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One Maryland



January 7, 2009

A Message from the Governor

A National Model for Education

Today, *Education Week* announced that Maryland's public school system ranks first in the nation among all 50 states. This tremendous achievement is a tribute to the students, teachers, and parents who, in response to the increased investments made by all Marylanders, continue to achieve at unprecedented levels.

Since the passage of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, we have worked together as One Maryland to increase state funding for local school systems by more than \$2 billion, an 82 percent increase. Last year, the State of Maryland invested an historic \$5.3 billion in public education, including a \$740 million investment school construction to begin to replace temporary learning shacks with state-of-the-art classrooms. In addition, we were able to hold the line on in-state college tuition at a zero percent increase for a third consecutive year, making higher education more accessible and more affordable for Maryland's families.



Each year, Education Week issues an education report card that includes an overall letter grade for each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Grades span six categories, including transitions and alignment; school finance; K-12 achievement; standards, assessments, and accountability; and the teaching profession. Maryland ranked number one in transitions and alignment policies, which measures a State's ability to connect the K-12 education system with early learning, higher education and the workforce. Maryland earned a grade of 100 for early-childhood education, a grade of 90 for college readiness, and a grade of 100 for the economy and the workforce.

Today's announcement of our best public education system in the nation compliments other national rankings. Last year the Milken Institute [ranked Maryland](#) at number two nationwide for technology economy preparedness, and ranked Maryland first in the nation for human capital investment. But these continued accomplishments are not inevitable.

Now more than ever, even in these difficult times, we must continue to protect our investments in public education to ensure that every child receives a world class education and a better future. The people of Maryland are our greatest asset and our continued economic strength depends upon our ability to invest in them, and prepare our children today for the jobs of tomorrow.

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Making Government Work Again

Making government work again is a central principle of the O'Malley-Brown

[Making Government Work Again](#)

[The Governor's Grants Office Showcases New Database for Local and State Grants](#)



Maryland Events

Park Heights Farmers Market

Beginning January 7, every Wednesday from 10am-2:30pm at the Pimlico Race Course Parking Lot. Traditional Farmers Market, WIC and Senior FMNP Checks Accepted.

Fishing Expo and Boat Show

January 8-11, Thurs.-Fri. Noon-8pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, and Sun. 9am-6pm at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. Bass, saltwater, offshore and freshwater fishing exposition featuring over 300 boats, tackle, and seminars by nationally known professionals.

[Frog Watch USA](#)

Administration. Through technological advances in the areas of public safety, land conservation, preservation of the Bay, and other important priorities, Maryland has made significant progress in making government more efficient and accountable to the citizens it serves. The Maryland Funding Accountability website, created through HB 358 during the 2008 legislative session and launched for public use today, provides a searchable format which displays state payment data, capturing the name of the payee receiving payment, location of the payee by zip code, amount of the payment and the name of the state agency making the payment.

This new tool will allow the public to see first-hand where tax dollars are spent, ushering in a new era of government accountability and transparency to Annapolis that has become a hallmark of the O'Malley-Brown Administration. The site can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

This public website allows citizens of Maryland and visitors to search and view summary information on payments made to vendors that received \$25,000 or more for the respective fiscal year. Currently, information contained on the website is for Fiscal Year 2008, which began July 1, 2007 and ends June 30, 2008.

The Governor's Grants Office Showcases New Database for Local and State Grants

The Governor's Grants Office (GGO) serves Maryland's local and state governments and nonprofit organizations through the state by helping them find, obtain and manage grants free of charge. GGO recently created an innovative project that uses existing technological resources in the State to further improve how Marylanders search and find information about Maryland State grants via the Governor's Grants Office web site.

With this new searchable database, individuals can see financials of each foundation, view grant recipients, and link to the foundation websites. Eric Brenner, Director of the Governor's Grants Office, says: "Access to information is a critical tool for non-profits and foundations to match their strengths and needs. By the National Center for Charitable Statistics doing this for us at no charge, we hope to improve the odds of local funders and local non-profits in Maryland making the right connection in their mutual effort to meet the most pressing community needs."

During these uncertain economic times, it can be very difficult to secure grants. In December, GGO and Andrea Snyder of the Enoch Pratt Library Grants Division demonstrated to Maryland nonprofit organizations how to research prospective funders.

[Click here](#) to access the grants database.

If you would like to be added to the Grants Office listserv to receive Governor's Grants News by e-mail, as well as invitations to future GGO's grants trainings and conferences, simply e-mail your contact information to mdgrantsoffice@gov.state.md.us or call 410-974-5090.

January 10, at the Howard County Conservancy. Sue Muller, Natural Resource Technician for the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, will lead a discussion on Frogwatch USA, a frog and toad monitoring program.

Cumberland Farmers Market

January 10 on, every Saturday 9:30am-2pm at the Pedestrian Mall in Downtown Cumberland. Traditional Farmers Market.

One Mosaic: Many Voices – Opening Reception

January 15, 4:30-7pm at UB's Langsdale Library (1420 Maryland Ave, Baltimore). One Mosaic: Many Voices commemorates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Evening includes gallery opening with multimedia presentation and performances/panel discussion. For more information please call 410-837-4290.

Horse World Expo

January 15-18, Thurs. Noon-8pm, Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, and Sun. 9am-6pm at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. Shopping extravaganza for the horse enthusiast. Exciting demonstrations and seminars by nationally known trainers and experts.

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