



CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

SPONSOR: Council President Hodge at the request of the County Executive

RESOLUTION NO. 65-2015 – GENERAL FUND – MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Synopsis: Legislation to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 in order to provide an additional appropriation of \$5,585 from fund balance for the Maryland School for the Blind budget within the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY: Net fiscal impact to the County will be \$5,585 for Fiscal 2016. The amount of funding required varies only by participation in the program on a per child amount.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Under the Maryland Education Code Annotated § 8-310, annually each county shall pay the Maryland School for the Blind an amount equal to the local share of the basic cost, as defined in § 8-415(d)(1) of this title, for each blind child who is sent to the school from the county each year to support the cost of instructional programming.

The Maryland School for the Blind, established in 1853, provides outreach, educational and residential services for students to reach their fullest potential by preparing them to be as successful, independent and well-rounded contributing members of their communities as possible.

The Maryland School for the Blind serves a very diverse group of students. They range in age from birth through 21 and are either blind or have low vision. In addition to their visual impairment, many students have multiple disabilities. Some students are academically focused on obtaining a diploma while others are in programs which emphasize functional independence. Parents do not pay tuition for their child at the school, and students are given intensive instruction and support to meet the Maryland graduation requirements. The school follows the Maryland State Curriculum. In addition, it implements the Expanded Core Curriculum which is designed specifically for students who are blind and visually impaired. Examples of areas addressed include braille, orientation and mobility, self-care, career training, recreation and leisure, and social skills. The school follows a typical school year calendar and also provides specialized summer programming. Many students return to their local district after receiving instruction at the school for a year while others may stay for their entire school career. The average length of time at the school is less than five years. Placements are reviewed annually through the IEP process. About half of Maryland School for the Blind students go home daily and half are

overnight residential students due to distance. Residential services can be full time, part time and on an extended day basis, five nights a week. Residential status is determined by the individual needs of each student.

The original budget assumed that two students would participate in the program, at a per child expense of \$ 4045.50, for a total budget of \$8,091. The first invoice from the Maryland School for the Blind indicates that four students will participate in the program at a per student cost of \$ 3,419, for a total cost of \$13,676. This resolution reflects the need for an additional \$5,585 in budgetary authority.