

FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING & POLICY

MABE POSITIONS

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

- ✓ **Supports** federal education stabilization funding to prevent and prohibit reductions in state and local funding in response to reductions in revenue caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.
- ✓ **Supports** increased federal funding to states and local school systems to support the costs of implementing federally mandated programs and services.
- ✓ **Supports** a prominent role for MABE and local boards in engaging Maryland's federal delegation in developing federal funding, legislation, and policies.
- ✗ **Opposes** unfunded federal mandates; and federal guidance, policies, regulations, or laws proposed to establish reporting requirements, performance standards, assessments, sanctions, or other conditions which do not adequately respect the governance role of local boards of education.

BACKGROUND

The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015 represented a comprehensive revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which since 2001 was known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Unlike the controversial NCLB, ESSA reduced or eliminated many federal requirements, including punitive measures, while increasing the ability of States and school systems to define how school boards and individual schools are held accountable for student achievement. Maryland's Protect Our Schools Act of 2017 now governs the State's student performance accountability system.

The COVID-19 pandemic became the overriding focus of federal appropriations and policy-making in 2020 and MABE engaged in extensive outreach and advocacy with Maryland's congressional delegation and U.S. Department of Education. MABE urged Maryland's members of congress to provide sufficient federal funding to guarantee overall school funding stability for Maryland's 24 school systems, provide limited flexibility in providing special education services during school closures, and increased funding and flexibility for the E-Rate program and regulatory changes targeted to expand access to high speed internet to achieve equity in connectivity and digital and distance learning.

Unfortunately, the substantial amounts of federal funding provided in response to COVID-19 have not included the sufficient aid for states and local governments or education stabilization funds. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act became law on May 27, 2020 and provided more than \$2 trillion in response to the public health and economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, within the CARES Act the Education Stabilization Fund provided only \$30 billion in education funding for elementary and secondary education. MABE continues to seek federal funding commensurate with the needs of Maryland and other States to sustain levels of education funding in the coming fiscal years.

In response to what was eventually determined in federal court to be an illegal rule, MABE requested that our federal delegation and State Superintendent oppose the federal rule proposed by Education Secretary DeVos to force public school systems to provide an inequitable per pupil amount of CARES Act funding to nonpublic schools, regardless of their students' income. Had this rule taken effect, the amount of funding for public school students would have been severely reduced.

MABE will continue to advocate for federal legislation, regulations, and appropriations to support sound implementation of ESSA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Perkins Career & Technical Education Act, school-based Medicaid reimbursable services, and full funding and improvements in other federal programs.

For additional information, see [MABE's Resolution on ESEA](#).