



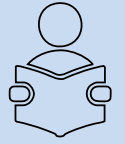
The Maryland  
School for the Blind

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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An MSB student-athlete, **Mariah Williams-Grimmett**, prepares to compete with focus, determination, and confidence—showcasing the strength, pride, and resilience she's built through adaptive athletics.

200+



On-Campus Students

# A Journey of Gratitude and Growth

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year has been one of momentum at MSB. From the moment you step onto campus, you can feel the energy—students engaging in meaningful learning, staff strengthening their skills, and our campus transforming to support students for decades ahead.

The most visible sign of our progress is the new gym and pool complex—our largest master plan project—featuring a lap pool, sensory pool, and combined gymnasium/auditorium designed for how blind and low-vision students learn, move, and play. This project also modernizes our main entrance, adding security and a single point of entry.

We advanced campus technology with more than \$1.5 million in IT upgrades, including improvements to WiFi, cybersecurity, and our student information system. These investments directly support instruction, communication, and safety.

Alongside this work, our staff continue the daily, heartfelt efforts—braille instruction, mobility training, therapy, independent living skills, and residential support—that truly change lives. I invite you to explore the highlights in our Milestones & Achievements section that follows (page 6 & 7).

Thank you for your partnership and belief in our students. Your support empowers us to say “yes” when families need us most.

With gratitude,

**W. Robert Hair**  
Superintendent



# Learning Without Limits

MARYLAND INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER (MIRC)

The **MIRC** team produces braille and large print textbooks and educational materials for students throughout Maryland.

Tactile Graphics & Diagrams Produced

321

Total Textbooks in the MIRC Repository

6,800

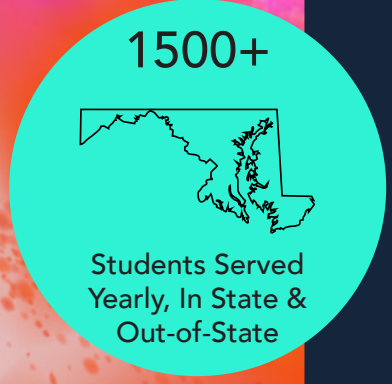
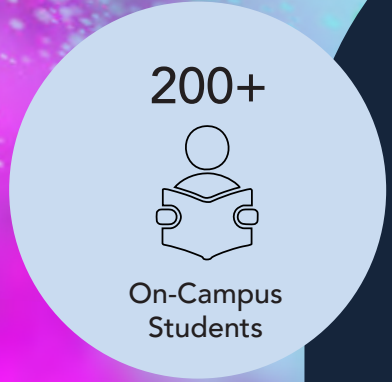
Pages of Braille Produced

11,482

American Printing House-Eligible Students Served

1,339

The **MIRC** is a centralized repository for braille and large print textbooks, as well as other educational materials, located on MSB’s campus. In 1996, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) partnered with The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) and local education agencies (LEAs) to establish the Maryland Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) to support students who are blind or have low vision.



# Milestones and Achievements



## Campus Transformation & Construction

- Secured \$67,000,000 funding commitment from the State of Maryland to launch a new gym and pool complex, including:
  - A lap pool and a sensory pool for young students and those with multiple disabilities
  - A fully accessible gymnasium/auditorium
  - New main entrance to campus with accessible visitor assistance



## Technology & Infrastructure Investment

- Enhanced WiFi, cybersecurity, and student information systems.
- Improvements directly support instruction, communication, and safety.



## Student Learning & Support

- Expanded essential learning experiences and services, including:
  - Braille instruction
  - Orientation & Mobility training
  - Therapy and health services
  - Independent living and daily living skills
- Strengthened statewide outreach and transition programs.



## Leadership & Vision

- Welcomed Craig Ballew as the new Board Chair.
- Continued advancing MSB's multi-year strategic plan to align resources, staff, and programs with student needs.



## Community & Partnership

- Sustained strong support from the State of Maryland, propelling campus improvements.
- Generous partners enabled MSB to meet student and family needs beyond core services, while also supporting the continued growth and development of students who are blind or low vision across the State of Maryland.



**Pictured above:** New and expanded campus spaces—from accessible learning environments and upgraded technology to a fully inclusive gym and pool complex—reflect MSB's continued investment in student growth, safety, and independence, strengthening learning experiences and community connections across Maryland.

