

## Making Maryland Schools the Best In the Nation

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### The Problem

Maryland has led the nation in education reform. But money is nothing without strategy. At the same time, Maryland has been contending with new and emerging challenges facing K-12 schools – a widening teacher shortage, sinking math and reading scores, and aging facilities.

### Wes' Approach

Wes Moore knows the power of education, because he has experienced it first-hand. He attributes his success to the teachers, mentors, counselors, and classrooms that believed in him, even before he believed in himself. His agenda has centered on ensuring every student is college or career ready before they graduate high school. That's why Wes took office with a mandate to not only ensure that money went out the door, but that it went out the door responsibly.

### Our Results

- **Historic K-12 Investments:** In partnership with the Maryland General Assembly, Wes Moore has increased education funding every single year he's been in office, putting over \$10 billion toward Maryland schools in this year's budget alone. Per-pupil funding has increased to \$11,811 and resources for school construction have jumped to a much-needed \$480 million.
- **A Narrowing Teacher Shortage:** In his first year, Wes committed to tackling Maryland's teacher shortage crisis by passing the Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act, and now, just three years later, the teacher vacancy rate has dropped 58%. This success also draws from the fact that Wes has raised teacher starting salaries to \$60,000 a year.
- **Rebounded Test Scores:** Recent reporting shows that statewide, nearly every grade has improved in reading and math scores. Under Wes Moore, Maryland's public schools have improved for three consecutive years, according to the latest Maryland School Report Card.
- **Trusted Leadership:** In his first year, Wes appointed Dr. Carey Wright to serve as Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Wright was the architect of the "Mississippi Miracle," viewed as the most successful push for education reform in American history. She is bringing her expertise to the state.
- **Broader Pathways:** Wes wants every Marylander to achieve their full potential, no matter their pathways. He launched a historic Service Year Option for High School Graduates, helping young people take that next step from school into life. He has also partnered with trades and unions to train over 5,000 apprentices statewide.
- **Stronger HBCUs:** Maryland's HBCUs are four jewels in the crown of our higher education system. The Moore-Miller Administration has made the largest investment in HBCUs in state history, providing \$1.3 billion dollars to Black colleges and universities—a funding increase of 60%.