

BILL: House Bill 1040
TITLE: Education – Student Report Cards – Required Information
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: March 11, 2016
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state’s twenty-four local boards of education, opposes House Bill 1040, and the proposal to establish a school grading system based on the results of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments.

Local boards support maintaining the student report card as a record of individual student performance and accomplishment; not as a historical record of funding levels and school rank.

MABE supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and assessments, in conjunction with the State Board of Education, as these entities are charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate curriculum and assessments, and are ultimately accountable for student performance. MABE opposes House Bill 1040 because it would inappropriately legislate on matters within the purview of the State Board and local boards of education.

In Maryland, the General Assembly created the State Board and local boards of education and expressly delegated to these bodies the responsibility for developing curriculum and student assessments. With the exception of federally mandated assessments under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), student assessments in Maryland are governed largely by regulations adopted by the State Board, and local policies and practices adopted by local school systems.

School systems are fully engaged in the thoughtful consideration of the role of both formative and summative assessments in educating students; measuring what students know and informing appropriate instruction to benefit individual students. The continued coordination of efforts to implement assessment policies and programs by educational professionals within MSDE and local school systems is essential to the continuous improvement of public education in Maryland, toward the goal of each student achieving their highest potential as a learner.

Again, MABE urges the legislature to reject House Bill 1040 and the proposal to require that funding and school ranking information appear on individual student report cards.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1040.