

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 initial 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, eighteen are comprised entirely of locally elected members; Anne Arundel County is transitioning from an all-appointed to all-elected board; the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is appointed by the Mayor; and four are hybrid boards are comprised of both appointed and elected members.

The following nineteen boards are elected:

Allegany County	Kent County
Anne Arundel County ¹	Montgomery County
Calvert County	Queen Anne’s County
Carroll County	St. Mary’s County
Cecil County	Somerset County
Charles County	Talbot County
Dorchester County	Washington County
Frederick County	Wicomico County
Garrett County	Worcester County
Howard County	

The following board is appointed:

Baltimore City ²

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

Baltimore County ³	Harford County ⁵
Caroline County ⁴	Prince George’s County ⁶

¹ The Anne Arundel County Board began the transition in 2018 to an elected board, with staggered terms through 2024 when all members stand for 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 at large (HB 558, 2016).

³ 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).

⁴ The Caroline County Board began the transition in 2011 to a hybrid board comprised of 2 appointed and 3 elected members (SB 964, 2009).

⁵ 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).

⁶ 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).