

Chapter 849 of 2017 Maryland Education Development Collaborative (EDCO)

Chapter 849 of 2017 established EDCO to act as a think tank to study, advise, promote, and support public schools in developing programs that enhance 21st century learning and socioeconomic diversity among students. EDCO is managed by a governing board and must employ an executive director. The governing board must establish an advisory council consisting of educators, representatives of the business community, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders.

The purposes of EDCO generally are to advise and make recommendations to the State Board, General Assembly, and local school systems on policies to promote 21st century learning and enhance socioeconomic and demographic diversity; foster partnerships between public and private entities; and provide grants for pilot programs, initiatives, and research studies to develop modern public school designs and 21st century curricula, technologies, and practices.

EDCO must collaborate with stakeholders to provide a research and development approach to 21st century learning opportunities in public schools; disseminate information on best practices, programs, and resources and provide technical assistance and training; and develop a database of evidence-based programs and initiatives existing in the State's public schools that enhance 21st century learning and socioeconomic diversity, among other duties.

The General Assembly restricted \$250,000 in the fiscal 2018 State budget for EDCO, contingent on enactment of the bill. The Governor did not release the funds for this purpose. The executive director position is currently vacant.

The Governor appointed and the Senate confirmed during the 2018 session the following 10 members (terms expire 2021) of the Governing Board:

- One representative of the State Board (Rev. Michael D. Phillips)
- One individual with experience in a business involved with international commerce (Elizabeth Rendon–Sherman)
- One individual with experience in international education systems (Lombuso S. Khoza, Ph.D.)
- One individual who is an academic researcher with experience in education reform (Ashley Rogers Berner, Ph.D.)
- One individual with experience managing a system of primary, secondary, or postsecondary education (Vermelle D. Greene, Ph.D.)
- One individual with experience implementing innovative public school designs (L. Neal Fiorelli)
- Two individuals with experience teaching in or administering a public school, selected from a list of names submitted jointly by MSEA and BTU (Cheryl A. Bost, Lauren N. DiResta-Stasio)
- One individual with experience with a philanthropic organization (Barbara Rowland Davidson)
- One individual with experience in career and technology education, apprenticeships, or workforce development (Kristine H. Pearl, Ed.D.)