

ELECTED, APPOINTED & HYBRID BOARDS OF EDUCATION

MABE POSITIONS

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education, representing all local boards of education in Maryland:

- **Takes no position** on whether boards of education should be elected or appointed. There is no research-based evidence that either elected boards or appointed boards are more effective or accountable.
- ✘ **Opposes** bills granting board appointment authority to local county government officials. Local boards of education are entities of the State, not the county government. Because local boards are fiscally dependent on local governments, it is crucial that local boards remain an independent voice for children and their public education needs and that a “check-and-balance” relationship continues between local boards and their respective local governments.

BACKGROUND

Of Maryland’s 24 local boards of education, seventeen are comprised entirely of locally elected members; three are appointed by the Governor; the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, historically appointed jointly by the Governor and Mayor, is now appointed solely by the Mayor; and four are hybrid boards comprised of both appointed and elected members.

The following seventeen boards are elected:

Allegany County	Kent County
Calvert County	Montgomery County
Carroll County	Queen Anne’s County
Cecil County	St. Mary’s County
Charles County	Somerset County
Dorchester County	Talbot County
Frederick County	Washington County
Garrett County	Worcester County
Howard County	

The following three boards are appointed:

Anne Arundel County ¹
Baltimore City ²
Wicomico County ³

The following four boards are hybrid boards comprised of both elected and appointed members

Baltimore County ⁴	Harford County ⁶
Caroline County ⁵	Prince George’s County ⁷

¹ The Anne Arundel County Board is currently appointed, but will become an elected board effective in the 2018 election (HB 716, 2017).

² The Baltimore City Board is appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore (HB 562, 2017); and effective in the 2022 election, the Board will become a hybrid board with two additional members elected from the City at large (HB 558, 2016).

³ The Wicomico County Board is currently appointed, but was modified in 2016 by referendum to become an elected board, with five members elected by district and two members elected at-large, effective in the 2018 election (SB 145, 2016).

⁴ The Baltimore County Board began the transition in 2015 to a hybrid board comprised of 4 appointed members and 7 members elected by district, effective in the 2018 election (SB 290, 2014).

⁵ The Caroline County Board began the transition in 2011 to a board comprised of 2 appointed and 3 elected members (SB 964, 2009).

⁶ The Harford County Board began the transition in 2010 to a hybrid board comprised of 3 appointed and 6 elected members (SB 629/HB 639, 2009).

⁷ The Prince George’s County Board was modified in 2013 to add 4 appointed members to its 9 elected members; 3 members are appointed by the County Executive and 1 by the County Council (HB 1107, 2013).