



**February 20 & 26, 2020  
Coppin State University  
University System of Maryland FY 2021 Budget Testimony  
System Office Response**

**Page 19 -The University System of Maryland Office should comment on whether CSU’s State fund appropriation is appropriate given its size and mission when compared to other USM institutions and if steps are needed to decrease the ratio of State funds per FTES.**

**USMO Response:**

First and foremost, it is important to note the University System of Maryland fully supports the Governor’s allowance and acknowledges the historical state support from the legislature. The University System of Maryland (USM) shares the state’s vision and supports Coppin State University (CSU) as a vital institution for the City of Baltimore as an anchor institution for West Baltimore.

The student mix on Coppin’s campus is different than most USM’s institutions. Coppin serves differently prepared, multigenerational students, from a variety of cultural and racial backgrounds, and the average age of the Coppin undergraduate student (26) is much higher than most traditional institutions. In addition, the majority of its students are Pell grant recipients, which means there is no family financial resources for higher education. However, as noted in the analysis, graduation rates have improved for the first-time students, and over 60% of the transfers graduated.

The student success improvements could not have been possible without the state-subsidized access to higher education. Coppin serves this low-income community with the lowest tuition rates. As Maryland’s most affordable four-year institution, this accessibility requires an investment in state appropriations because of the limited tuition revenue generated.

Per the analysis, the result of Coppin’s state funding per student is higher when compared to other institutions. However, the proportion of low-income students at Coppin is also higher than most institutions. Coppin’s goal to provide affordable high-quality education requires appropriating the state funds necessary to accomplish the mission.

As stated in Coppin’s mission statement: “The University continues to take the leading role in the economic revitalization of its immediate West Baltimore community. Coppin is an oasis for the educational, economic, recreational, and cultural needs of the citizens of Baltimore and the State of Maryland by sharing access to its facilities and expertise in the academic disciplines, professional fields, and the fine and performing arts.”

Again, the USM recognizes the value of Coppin to Maryland and fully supports the state funds appropriated by the Governor and the legislature to accomplish Coppin’s mission.