BECOME PART OF HISTORY.
To learn how you can help support SEED students and graduates on their path to college completion, contact seeddevelopment@seedschoolmd.org.

The SEED School of Maryland
Ruth & Norman Rales Campus
200 Font Hill Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21223
www.seedschoolmd.org

THE STORY OF MARYLAND’S FIRST AND ONLY PUBLIC, COLLEGE-PREPARATORY BOARDING SCHOOL
SEED began with a deep belief in a simple idea—that some students need and deserve a 24-hour learning model to reach their full potential.

Transforming this idea of SEED into a reality has required incredible effort and investment on the part of so many. It required visionary supporters, without whom SEED would still be just a thought experiment. It required legislators, who believed in our students and our potential. It required educators, whose seemingly endless stores of time and energy continue to inspire. And it required families, who entrusted us with their children.

Together, we made history. The timeline that follows is meant to honor that history and the legacy that our entire SEED network, The SEED School of Maryland, and our students across the nation have built.

It’s been an honor to have you with us on the journey so far. We can’t wait to see what SEED students will accomplish in the years to come and the legacies they will create for themselves and their communities.

**1997:** Eric Adler and Rajiv Vinnakota meet by a stroke of luck and share their passion for exploring new ways to combat educational inequity. They both wondered: what if the country’s most underserved students had access to a rigorous, college-preparatory environment—not just during the school day or after school, but 24 hours a day?

A few weeks later, they quit their management consulting jobs and launch The SEED Foundation with the goal of creating the first urban, public boarding school for underserved students in the United States.

**1998:** After an act of Congress and the passage of legislation in D.C., The SEED School of Washington, D.C. (SEED DC) opens to great acclaim. Its first class moves into a temporary site at the Capital Children’s Museum.
2006: With the support of the Modells, the Abell Foundation, Paula Hollinger, John Claster, Carol Beck, and countless other advocates, the State of Maryland passes legislation to allow for The SEED School of Maryland (SEED Maryland) to open. On May 2, 2006, Governor Robert Ehrlich signs House Bill 1432.

2005: SEED supporter Ed Brody introduces Pat and Art Modell to Raj and Eric as The SEED Foundation pursues expanding the SEED model to Baltimore.

2004: Martin O’Malley, then the Mayor of Baltimore City, tours SEED DC. He is so impressed that he calls Eric on his drive back to Baltimore and asks, “How can we get a SEED school in Maryland?”

SEED DC celebrates the graduation of its first class. 100% are accepted to college.

2007: Local leaders continue to rally around SEED Maryland. With anchor gifts from Pat and Art Modell and Mitchell Rales, and with additional significant support from the Adler Family Foundation, Steve Bisciotti, Ed and Barbara Brody, the France-Merrick Foundation, Ann and Thomas Friedman, Jack and Andie Laporte, Michael and Sheila Ryan, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and others, SEED Maryland is able to transform the abandoned Southwestern High School into the college-preparatory environment SEED students enjoy today.

SEED Maryland’s campus, its school entrance, the main academic building, and its dorms would later bear the names of Rales, Brody, Modell, Laporte, and Weinberg to honor their incredible generosity and legacies.

April 2008: SEED Maryland hosts its first ever enrollment lottery, admitting our first class of sixth graders from counties all over the state. By design and state law, SEED establishes eligibility criteria that ensure the school serves those most in need across the state. Examples of criteria include students who:

- are eligible for free or reduced price lunch
- have a record of suspensions, office referrals, chronic truancy, or involvement with the social service system
- are part of a family whose income is below federal poverty guidelines
- have an immediate family member who has been incarcerated
July 2008: The SEED School of Maryland opens on the campus of the former Southwestern High School on a 99-year lease for $1 per year.

When they move into their dorms for the first time, SEED’s sixth graders begin to blaze a trail as the first students to attend a public, college-preparatory boarding school in the State of Maryland.

By 2010, SEED Maryland students outperform the state on the Middle School Assessment. SEED Maryland forges partnerships with community organizations such as Ed Reed’s Eye of the Hurricane Foundation as we build an enriching afterschool program.

These achievements take place as students attend class in modular classrooms while the main academic building undergoes a much-needed renovation.

2013: The Modell Center—our primary academic building—opens. It is complete with a state-of-the-art library, music center, dance studio, technology lab, gym, and the Friedman Auditorium (shown above).

Fall 2014: After almost seven years of living and learning at the SEED Maryland campus, Jeremiah Page becomes the first senior to be accepted to college as he receives his letter of admission from Virginia Tech. The senior class begins to realize its collective dream of graduating college in 2019 and the vision, effort, and generosity of so many becomes very real as more acceptances soon follow.
May 2015: The Class of 2015 makes history as the first class to cross the SEED Maryland stage and receive their high school diplomas. These new graduates culminate their SEED journeys to raucous applause, hugs, and tears from the family, friends, teachers, advisors, student life counselors, and supporters who have advocated for them every step of the way. Although their days of living on the SEED campus are over, their connection to SEED is not. Each graduate is matched to a College Transition & Success advisor, who will be their personal advocate moving forward—from move-in day freshman year of college through graduation day. Every single graduate is accepted into a four-year college.

“SEED’s greatness doesn’t lie in what SEED did for us, but in what SEED did not do. SEED never made us feel inadequate. SEED never discouraged us from daring to dream, never treated us like we were just average, and never dissuaded us from thinking that we can be better tomorrow than we are today. . . . And, most importantly, there was never a time when we felt unwanted or unloved.”

-excerpt from Stephanie Keyaka’s valedictorian address

Stephanie, pictured below, is a freshman at Penn State University.
AS SEED MARYLAND GRADUATES MOVE INTO COLLEGE DORMS AROUND THE COUNTRY, ITS NEWEST SIXTH GRADERS START THEIR OWN JOURNEYS TO COLLEGE COMPLETION.

Pictured: Isaiah Green’s first day at the University of Maryland.

In May 2015, we graduated our first class of seniors. One hundred percent were accepted to at least one four-year college. But at SEED, college acceptance is not the endgame.

It’s our job to pour our support and resources into students—to give them opportunities to excel and to fail—so that when they leave SEED, our graduates are better scholars and people.

If we are to do our job well, we must treat every moment in our 24-hour program as a precious learning opportunity; we must value academic, life skills, and positive youth development equally. That’s why, moving forward, we will break down the walls of our classrooms in new and exciting ways. In addition to the rigorous instruction that takes place on campus, students will turn their communities into classrooms through service learning and internships. They’ll explore the best colleges in the country and they’ll discover new cultures through international travel.

As we continue to build on this most important work, we are incredibly grateful to the mighty community of adults who have made our life-changing work possible. Thanks to your commitment to our students and families, our young people are truly experiencing the education they deserve.

Jon Tucker
Head of School
The SEED School of Maryland

LOOKING FORWARD.