

“For the fifth year in a row, Education Week magazine has named Maryland’s Public School system #1 in the country. All Marylanders should be proud. Even during tough times, and even while other states were scaling back their commitment to schools — we’ve chosen to make record investments in public education. Now, because of better choices and strategic investments, we can say again: Maryland is #1.”

– Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley
One Maryland, Governor’s E-newsletter

“Every child, every parent, and every educator in Maryland has the right and expectation to have a world-class school in their neighborhood or where they work. Education Week’s analysis of our work illuminates many positives, but we also know where we need to improve. We’ll use this, and other information, to help make certain we have better classrooms for every student.”

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
Maryland State Superintendent of Schools
January 10, 2013



“For the fifth year in a row, Maryland posts the nation’s highest overall grade. Scoring 87.5 percent and earning a B+, Maryland finishes 3.4 points ahead of second place Massachusetts.”

Amy Hightower
Director of Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, *Education Week*
January 10, 2013



“Maryland received high marks for its investment in early childhood education and policies related to college and workforce readiness.”

Alisha George
Carroll County Times
January 10, 2013



“Congratulations to Maryland’s educators, school administrators, students, and parents on their success this year. I’m proud that Maryland continues to lead our country and is making important investments in early childhood education and college and career readiness.”

U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer
January 10, 2013



“The residents of the State can feel encouraged that its students are competitive with their peers in other states in terms of their level of preparation for the workforce and for college, and in terms of their scores on math and reading tests.”

Sterling Lloyd
Senior Research Associate, *Education Week*
Cumberland Times-News
January 10, 2013



“Three cheers for Maryland schools ranked #1 in the nation for the fifth year in a row! Hats off to students, parents, and teachers.”

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski
January 10, 2013



Maryland Public Education: Ranked **#1** in the Nation for the **FIFTH** straight year!



The 2013 Quality Counts annual report shows Maryland ranking first in the nation for a **FIFTH** year in a row!

Maryland’s 2013 *Quality Counts* ranking is based on State education policies and student performance that reflect more than two decades of work on a preK-12 curriculum; State accountability and standards; educator effectiveness; and work on school readiness, high school reform, and preparation for college and the workplace.

Maryland placed at the top of the list again with the nation’s only B+ average. Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia followed closely with B grades. The majority of states received grades of C or less, according to the report. The new report finds that no other state has a more consistent record of excellence than Maryland. Results for the State were above average in all six of the broad grade categories, and ranked in the top six in five of the six categories.

Most of the state-level data gathered by *Education Week* comes from a policy survey of the states conducted in the summer and fall of 2012. In addition, the publication draws on data from such organizations as the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the American Federation of Teachers.



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

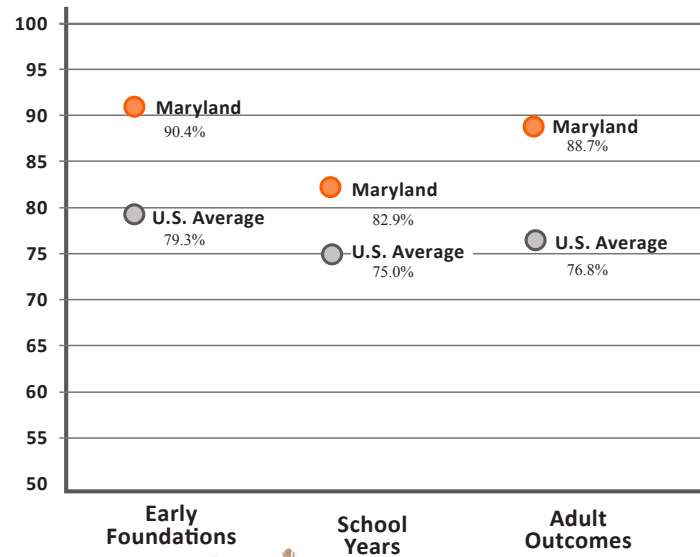
Charlene M. Dukes, Ed.D.
President, State Board of Education

