

**BILL:** House Bill 464  
**TITLE:** Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Schools Act of 2016  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**DATE:** February 25, 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, supports House Bill 464.

MABE supports this initiative proposed by Governor Hogan to establish State-funded Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Schools, which will provide a course of study leading to a high school degree and an associate's degree or approved certificate. MABE believes this program will create meaningful opportunities for a significant number of students.

P-TECH schools are intended to provide an innovative academic and professional development approach to instruction and preparation for success in careers. The program is founded on voluntary and collaborative partnerships between local school systems, community colleges, and companies committed to the futures of qualified graduates.

Following completion of a six year program, students graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree from an accredited community college. Graduates of the P-TECH schools and programs will have earned these credentials coupled with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed at the next levels of education and employment.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 464.