

BILL: Senate Bill 127
TITLE: Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student FAFSA Data - Reporting Requirement
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: January 24, 2023
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and Environment
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 127 as consistent with building on the legislation enacted in 2021 promote the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the U.S. Department of Education or the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) by as many students as possible before graduating from high school.

MABE greatly appreciates this bill's repeal of the school system reporting requirements in place since 2021, and the shift to utilizing the services of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center to gather and report the data already collected by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

MABE's legislative platform reflects the association's adoption of an equity core value, equity resolution, and equity lens. For MABE, educational equity in Maryland means providing access to essential academic, social, emotional, and economic supports in order to engage each student in rigorous well-rounded instruction toward them achieving their highest potential as learners and citizens. MABE has pledged to reflect the core value of equity in the decision-making processes of the association including the priorities and positions of the legislative committee.

In this context, MABE agrees that the State and local school systems should make a concerted effort, to have as many students and families as possible complete financial aid forms, and thereby become fully informed of the available financial aid offerings to continue their education. MABE is a leading proponent of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act and comprehensive funding and policy reforms to promote college and career readiness for each student. This means instilling this mission in students and teachers beginning in elementary school and ensuring that all high schools are promoting high expectations for all students to prepare them for successfully continuing their education in college and career training and certification programs.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 127.