,900	\$3,610,000	4,255,900
<b>QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY</b>				
Queen Anne's County High School	Roof Replacement	\$9,151,000	\$4,199,000	\$4,952,000
<b>SOMERSET COUNTY</b>				
Greenwood Elementary School	Building Envelope (Balance Request)	\$764,474.00	\$647,000 Request: 117,474	\$0.00
<b>TALBOT COUNTY</b>				
Easton High School	Systemic Renovation – Roof Replacement	\$4,302,900	\$2,049,000	\$2,253,900
<b>WICOMICO COUNTY</b>				
Mardela Middle & High	Addition/Renovation	\$72,127,500	\$49,258,000	22,869,500
Wicomico High	Roof Replacement	\$10,287,000	\$9,291,000	\$996,000
Parkside High	Roof Replacement	\$6,609,000	\$5,969,000	\$640,000

January 10, 2022

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EASTERN SHORE SUPERINTENDENTS**

**Dr. Derek Simmons**  
Superintendent  
**Caroline County Public Schools**  
Phone: 410-479-3250  
E-Mail: simmonsderrek@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. Patricia W. Saelens**  
Superintendent  
**Queen Anne's County Public Schools**  
Phone: 410-758-2403  
E-Mail: patricia.saelens@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