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#1 in the  
nation

# For the **FOURTH** straight year, Maryland's public schools ranked #1 in the nation by Education Week!

The 2012 *Quality Counts* annual report shows Maryland ranking **first in the nation for the **FOURTH** year in a row.**

Maryland consistently placed at the top of its class in the report's 6 determining categories and scored no lower than a B in any given area.

For **Transitions & Alignment**, Maryland tied for first with an **A\*** for how well the K-12 education system, as a whole, helps students become ready for school, progress through the education experience, and prepare for college/university and/or the workforce.

In **Chance for Success**, one of the most comprehensive categories, Maryland earned a **B+ or fifth in the nation** based on 13 indicators linking education to beneficial outcomes from infancy to adulthood.

Maryland placed **seventh in the nation with a B+ in School Finance**. This category is based on school funding and equity.

The state **earned a B+ in Standards, Assessment, and Accountability** for its elementary, middle, and high school curriculum and testing standards and accountability policies.

Maryland's **K-12 Achievement** ranked **third with a B** for students' national test performance and improvement in both math and reading at key grade benchmarks – 4th, 8th, and Advanced Placement (AP) – as well as the high school graduation rate.

Maryland **also received a B, or third in the nation** for state policies addressing the **Teaching Profession**.

*\*Last updated and reported in Quality Counts 2011.*

**Education Week** is the nation's leading education newspaper. The newspaper's annual *Quality Counts* report provides a survey of states' educational policies and performance based on key criteria and benchmarks. The results are based on data collected and analyzed by the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center as well as investigations conducted by **Education Week** reporting staff. This year's special theme — *American schooling from an international perspective* — examines the nation's place among the world's public education systems and provides a fresh look at the political, social, and cultural challenges the United States faces in preparing its students for the workplace demands of an interconnected world economy. To access the full report go to [www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org).

Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.  
Interim State Superintendent of Schools  
[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)

Martin J. O'Malley  
Governor