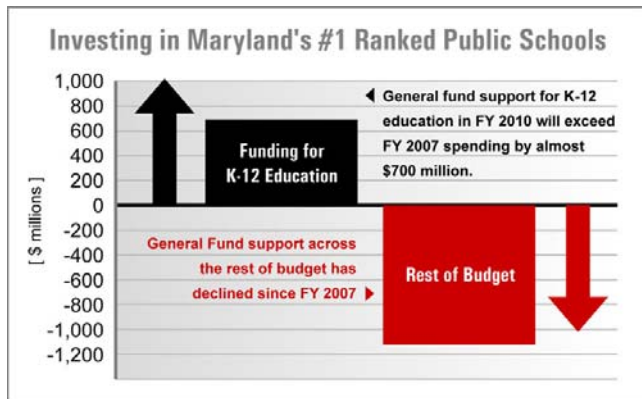


# PROTECTING OUR #1 RANKED PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The Best Public School System in America  
 In January 2009, *Education Week* ranked Maryland's public schools the best in the nation in their annual "Quality Counts" Survey. In addition, Maryland's public school system was ranked as having the best alignment from Pre-K to Post-Grad – the primary focus of Governor O'Malley's P-20 Council – by preparing all of our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

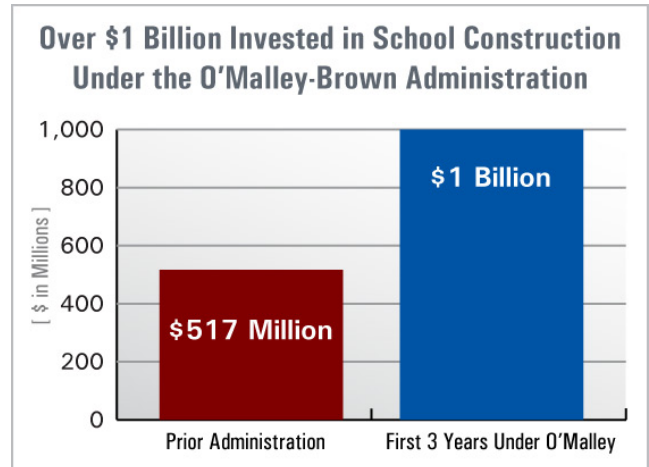
Investing in Our Children's Progress  
 The O'Malley Brown Administration is putting *Families First* by securing record funding for K-12 public education for the third consecutive year in Maryland. Even during tough times, Governor O'Malley fought for more than \$5.5 billion this year for our schools – fully funding the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time since the passage of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan



Building New Classrooms and New Schools for Tomorrow

The O'Malley Brown Administration has nearly doubled our investment in school construction and renovations to over \$1 billion in just three years, the largest investment in Maryland's history. Thanks to this historic commitment, schools across Maryland

are closing down temporary learning shacks and opening the doors to classrooms and schools featuring state-of-the-art Smartboards, technology labs, naturally-lit classrooms and green building features that offer energy savings while providing a positive learning environment for our children.



Together, we are making these investments to protect the progress our children are making in achieving...

- ▶ **The Highest MSA Scores in Maryland History**  
 Maryland's elementary and middle school students achieved their highest MSA scores since testing began in 2003, with many schools showing double-digit increases in both reading and math, and real progress towards eliminating the achievement gap.
- ▶ **The Best Advanced Placement Scores in the Nation**  
 Maryland's high schools were ranked first in the nation by the *College Board* for achieving the highest scores in the nation on the Advanced Placement tests as well as having the highest AP participation rate in the country.
- ▶ **Maryland's Top Ranked Pre-K Program**  
 Maryland's Pre-K program is now ranked among the best in the nation by the National Institute for Early Education Research thanks to the O'Malley Brown Administration's commitment to expanding access to Pre-K and early education in Maryland that has led to a 32% increase in the number of students enrolled across Maryland.

The Best Public Schools in the World  
The O'Malley Brown Vision for Education

Earning a #1 ranking for our public schools is a tremendous accomplishment, but we are not content to only be the best in the nation; we want to be the best in the world. The O'Malley Brown Administration is standing behind our students by giving them the tools they need to compete in an ever smaller, ever more interconnected world. To reach these goals, Governor O'Malley laid out his vision for the future of public education in Maryland, including...

▶ **Competing Globally**

Benchmarking our students against their peers from around the globe, including Asia, Africa, Europe, India and others.

▶ **Establishing Advanced Data Systems**

Creating a single, continual data system that tracks our students' development from Pre-K through high school and beyond.

▶ **Preparing High School Graduates**

Closing the "college readiness gap" by establishing the strategic framework from Pre-K to Post-Grad that provides our students with the skills they need to enter college and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

▶ **Expanding STEM**

Expanding Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs to every school in Maryland and enhancing our student's skills by adding financial and environmental literacy.



▶ **Preparing For Critical Workforce Needs with CTE**

Stepping up our efforts on Career and Technology Education (CTE) and providing our students with valuable skills that enable them to meet our projected workforce shortages in areas like healthcare and biosciences.



▶ **Retaining the Best Teachers and Principals**

Recruiting and retaining the best teachers and principals by fully funding teacher pensions at the State level, and by launching the TELL Maryland Survey that asks every teacher and principal in the State of Maryland to report back on the conditions in their schools so that we can identify and correct areas with the greatest need for improvement.



▶ **Securing Critical Federal Funding**

Working closely with our federal, State, and local education partners, we are working to ensure that every school system has an opportunity to compete for a portion of \$6 billion in federal grants that are available thanks to President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

▶ **Streamlining Transfers for Children of Military Personnel**

Governor O'Malley successfully fought for legislation creating an interstate partnership that helps smooth the transition of records, provide continuity of education and support for children of active duty military personnel.