# Senior Class Leadership & Symbols

## Class Officers

President: **Briasia Bowser**

Vice President: **Nicolai Warren**

Treasurer: **Kaiah Hertel**

Secretary: **Daphne Williams**

Public Relations: **Breeyoni Mackel**

Class Colors: **Red**

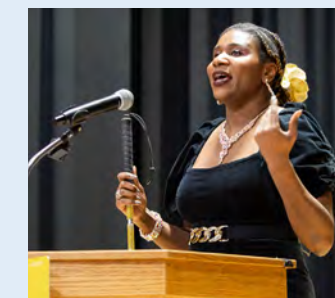
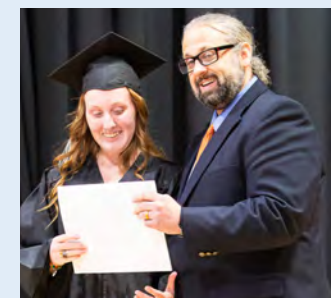
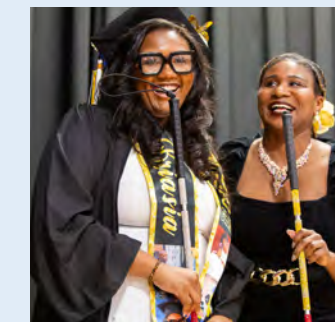
Class Flower: **Rose**

Administrative Sponsor:

**Nicholas Pagani**

Senior Class Advisors:

**Maria Cooper, Lois Gorman**



Pictured above: MSB Class of 2025 students celebrate senior leadership and graduation milestones—capturing proud moments from the ceremony, speeches, awards, and time together as a class.



See Us Shine. See Us Rise.  
We Are the

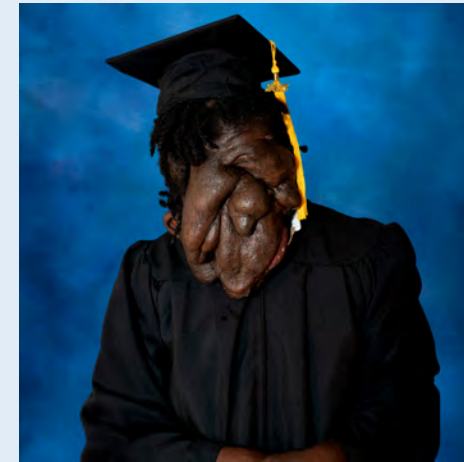
# MSB Class of 2025



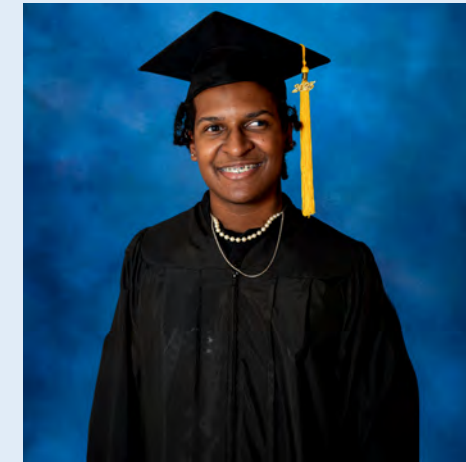
**Alyssa Baumgardner**  
Baltimore County



