

**BILL:** Senate Bill 167  
**TITLE:** Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH)  
Expansion Act of 2019  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**DATE:** February 20, 2019  
**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 167.

This bill would allow the award of new P-TECH planning grants and the establishment of new P-TECH schools prior to the 2023-2024 school year. Also, the bill would allow the award of more than one P-TECH planning grant per local school system per year by repealing the limit in current law.

P-TECH schools are intended to provide an innovative academic and professional development approach to instruction and preparation for success in careers. 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. 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. Therefore, MABE supports this bill to advance the Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Schools program proposed by Governor Hogan in 2016.

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. MABE believes this program is creating meaningful career opportunities for a significant number of students.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 167.