

Maryland Public Education is **BRAC** Ready!



a resource about Maryland's statewide public education system and programs offered through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS RANKED FIRST IN THE NATION - AGAIN IN 2010!

Education Week's 2010 Quality Counts annual report shows Maryland ranking first in the nation for a second year in a row. Maryland's *2010 Quality Counts* ranking is based on State education policies and student performance that reflect nearly two decades of work on a preK-12 curriculum; state accountability and standards; teacher effectiveness; and work on school readiness, high school reform, and preparation for college and the workplace.

Maryland placed at the top of the list with the nation's only B+ average. New York and Massachusetts followed closely with B grades. The majority of states received grades of C or less, according to the report. The new report finds that no other state has a more consistent record of excellence than Maryland. Results for the State were above average in all six of the broad grade categories, and ranked in the top seven in five of the six categories.

Most of the state-level data gathered by *Education Week*, the nation's leading education newspaper, comes from a policy survey of the states conducted in the summer and fall of 2009. In addition, the publication draws on data from such organizations as the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the American Federation of Teachers.

BRAC PUBLICATIONS & MATERIALS

State of Education Report • Maryland Schools Are BRAC Ready Subcabinet Meeting Report • Ranking Maryland's Public School Flyer • Early Learning Initiatives Brochure • Top 10 Things Parents Need to Know About the HSAs • Task Force on Educational Issues Affecting Military Children Report • Maryland Classrooms Brochures • Maryland School Readiness Report • Top 10 Things Parents Need to Know About Gifted and Talented Education in Maryland • Charter School Report

For more information on BRAC-related publications, go to www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/programs/brac/pub.htm.

MARYLAND IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN!

Maryland, along with 25 other states, has joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to ensure that children of military families will enroll in our public schools quickly and efficiently and have every opportunity to participate in the programs and activities their new school has to offer.

The Interstate Compact will provide member states with guidelines for common issues such as:

- Education Records/Transcripts
- Immunizations
- Pre-K & Kindergarten Age of Attendance
- Educational Program Placement
- Special Education Services
- Extracurricular Programs
- High School Graduation Requirements



For more information about the Interstate Compact, go to www.csg.org/compacts. For questions, contact MSDE'S Division of Instruction at 410-767-0347.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Maryland is recognized as one of the leading states for providing safe, healthy, effective quality child care and early education, and for helping to ensure that its youngest citizens will enter school ready to learn and succeed.

MILITARY FAMILIES RESOURCES & REFERRAL SERVICES

The Maryland Committee for Children (MCC), with funding from MSDE, provides enhanced child care resources and referral services to military families in BRAC jurisdictions who are seeking off-base licensed day care. MCC also provides information about accessing the military child care fee assistance program.

[www.mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/for_parents/choose_military.html]

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION LOCATORS

Get help finding MSDE-approved or accredited Judy Centers; Child Care; Head Start Programs; Pre-Kindergarten Programs; Nursery School Programs; Child Care Cost Help; Out-of-School Activities; and more.

[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care]

NEW CHILD CARE LICENSING INSPECTION FINDINGS SITE

Free public access to findings from routine licensing inspections conducted since mid-2007.

[MSDEcomplianceports.org/msdesearch.asp]

2008-2009 SCHOOL READINESS REPORT

Each year, MSDE publishes the report about the school readiness skills of Maryland kindergarteners.

[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/msde/newsroom/publications/school_readiness]

EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM PROJECT

Resources aligned with the State's prekindergarten and kindergarten curricular frameworks, also known as the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR), to support nonpublic early care and education programs to help prepare children with the necessary skills.

[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/preschool_curriculum]

Help is also available for families and child care providers of children birth to five who have developmental or behavioral needs by going to

[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv]



MARYLAND'S STATE CURRICULUM & STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

Maryland's State Curriculum (SC) provides clear and detailed information about what Maryland students should know and be able to do at each grade level. All of Maryland's 24 local school systems have included the SC as part of the local school system curriculum. The SC ensures that no matter where a child attends school, he/she will be held to high expectations and will learn the same challenging skills as other students across Maryland. The SC provides teachers with the content students must master to be successful on statewide assessments, and helps reduce the amount of time spent repeating and reviewing skills each school year. Maryland has assessments which are based on the SC for the grade levels as follows:

Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) in

kindergarten measures social and personal development; language and literacy; mathematical thinking; scientific thinking; social studies; the arts; and physical development. For more information, read the School Readiness Executive Summary at www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/msde/newsroom/publications/school_readiness.

Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) measure how well children are learning so parents and educators can be sure every child has the opportunity to succeed. A student's performance on the MSAs can help provide information about students' academic progress—information that can help teachers and parents better support a student's school work. The MSAs cover math and reading from grades 3 through 8; and science in grades 5 and 8. For more information go to Assessments - Maryland School Assessments on Mdk12.org.

Maryland High School Assessments (HSAs) are one component of the high school graduation requirements. The tests cover four core subject areas – algebra/data analysis, English, government, and biology. HSAs test a basic level of knowledge that will be built on as a student continues his/her education. Each local school system has a plan of when HSA-related courses are typically offered to students. The school counselor can help plan a course of study for your child to graduate from high school as well as help prepare him/her for the future. More information about the HSAs can be found at www.HSAexam.org.