Martin O’Malley
Governor

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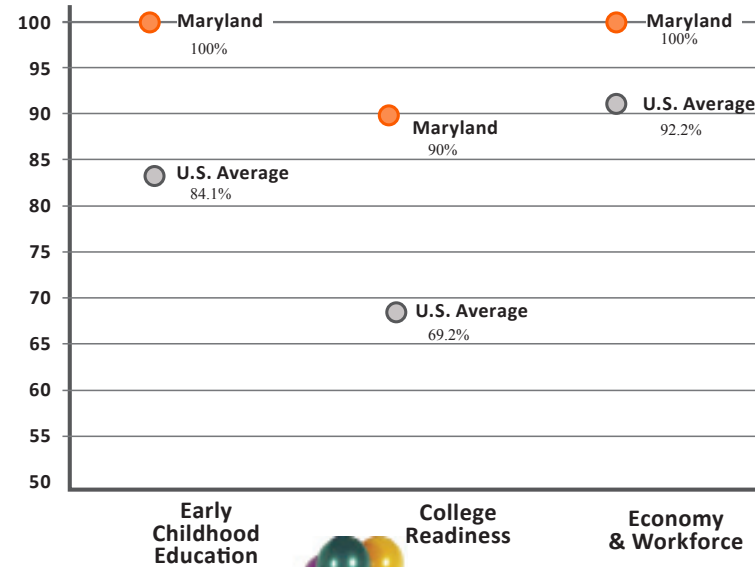
Chance for Success B+

- 50.4% of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool (2011)
- Strong 4th grade performance on the 2011 NAEP reading national test – ranking 4th in the nation
- 58.2% of young adults enrolled in postsecondary education or with a degree (2011)



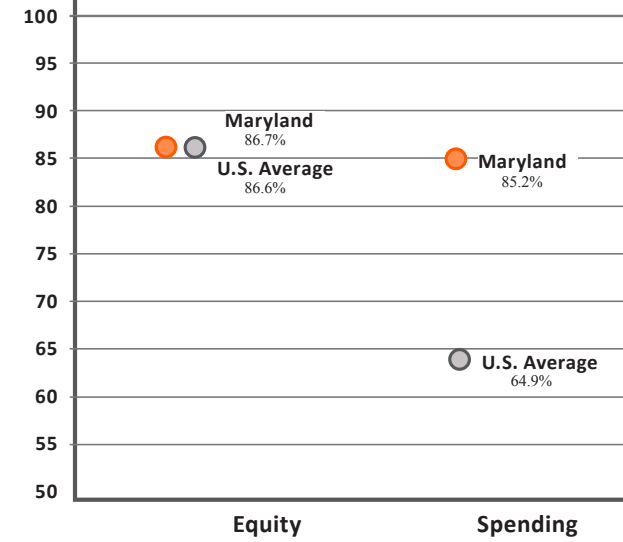
Transitions & Alignment A

- Strong early learning standards that are aligned with K-12 standards
- A formal definition for both school and college readiness
- Credits for high school diploma aligned with postsecondary system
- High school assessment aligned with postsecondary system
- Workforce pathways for students to earn industry-recognized certification or licensure



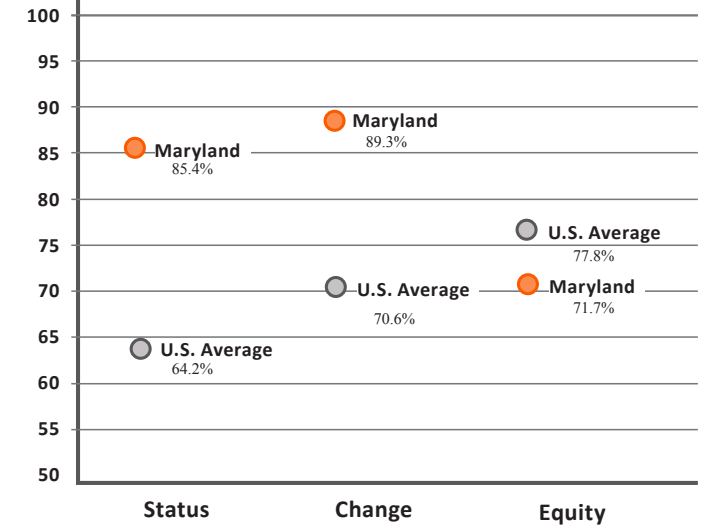
School Finance B

The benefits of Maryland's Bridge to Excellence Act shows in this year's **School Finance** grade, which has gone from a **C** average in 2003, when first enacted, to this year's **B**. Not only does the Bridge to Excellence Act provide additional funding, but it allows local school systems to allocate the funding to critical areas of need.