**Briasia Bowser**  
Baltimore County



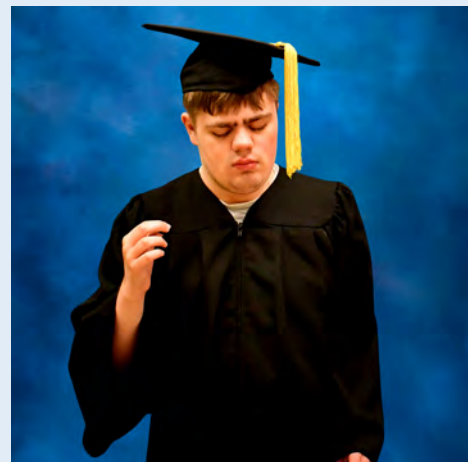
**Paul Wales**  
Montgomery County



**Nicolai Warren**  
Baltimore County



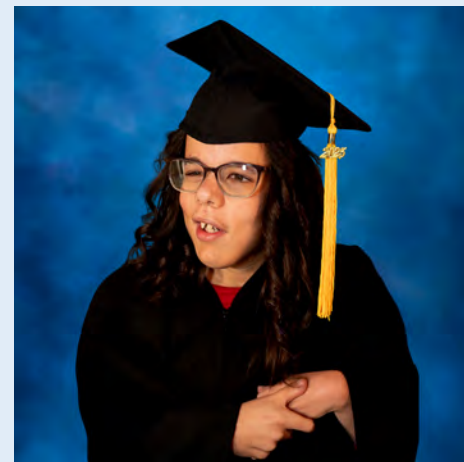
**Daphne Williams**  
Baltimore City



**Ethan Gill**  
Harford County



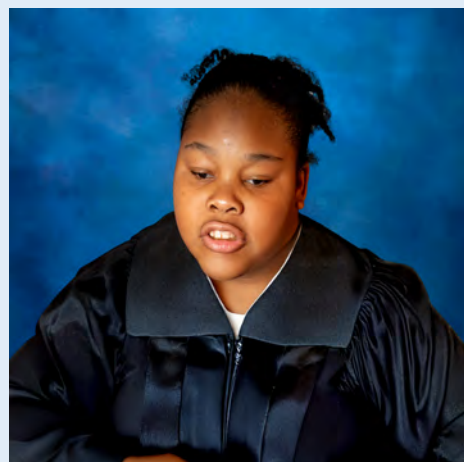
**Faith Guilbault**  
Harford County



**Kaiah Hertel**  
Charles County



**Breyoni Mackel**  
Baltimore County



**Laila Roberson**  
Howard County



**Brandon Thomas**  
Montgomery County

## Picture Perfect!



**Pictured above:** From student-led class elections to a memorable breakfast with the Superintendent—and wrapping it all up with high-energy fun at Amped Up—the MSB Class of 2025 filled their senior year with celebration, connection, and lasting memories.

Building  
Opportunity.  
Expanding  
What's  
Possible.

## Letter from the Incoming Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is a privilege to step into the role of Board Chair at a time of meaningful momentum for The Maryland School for the Blind. Across our campus and throughout Maryland, you can see the progress—students building confidence through athletics and the arts, strengthening independence through mobility and daily living skills, and preparing for life beyond graduation with determination and pride.

One of the most visible signs of this progress is the advancement of our new gym and pool complex, the largest project within our campus master plan. With the support of the State of Maryland, this transformative investment will provide a lap pool, sensory pool, and fully accessible gymnasium designed specifically for how blind and low-vision students learn, move, and grow.

At the same time, MSB continues to invest in technology, statewide programming, and essential student services that strengthen learning and safety across our community.

These efforts reflect thoughtful stewardship and a shared commitment to aligning resources with student needs.

Thank you for your partnership and belief in our mission. Together, we are building opportunity and expanding what is possible for the students and families we serve.

With appreciation,

*Craig F. Ballew*

**Craig F. Ballew**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
The Maryland School for the Blind



# 2025 Highlights Outreach Services

In 2025, MSB Outreach Team advanced statewide impact through measurable growth in student outreach, family engagement, and LEA partnerships. Expanded professional learning opportunities further reflected MSB's commitment to data-driven progress and equitable education for Maryland's blind and low-vision community.

## Key Services (2025)

**Assessments:** Vision, learning media, mobility, and technology evaluations.

**Special Events:** Family days, student workshops, and statewide awareness programs.

**Summer Programs:** Expanded sports camps and launched an inclusive overnight adventure with the YMCA and Camp Puh'Tok.

**Community Partnerships:** Provided consultation, training, and student-focused support for a variety of community partners throughout Maryland.

**Parent Education:** Delivered workshops, networking, and statewide resources.

**Short Courses:** Offered targeted instruction in assistive tech, daily living, and mobility skills.



## Community Resources & Impact

In 2024–25, MSB Outreach served **453 students across 22 Maryland counties**, including out-of-state participants.

The team connected families with advocacy organizations, accessible technology, and educational resources to promote lifelong independence and success.

