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Governor Hogan Announces Additional $20.7 Million in Education Relief Funding

Grants for K-12 Schools, Community Colleges, Independent Colleges, School for the Deaf, School for the Blind

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today announced an additional $20.7 million in COVID-19 relief funding for education as school systems work to get students safely back into classrooms.

"In addition to proposing a budget that funds education across the board at record levels, we are working to get federal COVID-19 relief funding out to schools and colleges as quickly as possible," said Governor Hogan. "We are prioritizing this relief funding where it can do the most good for the most students."

Last week, the governor proposed a FY 2022 recovery budget that funds education at record levels, including $7.5 billion for K-12 schools.

This funding comes through the recently-enacted federal COVID-19 relief bill.

Competitive Innovation Grants: $10 million

Competitive Innovation Grants will be awarded to educational institutions that present a unique or innovative approach to engage students, teachers, and school communities while working to address academic accessibility as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects can focus on implementing unique ideas at an individual school, feeder system of schools, or school system. Priority will be given to programs that address at-risk students. In this round of funding, schools that are eligible will receive $1 million in grants. A total of $1.2 billion in federal funding has been made available to county school systems to address the effects of the pandemic and support the safe reopening of schools.

Community College Workforce Development Programs: $7.4 million

The governor is directing these funds to be utilized to immediately expand existing training and educational programs in locally relevant sectors and to develop new in-demand training programs. Funds will also be utilized to market these programs to employers and prospective students, including recently unemployed Marylanders. The governor's FY 2022 recovery budget includes record funding for community colleges, which have seen a 57% increase in state funding during the Hogan administration.

The governor is awarding $200,000 per school to help address additional institutional costs resulting from the pandemic.

School for the Deaf ($479,094), School for the Blind ($253,354)

The governor is directing the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide grants to the Maryland School for the Blind and the Maryland School for the Deaf. The funds will be used to purchase devices, including assistive technology and adaptive equipment for staff and students, implementing appropriate security tools, and providing professional development. MSDE anticipates distributing funds on a per-pupil basis.

The governor will make additional education announcements throughout the week.

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