



Calvert County NEWS

175 Main Street
Courthouse
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
Phone: 410-535-4583 • 301-855-1880
www.co.cal.md.us

Board of Commissioners

Mike Hart
Tom Hejl
Pat Nutter
Evan K. Slaughenhoupt Jr.
Steven R. Weems

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 27, 2017
Contact: Mark Volland, Marketing/Communications Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: vollanrm@co.cal.md.us
Angela Walters, Public Information Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: walteram@co.cal.md.us

Calvert County Commissioners Approve Four-Year Public Schools Funding Plan *Funding Formula Insulates Local Public School Appropriations from Decreasing Enrollment*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – April 27, 2017 – The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) today approved a four-year public schools funding formula that will provide education appropriations of nearly \$121 million in fiscal year (FY) 2018.

The funding formula will be used to determine the amount of annual county appropriations to Calvert County Public Schools from FY 2018 through FY 2021. The measure must also be approved by the Calvert County Board of Education at its May 11 meeting before taking effect.

Three factors are included in the education funding formula. Starting with the prior year's appropriations, funding will be based on 1) student enrollment increases; 2) changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and 3) an additional adjustment factor of 1 percent. A decline in student enrollment will not decrease funding and the CPI factor is capped at 3.5 percent.

The funding agreement has a new school adjustment to provide for up to \$1 million in additional funds to offset operating costs for new schools. It also specifies that any unassigned public schools fund balance, or savings, in excess of \$5 million will be contributed to the school system's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust fund. OPEB are benefits, other than pensions – such as health insurance – that employees receive as part of retirement benefits.

“We believe this is a generous funding formula that provides stability and predictability for county education appropriations,” said BOCC President Tom Hejl. “It will help ensure our school system remains among the top systems in Maryland.”

~ more ~

Calvert County Commissioners Approve Four-Year Public Schools Funding Plan

April 27, 2017

Page 2

Additional one-time allocations for the next two fiscal years are included in the funding agreement. FY 2018 funding will include a \$500,000 allocation and FY 2019 will include a \$2 million allocation, each of which will be offset by reducing contributions for OPEB by the same amounts.

Public schools funding formula agreements have been a part of the county budget process since FY 2006. The last such agreement expired at the end of the 2012 fiscal year.

The BOCC approved the FY 2018-2021 education funding formula as part of the FY 2018 county budget process. The Commissioners' Budget will be presented during a public hearing May 23 at 7 p.m. at Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick.

Information on Calvert County Government services can be found online at www.co.cal.md.us. Find Calvert County Government on [Facebook](#).

###

Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to nearly 91,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and administrative services. (LL)