

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

An Overview & FAQ's

TIMELINE

1984

Maryland General Assembly (MGA) passes a Maintenance of Effort Law, requiring a baseline funding of public education by local governments.

1996

The MGA passes a law establishing a waiver process to allow for exceptions for local governments in MOE funding requirements. This process went unused for over 20 years.

2002

The Bridge to Excellence in Education (Thornton Formula) becomes law, which continues MOE funding requirements.

2009

8 school systems apply for waivers in MOE funding as a result of the recession. Some were approved, others denied.

2021

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future becomes law, which includes MOE funding requirements with provisions for education effort adjustment supports for low-revenue local governments.

DEFINITION

MOE – The minimum requirement of local governments to fund public education per Maryland state law.

STATUTES

5-235 – MOE Law (post-Blueprint)

5-202 – MOE Law (pre-Blueprint)

CAN LOCALS IGNORE MOE?

Local districts can face penalties if they ignore MOE and Blueprint laws.

Pursuant to article 5-213, the Comptroller may intercept local revenue to reallocate it directly to local school systems if local governments refuse to abide by MOE law. Additionally, the Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB) has the power to withhold state funding to districts who refuse to abide by Blueprint law.

CAN THEY FUND MORE?

Yes! This is a floor, not a ceiling.

Local governments can fund infinitely above the MOE baseline funding, but they are prohibited by law from funding below it.

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