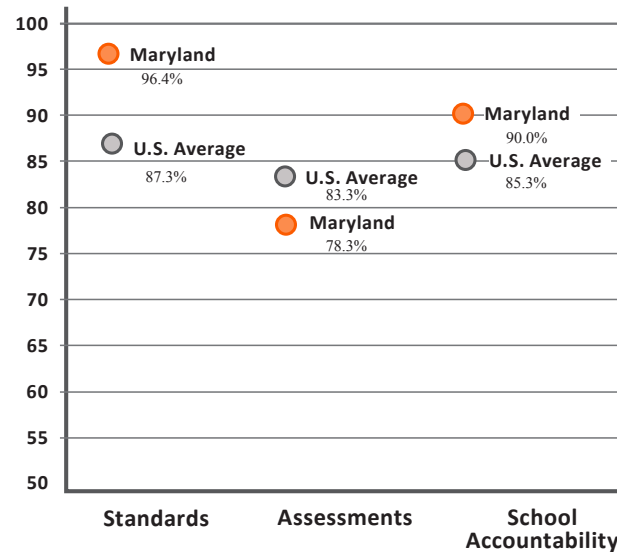
K-12 Achievement B*

- Maryland outpaces the national average for 4th- and 8th-grade NAEP reading and math proficiency
- 8th grade reading ranked number 1 in the nation
- Advanced Placement (AP) shows high AP scores leading the nation with a number 1 ranking



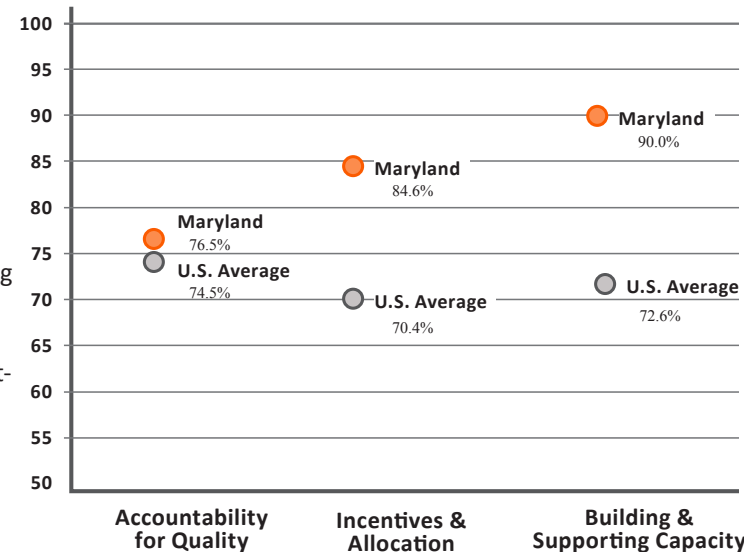
Standards, Assessments, & Accountability B+*

Maryland maintained a B+ and is well positioned to move forward with its commitment to the Common Core Standards.



The Teaching Profession B*

- Maryland is in the top third of states offering incentives to teachers and principals who accept assignments in targeted schools and hard-to-staff teaching areas
- Maryland also is a leader in reducing the workload for all first-year teachers – ranked 3rd in the nation



In one of the most comprehensive categories, **Chance for Success**, Maryland earned a **B+** based on 13 indicators ranging from infancy to adulthood.

This year's report presents updated scores and letter grades, for the states and the nation as a whole, in three of the six major areas tracked in the report.

Maryland received an **A** in **Transitions & Alignment**, which tracks state policy efforts to better coordinate the connection between K-12 schooling and other segments of the education pipeline.

Maryland's **School Finance** received a **B**.

The State also earned a **B** in **K-12 Achievement**; a **B+** in **Standards, Assessments, and Accountability**; and a **B** in **The Teaching Profession**.

For more information about the *2013 Quality Counts* report, go to www.edweek.org/rc.

* *These results were drawn from the 2012 Quality Counts Report.*