

## BAIS YAAKOV STUDENTS GIVE A BOOST TO THE BOOST PROGRAM

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Students met with state delegates and senators, and learned about the workings of government firsthand.

On Thursday March 2, Bais Yaakov of Baltimore sent a group of students to Annapolis, Maryland to advocate for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program. The BOOST Program is designed to provide aid to children of low-income families so they can afford to attend a non-public school.

As a non-public school graduate herself, Delegate Susan Aumann (R) shared why she felt private school is essential. She said that not only does a private school help cater to one's intellectual ability, but it also helps preserve and build one's relationship with G-d. As a proud representative of Baltimore County's District 42, Aumann promised to push and protect the BOOST program because of these benefits.

We then joined hundreds of students like us rallying to support the thousands of under-privileged students with the academic standards and religious beliefs that need to be addressed in a private school setting. Governor Hogan, a passionate supporter of the BOOST Program, led the rally along with several other educators, including Rabbi Ariel Sadwin, to raise awareness of this program in Congress.

Not only did we have the opportunity to represent our school and the Jewish community of Baltimore, but we also received an unforgettable academic experience at Non-Public School Advocacy Day in Annapolis. We had the chance to watch from the balconies sessions from both the Senate and the House of Delegates. We listened to a member of the Senate Environmental Committee as he told us about the responsibilities of committee members. Bais Yaakov students were even able to meet our State Senator Bobby Zirkin (D).



Finally, we experienced a live Senate committee meeting with our State Delegate Nathaniel Oaks (D), who so willingly and enthusiastically described to us all that was going on.

All in all, the trip to Annapolis to represent our school and advocate for the BOOST Program was a huge honor. Our wish is that, one day, the BOOST program will benefit every family in need.

Deedee Gerstman and Esti Kramer are 10th graders at Bais Yaakov of Baltimore.

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