

BILL: Senate Bill 319
TITLE: Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Schools
Act of 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: February 8, 2017
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs 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 Senate Bill 319.

MABE supports this bill to advance the Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Schools program proposed by Governor Hogan in 2016. These innovative State-funded schools are designed to 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 career 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, and employment, 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 Senate Bill 319.