

# Maryland's Achievements in Public Education 2011-2012

## RACE TO THE TOP

Maryland's \$250 million federal Race to the Top (RTTT) four-year grant continues to focus on strengthening instruction by improving teacher effectiveness, implementing the Common Core State Standards, bolstering assessments and data collection, and improving chronically underperforming schools that will help Maryland prepare world-class students. In December 2011, Maryland was one of nine states awarded a \$50 million federal RTTT Early Learning Challenge grant designed to further strengthen its acclaimed early childhood programs by narrowing the school readiness gap for children in poverty, English language learners, and children with disabilities.

## MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) HIGHLIGHTS

- **Maryland's public schools AGAIN ranked #1 in the nation in Education Week's 2012 Quality Counts annual report.** The nation's leading education newspaper ranked Maryland at the top of its class for a **4th YEAR IN A ROW**. *Maryland scored no lower than a B in any given area of the report's 6 determining categories.* (Education Week)
- **Maryland ranked 1<sup>st</sup> nationwide for a 4th YEAR IN A ROW in the percentage of public school students scoring 3 or higher on at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam.** A score of 3 or higher on the 5-point scale is considered mastery of college-level work. *Maryland leads the nation with the largest percentage of all seniors taking AP exams in the Mathematics and Science disciplines*—18.0 percent and 17.8 percent of the graduated senior class respectively. (College Board)
- For the **3rd YEAR IN A ROW**, the Washington Post's Challenge Index Ranking list has found that Maryland has the highest percentage of rigorous high schools in the nation. Nearly 60 percent of Maryland's public high schools (107 of 184) placed on the 2011 list. *The report found that Maryland ranks first in the nation in the percentage of high schools offering – and students taking – college level courses.* (Washington Post)
- **Maryland's high school graduation rate reached 87 percent in 2011**, up from 86.5 percent in 2010 and 85.2 percent in 2009—*reaching its highest level in history.* (MSDE)
- **The State's 2010 graduates earned an average composite score of 22.3 on the ACT college admission and placement exam**, up from 22.1 last year—*well above the national average* of 21.0. (ACT)
- **Maryland's Class of 2011 graduating seniors were offered \$926 million in scholarship funding** to continue their pursuit of knowledge at the college of their choice. *About 1 in 3 students from this year's public high school graduating class received scholarship offers.* (MSDE)

Maryland  
schools  
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in a row!



Maryland  
leads the  
nation!



16% of all Maryland schools are now **Certified Maryland Green Schools**

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For more information about Maryland public education:  
[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)

More MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MSDE) HIGHLIGHTS



More than 4.2 million students engaged in 14,534 service-learning projects during the 2009-2010 school year (some students involved in multiple projects). *Maryland is the only state with a service-learning requirement for high school graduates.*



- **Maryland once again ranks 7th in the nation for the number of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT).** *In the past year, 302 teachers earned their National Board Certification*, bringing the total number in Maryland to 1,976. (National Board of Professional Teaching Standards)
- **Two of the past six National Teachers of the Year have come from Maryland.** *No other State has had two national winners in the past 10 years.* (Council of Chief State School Officers)
- **MSDE's Division of Library Development and Services joined Maryland's libraries to celebrate 300,000 questions answered since 2003 by the librarians of Maryland AskUsNow!**—*the free online service that provides answers to questions, research guidance, and help navigating the Internet 24/7.* (MSDE)
- **Maryland's state-funded prekindergarten program ranks 6th in the nation for the percentage of children enrolled in the program.** (The State Preschool Report 2009)
- **In 2010, 81 percent of entering kindergartners were evaluated by their teachers as fully ready for school; up 32 percentage points since 2001**, with the greatest growth in Readiness in Language & Literacy (35 percent) and Mathematical Thinking (32 percent). (MSDE)
- **Enrollment in Maryland's Project Lead The Way Biomedical Sciences and Engineering increased by 50 percent and 38 percent respectively from 2009 to 2010**, providing students with opportunities to pursue further education and careers in both biomedical sciences and engineering fields. (MSDE)
- **Maryland had the 2nd highest increase in the nation in summer nutrition program** participation from 2008 to 2009 according to a 2010 report from the Food Research and Action Center. *The report found that Maryland increased the number of children served by the Summer Nutrition Program by 17.4 percent.* (Food Research and Action Center)
- **The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) helped 1,075 people move from public benefits into employment.** *These new employees added \$35.2 million to Maryland's economy in 2010.* (MSDE)