

Fiscal 2006 State Education Aid to the Prince George's Public Schools

An Analysis of Funding Trends

Prepared by the

Prince George's Business-Education Alliance

August 2005

The Prince George's County Public Schools will receive more than \$682 million in state education aid in the current fiscal year, an increase of more than \$82 million, or 13.7 percent, from fiscal 2005. The extra money represents the fourth installment of a planned six-year major boost in funding under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002, commonly known as the Thornton plan.

Overall, the budget adopted at the end of the 2005 session of the General Assembly in April increased funding for public primary and secondary education statewide by almost \$378 million, or 12.4 percent. Total state spending for public education in fiscal 2006 will be more than \$4 billion.

Prince George's will be the top recipient of state education funds this year. Baltimore City will receive \$647.6 million, Baltimore County \$362.4 million, and Montgomery County \$289.2 million.

Once again Governor Ehrlich did not request and the legislature did not add money for the "geographic cost-of-education index," a provision of the Bridge to Excellence Act that is not considered to be mandatory. Failure to fund the GCEI cost Prince George's about \$21 million it otherwise might have received.

In addition to the \$3.4212 billion allotted for Thornton programs, the state will spend another \$597 million on its contribution to the teachers' retirement program, non-public special education, and other programs, bringing overall education spending in fiscal 2006 to \$4.0182 billion.

Prince George's also will benefit this year from a substantial increase in public school construction funds. In January and February, the State Board of Public Works allocated about \$121.9 million to the various counties for public school construction, with Prince George's receiving \$7.912 million. The General Assembly later added another \$128.1 million in construction funds, bringing the statewide total to \$250 million. Prince George's will receive \$21.921 million of this money, bringing its total for fiscal 2006 to \$29.833 million, second only to Montgomery County's \$30.431 million. Prince George's total represents 39.3 percent of the county's fiscal 2006 request for \$75.874 million for school construction and renovation – a higher share than Montgomery County received (28.1 percent) but well below the shares of other major jurisdictions such as Baltimore City (99.6 percent), Baltimore County (89.8 percent), Anne Arundel County (61.9 percent), and Howard County (52.3 percent).

The following table shows the funding allocated to Prince George's under Bridge to Excellence programs for fiscal 2005 and fiscal 2006.

**Prince George's Allocation
Major State Education Aid Programs
Summary Excluding the Aging Schools Program**

Program	FY 2005	FY 2006	Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
Foundation Program	412,137,212	449,835,655	37,698,443	9.1%
Total Transportation Grants	26,325,918	28,767,028	2,441,110	9.3%
Compensatory Education	113,307,479	137,929,554	24,622,075	21.7%
Limited English Proficient	15,868,451	21,905,449	6,036,998	38.0%
Special Education Formula	25,873,710	30,283,727	4,410,017	17.0%
Extended Elementary Education	1,515,137	1,515,128	-9	0.0%
Guaranteed Tax Base	4,935,252	11,991,299	7,056,047	143.0%
Total Direct Mandated Grants	599,963,159	682,227,840	82,264,681	13.7%