## Program Highlights & Achievements



**Abacus Bee:** Expanded access by organizing multiple statewide testing sites.



**Braille Challenge:** Increased student participation through additional regional competitions.



**Howard County Teen Group:** Offered year-round leadership, peer connection, and community-building opportunities.



**Expanded Core Curriculum Challenge:** Skill building for students, families and staff to support life after school. Learn more to be involved.



**Multilingual Family Camp:** Hosted the first camp featuring multilingual programming and translation support.

## Future Goals

Family Boot Camp

Grow Partnerships with YMCA and Camp Puh'Tok

Reestablish the Low Vision Clinic

# A Summer That Sparked Growth and Confidence

MSB Summer Camp 2025 Student Short Courses offered students who are blind or low vision meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, and connect through engaging summer experiences. With expanded offerings this year, families could choose from camps, leadership programs, adapted sports, academic enrichment, and work readiness experiences designed to build confidence and independence. Led by skilled MSB staff and trusted partners, these programs helped students develop lifelong skills while creating joyful memories that will carry into the school year and beyond.



**Pictured across Pages 16–17 (left full-page photo, center photo collage, and right-side image):** From scaling the climbing wall and exploring outdoor adventures to swimming, adaptive sports, group activities, and hands-on learning, MSB students spent the summer building confidence, independence, and connection. Guided by supportive staff and peers, each experience—on land and in the water—encouraged teamwork, leadership, and joyful exploration while strengthening skills that extend far beyond summer camp.




Thanks to Music Teacher Lynn Hoffman and her amazing team of volunteers for bringing it all to life with your dedication and hard work.



MSB Presents

# The WIZARD of Z



The best outcomes of this project are all the "I can" statements that are now part of the students' lives. Students who participated in the musical can now say, "I can sing in a musical" or "I can wear a costume and become a character in a musical" or "I can dance on stage in a musical."

## Yes they can!



MSB's The Wizard of Oz showcased students in costume as the Lion, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Dorothy, and more—building confidence to say "I can" through singing, dancing, and acting. Multiple students shared the spotlight, ensuring everyone had a chance to shine. That's the MSB way! Can you find all the Dorothys, Lions, Scarecrows, and Tin Men? Look closely—our talented cast brought the magic of Oz to life in many ways!

**Pictured across Pages 18–19 (photo collage):** MSB students bring The Wizard of Oz to life through music, movement, and performance—building confidence, creativity, and teamwork while celebrating the joy of inclusive theatre.

# Busy Bee Studio



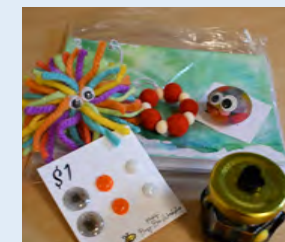
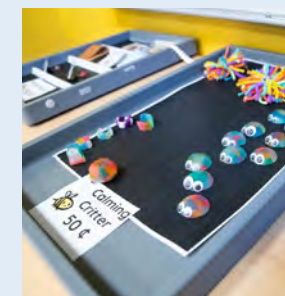
# Seeing Beyond What's Possible

What happens when you See Beyond what's expected? At **The Maryland School for the Blind**, it means creating a future where students of all abilities thrive as creators, entrepreneurs, and changemakers.

That spirit shines inside the **Busy Bee Studio**, a student-run business where creativity, collaboration, and accessibility come together. Students and staff work side by side to design and craft magnets, fidgets, wind spinners, coasters, and more—each piece reflecting teamwork, skill-building, and pride.

But the Studio is about much more than products. It's a hands-on learning space where students who are blind or have low vision gain real-world experience in communication, customer service, fine motor coordination, and money management. Every activity is thoughtfully adapted so every student can contribute and grow with confidence.

Through initiatives like the Busy Bee Studio, our students are learning to See Beyond barriers—and discovering that there are no limits to what they can achieve.



**Pictured across Pages 20–21 (right-side photo collage and large student photo):** Students collaborate in the Busy Bee Studio by designing, crafting, and packaging handmade products—using adaptive tools and creative problem-solving to build fine motor skills, teamwork, and real-world experience in entrepreneurship, communication, and confidence.



