

Dear Members of the Educational Community and Members of the General Assembly,

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) has been closely following **House Bill 119, County Boards of Education – Curriculum Guides and Course of Study – Requirements**, as it has been considered by the Maryland House of Delegates and will be considered by the Maryland State Senate. While we appreciate the interest and support in authorizing additional authority over curriculum throughout the State, the State Board opposes House Bill 119 because we believe it is unnecessary.

The State Board does not believe that the additional authority proposed in House Bill 119 is needed considering the broad visitatorial authority entrusted to the State Board regarding educational policies of the State and the State Superintendent’s authority to carry out those policies.

The State Superintendent of Schools, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the State Board have established processes and relationships for the development and adoption of regulations, curricular frameworks and guidelines with our local education agencies and stakeholders in the State. This bill, as it stands, would potentially result in the unintended consequence of upending the longstanding collaborative relationship between MSDE, local education agencies, and stakeholders. It may also interfere with efforts to implement the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

The State Board remains laser focused on working towards successful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and our Strategic Plan to deliver dramatic transformative change to Maryland’s educational system and improve educational opportunities and outcomes for all of Maryland’s nearly 900,000 students.

Educational transformation is a people process that requires maximum collaboration and cooperation among the key stakeholders in order to be successful. The State Board remains committed to working with all partners, including our local school leaders, the Accountability and Implementation Board, the Governor, the General Assembly, advocates, parents, and stakeholders to carry out necessary transformational changes to our State’s educational system.

If there is a need to revisit this issue, we will fully vet the proposal among our key stakeholders before seeking additional legislative authority.

Sincerely,



Clarence C. Crawford
President, Maryland State Board of Education