Economic Impact of the Publicly Funded K-12 Education on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in FY2013

The Public School Systems (grades K through 12) of the Eastern Shore of Maryland provide a wide array of benefits to the residents of each of the counties. In addition to the educational services provided to the students of the counties, the expenditures of the school system provide a significant economic impact in the counties and region.

The total economic impact of K-12 education on the Shore is based on two different impact categories:

1. **Type 1 Impacts:**

   The most obvious Type 1 impact of publicly provided K-12 education is based on the income boost graduates receive as they improve their level of education and their education outcomes. Additionally, there are the benefits derived from the public expenditures churning in the local economy through the employment of those involved in the public education enterprise, the expenditures that support the private sector vendors to the education enterprise, and the various induced economic, employment, and fiscal impacts.

2. **Type 2 Impacts:**

   These impacts are based on the ability of the jurisdiction to attract and/or retain families with skilled and/or professional workers who are net wealth creators. On the Eastern Shore, some of these impacts are derived from the following:

   - Quality-of-Life measures that push parents to use school quality as a residential location factor;
   - Quality-of-Life issues that are based on a “Sense of Well Being” for parents who believe high quality public education is essential to the success of their child’s transition from high school to higher education or the labor market;
   - Property value enhancements attributable to the presence of good local public schools;
   - Productivity enhancements in local businesses due to quality K-12 education;
   - Business, economic, workforce, and community enhancements due to increases in the number of post-secondary institution graduates in a jurisdiction due to quality K-12 education.

**In Summary:** The return on investment (local economic impact compared to taxpayer investment) of the public school systems on the Eastern Shore of Maryland is approximately 95% with a total annual impact of nearly $2.6 Billion and over 31,000 jobs supported.