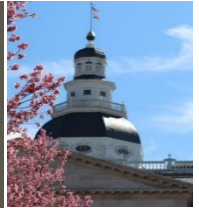


# Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium

ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ACROSS THE SHORE

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



### BLUEPRINT

Rural school systems in Maryland are faced with unique challenges with fulfilling the requirements of the Blueprint.

**Pillar One:** Recognize the limited providers and support the capital funding.

**Pillar Two:** Recognize the staffing, shortage and support the funding to enhance the salaries and career ladder mandates.

**Pillar Three:** Recognize the limited opportunities for the apprenticeships and support the funding for dual enrollment as well as tutoring those who do not meet CCR.

**Pillar Four:** Recognize the growth of the English Language Learner populations and the resources needed to support in their learning.

**Pillar Five:** Request a re-evaluation of the reporting requirements and the funding formula to support Blueprint mandates.



### FUNDING

Funding has been used over the past two years to enhance special education, supplement pre-kindergarten grants, provide supplemental instruction for struggling learners, fund Mental Health and Blueprint Coordinator positions, increase teacher salaries, and fund dual enrollment for all students. In the aftermath of COVID, districts are left with significant impacts on enrollment; increasing at-risk student populations, and the need to address the social emotional needs of both staff and students.

**Sustain and review state education funding allocations to ensure state mandates are fully funded.**

### LOCAL CONTROL

Local school systems need the autonomy and flexibility to implement federal and state mandates. We need to allow locally elected Boards of Education to work with their Superintendent of Schools to address the educational needs of our students.

**Oppose any legislation that negatively impacts the authority of local boards of education and superintendents of school.**

### TEACHER SHORTAGE

School systems continue to face critical staffing shortages. Institutions of Higher Education in Maryland do not graduate sufficient numbers of teachers to address current school system needs. Maryland produces less than 30% of teachers needed to fill all positions. As of January 2024, the Eastern Shore of Maryland had 75 certified teaching vacancies, 59.5 support staff vacancies, and 376 staff teaching with conditional or provisional certificates.

**Strongly support Maryland IHE's to recruit and admit students pursuing a teaching degree and support legislation to reduce the teacher shortage. (HB1219/CH0627 - Teacher Shortage Reduction Act of 2023)**

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

Due to aging school buildings, we need to undertake systemic renovation or replace facilities. On the Eastern Shore, approximately 65,000 students attend 127 different schools. We need state funding to continue to meet our school building needs. **Support the FY '26 Capital Project requests for the Eastern Shore listed on the back of this page.**



**ESMEC**

Serving the Public County School Systems of  
Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent  
Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester

Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium

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### FY '26 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>				
Denton Elementary School	Replacement - HVAC Chiller	\$400,000	\$376,000	\$24,000
New Build	Feasibility Study - Building Construction	\$100,000	\$94,000	\$6,000
New Build	Ed Specs Study - Building Construction	\$100,000	\$94,000	\$6,000
Also have a full roof replacement project for FY26. However, it is not funded by CIP. It is funded by the Healthy School Facilities Fund (HSFF).				
<b>CECIL COUNTY</b>				
North East Middle/High School	Replacement - Both MS & HS into one new combined bldg	\$181,091,000	\$103,447,000	\$77,644,000
Cecil Manor Elementary School	Systemic Renovation - HVAC Replacement	\$4,800,000	\$2,928,000	\$1,872,000
<b>DORCHESTER COUNTY</b>				
South Dorchester PK-8	Security Vestibule	\$561,000	\$550,000	\$11,000
Hurlock Elementary	Security Vestibule	\$561,000	\$550,000	\$11,000
North/South Elementary Schools	Ed Specs Study	\$506,000	\$500,000	\$6,000
<b>KENT COUNTY</b>				
Kent County Middle School	Replacement	\$68,452,000	\$25,709,000	\$42,833,000
<b>QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY</b>				
Matapeake Elementary School	Systemic - Partial (sloped) Roof Replacement	\$3,476,250	\$1,687,500	\$1,788,750
Kennard Elementary School	Systemic - HVAC Replacement	\$3,604,460	\$1,750,000	\$1,854,460
Bayside Elementary School	Systemic - Storefront Replacement window and door	\$1,800,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Kennard Elementary School	Systemic - Roof Replacement	\$3,360,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,760,000
Kent Island Elementary School	Systemic - Fire Alarm Replacement	\$360,750	\$175,500	\$185,250
<b>TALBOT COUNTY</b>				
Chapel District Elementary School	Renovation & Addition Project (2nd Year of Construction Funding)	\$37,920,000	\$13,357,000 (\$2,273,000 in FY26)	\$24,563,000
<b>WICOMICO COUNTY</b>				
Fruitland Primary	Replacement - Construction	\$79,547,000	\$49,324,000 (\$27,500,000 in FY26)	\$30,223,000
Fruitland Intermediate	Systemic Renovation - HVAC	\$9,997,000	\$8,917,746	\$1,079,254
Wicomico Middle	Replacement - Studies/Planning	\$95,729,000	\$85,033,760 (\$2,250,000 in FY26 for Planning)	\$10,695,240
Westside Intermediate	Systemic Renovation - HVAC	\$13,862,000	\$12,393,700	\$1,468,300
Salisbury Middle	Systemic Renovation - HVAC	\$21,664,000	\$17,615,850	\$4,048,150
<b>WORCESTER COUNTY</b>				
Pocomoke Elementary	Systemic - Roof Replacement	\$3,259,000	\$1,555,000	\$1,704,000
Buckingham Elementary	Replacement School - Planning & Design Funding	\$71,366,505	\$25,756,000 FY26CIP Request: \$1,867,000	\$45,610,505

October 2024

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