# see:⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ beyond festival

**10+**  
Partner  
Organizations

Supported festival  
programming  
and activities

**Over  
10,000**  
Attendees

Over the past 4 years  
the festival has attracted  
over 10,000 participants

**59+**  
Million

Impressions  
through media  
coverage

## Experience Adaptation, Embrace Accessibility

The Maryland School for the Blind’s annual **See Beyond Festival** on April 26, 2025, showcased how innovation and accessibility intersect to create meaningful inclusion. This year’s event featured interactive **STEM and technology demonstrations** highlighting adaptive robotics, accessible coding, and assistive devices that empower independence.

Visitors also engaged in **sensory art projects** and **hands-on exhibits** designed to deepen understanding of how creativity and design can bridge accessibility gaps. With hundreds of participants, community partners, and volunteers, the festival continues to be a dynamic platform for learning, connection, and celebrating the power of adaptation.

**Pictured across Pages 22–23 (left photo collage and center images):** Students, families, and community members participate in hands-on experiences at the See Beyond Festival, including adaptive sports, STEM and technology demonstrations, sensory art activities, and assistive technology—highlighting accessibility, inclusion, and innovation in action.



**Pictured across Pages 24–25 (top student-athlete photo montage):** MSB student-athletes build confidence and teamwork through adaptive sports, including track and field, basketball, goalball, cheerleading, wrestling, drumline, and blind soccer—developing strength, leadership, and pride on and off the field.

# Building Confidence Through Athletics

At MSB, athletics are more than competition—they’re a cornerstone of confidence, teamwork, and belonging. Through **adaptive and accessible sports**, students who are blind or have low vision are encouraged to embrace challenges, reach personal goals, and discover the joy of shared achievement.

In addition to **EAAAB-sanctioned varsity sports** such as track and field and goalball, MSB proudly offers a range of **non-EAAB programs** including **beep baseball, lacrosse, tennis, and cricket**. These opportunities allow students to explore new skills, engage in recreation, and experience the thrill of competition in diverse, inclusive environments.

MSB’s athletic programs continue to empower students to push boundaries, build resilience, and shine both on and off the field. Every practice, game, and victory reflects the school’s enduring commitment to **inclusivity, personal growth, and the limitless potential of every athlete**.

