

**Guiding principles on a national level**

**Right to education**

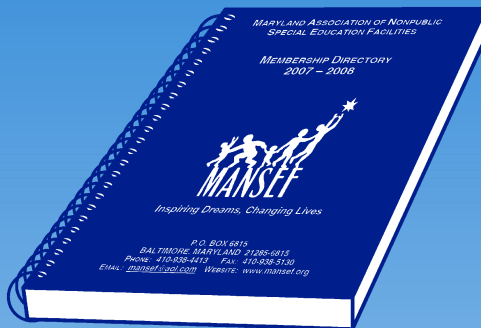
Federal and state law requires that children with disabilities are entitled to an appropriate placement to meet their unique special education needs; therefore, nonpublic schools work in partnership with local school systems to help serve children and youth with special needs.

The federal law, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR - 8-406) ensure that children with disabilities who need special education and related services that cannot be provided in a public school shall be placed in an appropriate MSDE approved nonpublic educational program.

The cost of the nonpublic placement shall be paid by the MSDE and local school systems as established by a funding formula.



To download a copy of our Membership Directory go to our website:  
[www.mansef.org](http://www.mansef.org)



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**Inspiring  
Dreams,  
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Platform**

**Maryland Association of Nonpublic  
Special Education Facilities**

# Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities

Founded in 1975, MANSEF is a non-profit association of 91 nonpublic special education schools which are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education.

MANSEF is committed to creating appropriate educational opportunities in the least restrictive environment for all Maryland children and youth with disabilities.

MANSEF unites a diverse community of educators, professionals, and parents into an accessible, visible, and effective organization that champions the continuum of services for special needs children and youth in Maryland.

MANSEF schools provide services for children and youth between the ages of 3 and 21.

## **Federal Funding**

MANSEF supports the full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as passed by the United States Congress. MANSEF supports amending the Higher Education Act to provide more opportunity for people with disabilities and access to post-secondary education.

## **MANSEF Goals**

### **Continuum**

- ★ To maintain the continuum established in federal law (IDEA) and Maryland law

### **Funding**

- ★ To maintain and enhance funding for children and youth with special needs

### **Parents**

- ★ To assist parents in locating programs; to educate parents about their rights and opportunities; and to promote parents as equal members of the IEP team

### **Legislators**

- ★ To educate members of the Maryland General Assembly regarding the nonpublic schools and their unique role in serving children and youth with disabilities

### **Public Awareness**

- ★ To elevate the level of public awareness, identification and needs of special children

### **Training**

- ★ To assist in the professional development and education of both nonpublic and public school teachers through regular workshops and conferences

### **Networking**

- ★ To interact with like advocacy organizations and strengthen the understanding of the needs of individuals with disabilities

### **Fairness**

- ★ To promote salary parity for teachers in the nonpublic schools with their public school counterparts

