



Map of Central Corridor Light Rail Line, courtesy of Mass Transit Administration, Department of Transportation

Light Rail. The main leg of the first light rail line in Maryland, with electric-powered trains that run mostly on existing railroad rights-of-way, began service between Timonium and Camden Station on May 18, 1992. Called the *Central Corridor Light Rail Line*, it is operated by the Mass Transit Administration. Additional stops were added in 1992 at Patapsco Avenue and, in 1993, at Linthicum and Cromwell stations. Eventually, it will link the region from Hunt Valley north of Baltimore, through Baltimore City, to Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport and Glen Burnie in Anne Arundel County.

Railroad. The State currently runs three commuter train lines. Two Baltimore-Washington lines and a Martinsburg, WV—Brunswick-Washington line form the *Maryland Rail Commuter Service (MARC)*, carrying nearly 19,000 passengers each weekday. Service also operates north of Baltimore on the northeast corridor into Harford and southern Cecil counties with these trains terminating at Perryville. The Mass Transit Administration contracts out operations for two freight lines on Maryland's Eastern Shore and four through Frederick and Carroll counties, covering over 100 miles. Additional train service is provided by Amtrak (passengers) and CSX Transportation (freight). Of historical note, the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) Railroad Company was chartered by the General Assembly in 1827 to construct a transportation link to the west, establishing the nation's first long-distance railway.

EDUCATION

Elementary and Secondary Education. Public education in Maryland is a shared responsibility between State government and the local governments of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. The State Board of Education sets minimum educational standards, certifies teachers, provides some State funds for school construction and instruction, and monitors individual school performance. County boards of education often establish requirements beyond the State minimums, develop new programs, and provide substantial funding. Maryland ranks 11th in the nation with an average per pupil expenditure of \$5,823 in 1992. In the 1992-93 school year for prekindergarten through high school, 751,780 students were enrolled in 1,270 public schools; 148,714 students were enrolled at 985 private schools.

Public high schools graduated 36,347 students in 1993. Those intending to continue their education: 77% (74.2% in a college or university and 2.8% in a trade or business school); to work: 28.8%; and to enter military service: 4.2%. Maryland students consistently excel on national tests. With 66% of high school seniors participating, Maryland ranks 2nd in the nation on Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores among states where more than half the stu-