Wrestling  
14 athletes  
M - 6  
F - 8

Blind Soccer  
16 athletes  
M - 8  
F - 8

Cheerleading  
19 athletes  
M - 1  
F - 18

Track and Field  
36 athletes  
M - 18  
F - 18

Goalball  
24 athletes  
M - 12  
F - 12

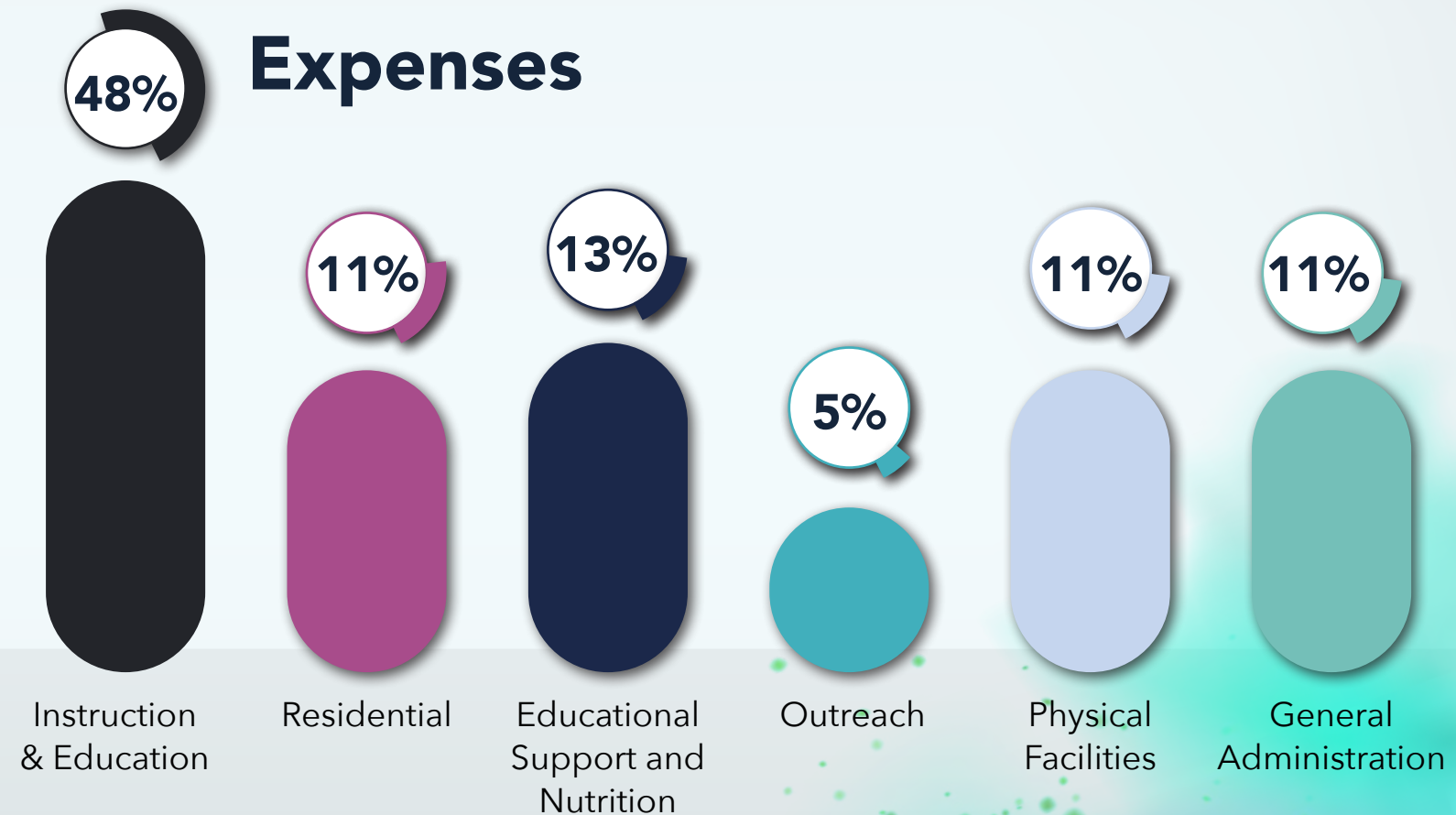
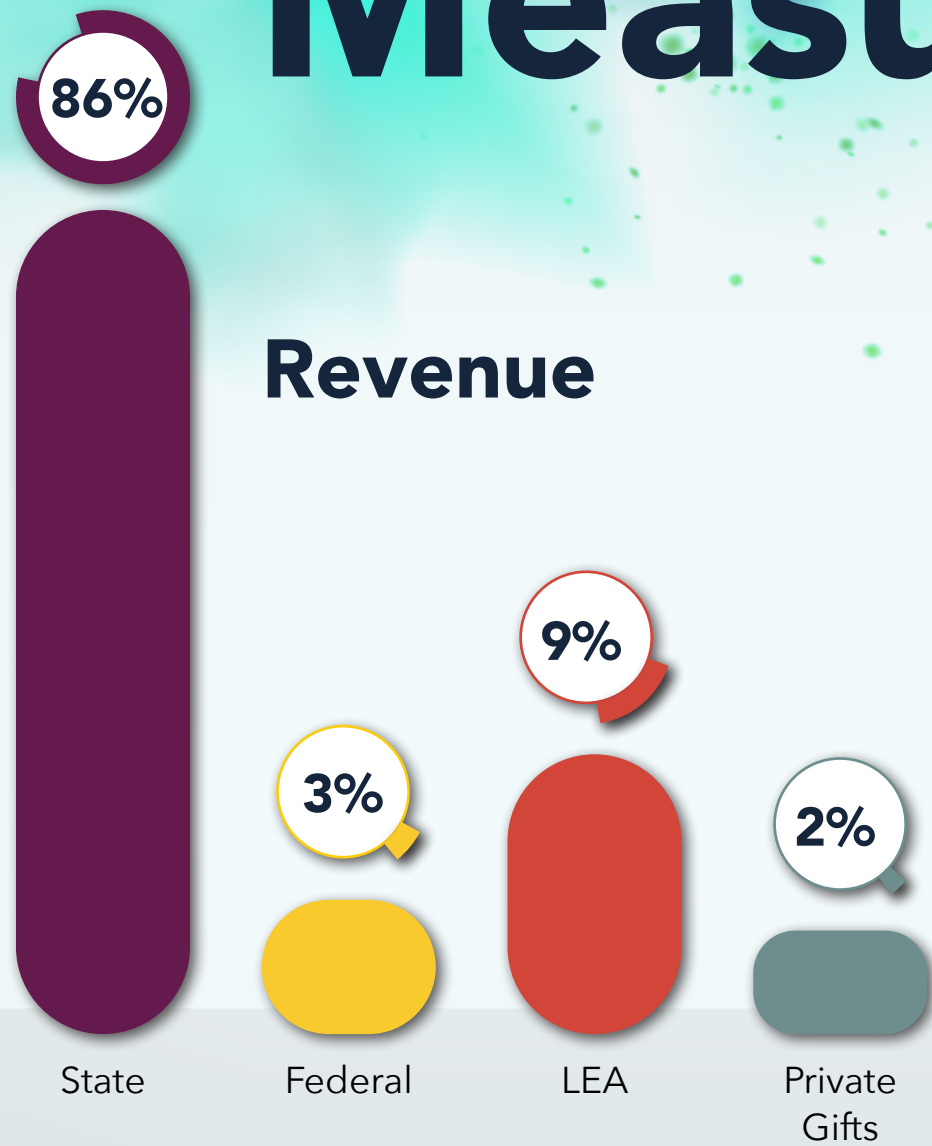
Drumline  
10 marching band  
M - 7  
F - 3