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Information about how schools, local school systems, and the state are doing is printed in an annual “report card” (the Maryland School Performance Report). The online report provides an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) chart for each school that shows whether or not the school made all of its performance goals. For more information about Maryland schools, go to **MdReportCard.org** and use the navigation bar at the top.

LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WEBSITES

You can also visit local school system websites, which typically have links to individual schools, by going to **www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/schoolsystems** to find specific information about a school’s academic and extracurricular programs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

MSDE’s Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) works with families, local early intervention systems, and local school systems to ensure that all students with disabilities have access to appropriate services and educational opportunities to which they are entitled under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).

MSDE has specific processes in the public school system for developing individualized plans to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities and is networked to a number of family support services personnel in every jurisdiction. These parent-friendly support personnel work directly with families of children with special needs to answer questions, provide guidance and resources, and assist parents in the planning process.

Early Intervention Services for families and child care providers of children birth to age 5 with developmental or behavioral needs:

www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv

Preschool Special Education Services Program provides information and instructions for services to qualified children, ages 3 through 5:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/infant_toddlers/about/preschool_services.htm

Local Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program Single Point Contacts (Age Birth – 3):

A county-by-county director of Local Infants & Toddlers Program contacts

www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/infant_toddlers/directories/single_point_entry.htm

Baltimore’s Child Special Edition: A Resource Guide for Families and Children of Special Needs in Maryland and the Professionals Who Serve Them:

<http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/index.php?i=&m=1680&l=1&p=42>

AUTISMCONNECT WEBSITE

Autism is the most prevalent of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders, affecting an estimated 1 in 150 births. AutismConnect.org provides parents and stakeholders with an online resource to assist in locating and securing resources for individuals with autism. The website focuses specifically on research, educational resources, and advocacy organizations. MSDE is also collaborating with local programs and interagency partners in a number of initiatives to address emerging areas of need and increase the information about and support for children with autism.

GIFTED & TALENTED EDUCATION

Maryland offers a continuum of programs in gifted and talented education—some serving all students, and some serving considerably fewer. The Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education (MCGATE) holds an annual conference for parents and educators, and has additional information at www.mcgate.org. Maryland also has a number of Magnet Schools/Center Programs for the Highly Gifted as well as schools with International Baccalaureate (IB) programs throughout the state. These programs typically require students to go through an application process that is based on extensive criteria. More than 400 Maryland teams, from K-college, compete each year in Destination ImagiNation brainstorming challenges that may cover the sciences, technology, mechanics, engineering, theater, improvisation, goal-setting, time and budget management, team-building, and leadership. For more information, go to Maryland's Destination ImagiNation site: ImaginThis.org. For more about gifted education, go to www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/pubs_md_classroom/ or www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/programs/giftedtalented.

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Maryland students can get a jump on future success through the Career & Technology Education (CTE) system, which provides a wide range of programs organized within 10 career clusters. MSDE collaborates with school systems, businesses, and industry leaders to develop CTE programs in high-demand careers, such as those in the STEM disciplines. CTE programs typically begin at the 10th grade or later. Virtually all CTE programs offer students the chance to earn college credits and/or industry-recognized certification, credentials, or licensure. Participating in CTE-related student organizations at the state and national level provides an added level of leadership and interpersonal skill training to help students expand their knowledge and career network. For more information about CTE programs, go to www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/pubs_md_classroom/ or www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/careertech/career_technology.

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHEMATICS)

MSDE maintains a focus on ensuring that Maryland students are highly educated and are prepared to seek the thousands of high-skill, math-, science-, and technology-dependent positions generated by base relocation. Building upon the strong foundation and the already existing rigorous programs and activities, nearly \$7 million has been awarded to date to help local school systems plan, implement, and/or accelerate their STEM education initiatives. MSDE's STEM-dedicated web page, www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/programs/STEM, includes the state's STEM Mission and Vision and is updated with STEM opportunities and resources for teachers and students. MSDE is also seeking to expand its current partnerships with higher education and business/industry to secure additional funding to continue to develop STEM-related Career & Technology Education programs.

MARYLAND TEACHING CERTIFICATION OPTIONS



Maryland offers a variety of options to teachers with professional experience transitioning from out-of-state or out-of-country. Currently, Maryland has 23 institutions of higher education (4-year) with approved teaching certification programs. Maryland offers teacher incentives such as tuition tax credits and national board certification stipends to offset tuition/credit expenses. For more information on certification requirements and options, call toll free at 1-866-772-8922 or go to www.mdcert.org. Be sure to mention that you are transferring to the state due to BRAC.

Local school systems may also have teacher options and incentive programs. Go to www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/schoolsystems/System_Links_County.htm for direct links to each local school system's website.

The Maryland Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program is designed to assist separating or retiring military personnel in pursuing a rewarding second career in public education (elementary, secondary or vocational) while also facilitating employment in public schools. TTT is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Department of Defense through the Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support (DANTES). Military retirees, separating active duty personnel, and currently drilling members of the reserve components are discovering new and rewarding careers in teaching our nation's children. TTT provides qualifying veterans:

- Counseling and Advice
- Financial Assistance
- Placement Assistance

For more information on the Maryland Troops to Teachers Program, go to www.tttmaryland.org.

