



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County Board of Commissioners Focus on Education Funding *Increase is Planned Despite Tight Budget Outlook for Fiscal 2012*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – March 15, 2011 – As deliberations begin on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has reaffirmed its commitment to public education by planning for funding increases as a result of the funding formula agreement between the Calvert County Board of Education (BOE) and the BOCC.

State law requires that local education funding be no less than the amount per pupil provided the prior year, called the Maintenance of Effort (MOE). This MOE requirement makes counties eligible to receive state education funding. Calvert County contributions for public education have consistently exceeded MOE standards. From FY 2006 through FY 2012, county education funding will have outpaced MOE requirements by an average of \$4.1 million annually. The county will have contributed a total of \$28.4 million above MOE requirements over that period.

In addition to the state MOE requirement, the BOCC and the BOE collaborated on a funding formula based on MOE, the consumer price index and an adjustment factor of 1.25 percent to fund new initiatives or new state mandates. The formula, in place through FY 2012, will provide \$106.6 million in operations funding for FY 2012, beginning July 1, 2011, an increase of more than \$1.5 million or 1.48 percent over FY 2011.

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“Calvert County Public Schools are consistently ranked among the best performing school systems in Maryland, and we believe our financial commitment helps maintain that status,” said BOCC President Susan Shaw. “Each year during the budgeting cycle we tend to hear criticism regarding education. However, it is important to understand that the BOCC simply sets the local contribution for public education funding based on the agreed upon formula we have with Calvert County Public Schools. It is the elected Board of Education with the school system staff that budgets the money and negotiates employee contracts.

“We believe that FY 2012 education funding will illustrate our obligation to education in a very tough economic climate,” Shaw continued. “Our working partnership with Calvert County Public Schools helps ensure effective financial planning for both the school system and the county.”

Calvert County officials will present the staff recommended FY 2012 budget at a public meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m. at the Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick. Presentation of the BOCC’s budget will be Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m., also at Calvert Pines. The final FY 2012 budget is scheduled for adoption on Tuesday, June 7.

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Calvert County is Maryland’s smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to over 92,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. A labor force of at least 1.8 million resides within a one-hour drive. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, utilities, light manufacturing and administrative services.