Blind Basketball  
11 athletes  
M - 6  
F - 5

# Excellence You Can Measure

As a private nonprofit 501(c)(3), we operate with strong fiscal stewardship and full transparency. Our work is funded by state support, education grants, district reimbursements, and generous contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and community partners. These resources sustain and build programs that empower students to learn, grow, and thrive—reflecting our ongoing commitment to accessibility, accountability, and excellence.

All figures shown represent the final audited financials for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025).



# 1853 Society and Major Supporters

- American Legion Caroline Post #29
- The American Legion Department of Maryland
- Baird Foundation
- Mr. Craig F. Ballew
- Alera Group Baltimore
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bosley
- Mr. Raymond Brown
- Mr. John Bryn
- Mrs. Loretta C. Cain
- The Campbell Foundation
- Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company
- Mr. & Mrs. Ida and Emmett Collins
- Dr. Lorraine A. Costella PhD.
- Cox Auto Parts Inc.
- Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr. Mem. Foundation
- Eugene B. Casey Foundation
- Mr. Robert P. Feldman
- First Financial Federal Credit Union
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Ford
- The Frank and Miriam Loveman Foundation
- Anonymous

All Donors listed made their donation between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025

- Giant
- Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick
- Mr. W. Robert Hair and Dr. Steven J. Ralston
- Mr. & Mrs. Doug Holmes
- Mr. John R. Hommerbocker
- Ms. Lydia Hoover Stickley
- The Huether-McClelland Foundation
- Mr. John Huynh
- Mr. Adedayo Ibrahim
- Mr. Theron Jenkins, Sr.
- Mr. John Jerbi
- Mr. James L. Knell
- Knights of Columbus, Fr. Burggraff Council 6021
- Lewis Contractors
- Ms. Ann H. Maddox
- Ms. Karen Malinowski
- Margaret A. Merrill Memorial Fund
- The Markell Company LLC
- Anita and Pio Marocco
- Marshall Craft Associates
- Mary Jean & Oliver Travers Foundation
- Maryland Relay
- Maury Donnelly & Parr
- Mr. Gary L. Messman
- Mountain Christian Church
- Ms. Marion Mullauer
- Our Lady of Hope Church
- Penney Design Group
- Mr. Mark J. Potter
- Mr. Garrett Power
- Mrs. Nancy Ratchford
- Rodger C. Snyder Memorial Ladies Aux 117
- Joseph R. Rutkowski
- Lisa Shallue
- Mr. & Mrs. Tracy Simpson
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stevens III
- Mr. Tyler Tate
- Wegmans Hunt Valley
- Ms. Nancy N. Windsor
- Ms. Renee Winsky
- Mr. Laurence Eisenstein & Ms. Robin Zimelman

# Major Vehicle Donors

- Manuel Alcala
- Amandina Alcala
- Dean Anderson
- Rachel Allen
- Eric Batten
- Scott Beichley
- Patricia Bildstein
- Scott Blackman
- Nicholas Borowy
- Sarah Brodine
- Brandon Bryn
- Dennis Buckman
- Justin Bull
- Jerome Bryant
- Dennis Caprio
- Kenneth Carman
- Ronnie Cicio
- Antoinette Christian
- Colleen Clary
- Gloria Clark
- Anthony Cola
- Barbara Coleman
- Shirley Connor
- Elizabeth Corso
- Paul Crist
- James Davis
- Gloria Dieter
- Jane Daniels
- Fasika Delessa
- Walter Delata
- Mary Dulowski
- James Deremeik
- Michael Evans
- Gail Jessop
- Gerrard Farrelly
- Beth Fanara
- Robert Fedo II
- Thomas Fitch
- John Flaherty
- David Foose
- Mary Friese
- Warren Greenberg
- Pam Garland
- Tommie Harley
- Dawn Harris
- Margaret Hewitt
- Beth Holden
- Shelley Hooker
- David Horowitz
- John Hotz
- Roland Huebner
- Dianne Hinshaw
- Freddy Irani
- Derrick Johnson
- Inesha Jones
- James Jones
- Thomas Knight
- Stanley Knopp
- Erik Kowalski
- Jared Larue
- Ian Lamp
- Troy Lingelbach
- Eric Lewis
- Raymond Litecky
- David MacLeary
- Lesley Malooly
- Ashley Millard
- Theresa Medicus
- Jeffrey Meyers
- Michael Mister
- Scott Morrell
- Mary McIntyre
- Maya Opendak
- Chiamaka Ogokeh
- Thomas Park
- Dipakkumar Patel
- Thomas Phelan
- Donald Penn
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- Monica Schultz
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- Christine Selba
- Margaret Shaffer
- Kimberly Shramko
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- Donatian Victor
- Sandra Vicchio
- Stephen Vicchio
- Shelby Vaughn
- Donald Ward
- Susan Wolfe
- Michael Woodall
- Anton Womack
- Theresa Yoshikawa
- Louis Zwirlein

All Donors listed made their donation between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025

## Legacy Society

- Estate of Mary Carl
- Estate of Beatrice J. Dunphy
- Estate of Ms. Catherine E. Etchison
- Estate of Wayne N. Gallatin
- John and Dorothy Guidera Living Trust
- Estate of Elaine T. McDonald
- Estate of Victor J. Schenk

# MSB Board and Leadership

## Officers

**Chair:** Marion Mullauer  
(retired effective July 1, 2025)

**Craig Ballew**  
(elected Chair – effective July 1, 2025)

**1st Vice-Chair:** Raymond Brown\*\*

**2nd Vice-Chair:** Karen Malinowski

**Treasurer:** Kati Penney

**Secretary:** Renee Winsky

### Ex-Officio Member:

W. Robert Hair, MSB Superintendent

## Senior Leadership

### W. Robert Hair

Superintendent

### Maureen Bisesi

Director of Residential & Related Services

### Diane Colburn

Director of Statewide Outreach Services

### Dr. Joshua Irzyk

Director of Education

### Marlo Jacobson

Director of Advancement

### Bill McCubbin Jr.

Director of Campus Operations

### April Tucker

Director of Human Resources

### Kibian Vazquez

Chief Financial Officer

## Directors

Mary Rose Cook

Dr. Lorraine Costella

Dr. Nancy Grasmick\*\*  
(term ended June 30, 2025)

Jill Eidelman

(elected June 6, 2025)

Senator Guy Guzzone\*\*

John Huynh

Jim Knell

Mark Potter

Jack Pumphrey

Dr. Karen Rigamonti

Delegate Stephanie Smith\*\*

Lou Smith

(deceased 6/26/25)

Christopher Trapani

Bob Travers

Rabbi Lauren Tuchman

Dr. Joanne Waeltermann

Scott Wales

Bruce Wright

Robin Zimelman

**\*\*Governor Appointed**

## Emeritus Members

- James J. Datovech



# The Maryland School for the Blind

**3501 Taylor Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21236**

[marylandschoolfortheblind.org](http://marylandschoolfortheblind.org)

410.444.5000 • [info@mdschblind.org](mailto:info@mdschblind.org)