MABE

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

MABE Services & 2024 Legislative Positions & Priorities

Presented to the
Maryland State Board of Education
January 23, 2024

MABE's Mission, Vision & Goals

Mission

- The mission of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is to provide members with a strong collective voice, and to support local school board governance through professional development, advocacy and member services.

Advocacy Goal

- We serve our members by being advocates for public schools, for local control of education, and for the leadership and legal authority of school boards.

MABE Programs & Services

- **Professional Development** – MABE provides the skills and knowledge required for our members to become effective leaders.
- **Advocacy** – MABE represents all 24 local boards on legislative and regulatory matters before the General Assembly, State Board, and federal government.
- **Legal and Policy Services** – MABE provides legal assistance, including amicus briefs, and policy training and alerts.
- **Insurance Programs** – MABE manages three member owned Property/Casualty, Workers' Compensation, and Health Insurance self-insurance programs.

MABE Innovative Programs & Services

MABE-MACo Time to Care Act Collaborative

- In response to the new law, in 2023 MABE initiated this collaborative to leverage purchasing power so that school systems and local governments could save costs in administering the new law's 12 weeks of paid time off for employee and family needs.

MABE Health Center Program

- This program, through Everside Health, is cost-efficiently providing comprehensive primary care services to local school system employees and their dependents in their communities.

MABE's Advocacy Centers

MABE's Annapolis Advocacy Center

- Legislative Committee, Bill Testimony, Bill Tracking Report & Hearing Schedule, Calls to Action

MABE's State Board Advocacy Center

- Correspondence, Testimony, The MABE Monitor

MABE's Federal Advocacy Center

- Weekly Congressional and Agency Updates

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State Board of Education Advocacy

- The State Board plays a major role in developing the state's educational policies, adopting state regulations, and issuing legal opinions.
- MABE places a high priority on maintaining a positive and productive relationship with the Maryland State Board of Education.
- MABE staff and members of the MABE Board of Directors regularly attend the monthly meetings of the State Board, and MABE is engaged throughout the year in informing the State Board of the association's positions on priority issues.
- *The Monitor* is the newsletter penned by MABE staff to provide all boards with a comprehensive summary of each State Board meeting.

MABE's Legislative Positions in 2024

- Local Board Governance
- State Education Funding
- School Facilities Funding
- Local Funding Security
- Curriculum & Assessments
- Student Health & Fitness
- Employee Relations
- School Safety
- Student Discipline
- Nonpublic School Funding
- And more

MABE's Legislative Priorities in 2024

- MABE supports continued governance autonomy for local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets; and opposition to unfunded mandates;
- Supports full State funding for the Blueprint and Maryland's outstanding public schools;
- Supports robust State funding for school construction and renovation projects; and
- Supports sustained and increased local government investments in education.

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Legislative Proposals to Improve the Blueprint

MABE supports legislation in the 2024 session to make alterations to state and local funding formulas for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, by:

- Adding an inflation adjustment to the minimum Maintenance of Effort (MOE) amount of local funding;
- Re-establishing the MOE "escalator" to require increased local funding in certain jurisdictions;
- Removing Foundation Program funding from the 75% school-based funding allocation requirement;
- Adding a population density-based adjustment to state funding for lowest populated counties; and
- Requiring state and local government cost-sharing for the salaries of local Blueprint Implementation Coordinators.

Ensure Local Funding for the Blueprint

Re-establish the Maintenance of Effort “escalator” to require increased local funding in certain jurisdictions.

- Amend the law to restore a successful approach in place between 2012 and 2023 to require jurisdictions to increase local funding based on their level of education spending relative to local wealth and in comparison to other jurisdictions.

Add an inflation adjustment to the minimum Maintenance of Effort amount of local funding.

- Amend the law to ensure that local funding is at least keeping pace with inflation, a requirement already in place for state funding.

Improve Systemwide Blueprint Budgeting

Remove Foundation Program funding from the 75% school-based funding allocation requirement.

- This amendment would allow flexibility for the foundation program (base amount of per pupil state funding) to be utilized on system-wide costs (utilities, health care, teacher retirement, transportation, maintenance, etc.).
- The amendment would ensure that 75% of all funding for high-needs students (special education, English Learner, and economically disadvantaged) continue to "follow the student" to the school.

Equitable Assistance for Rural Systems

Add a population density-based adjustment to state funding for Blueprint implementation in Maryland's most rural school systems.

- This amendment would provide targeted $250,000 funding allocations to school systems with very low population densities, including: Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, and Somerset County school systems.

Local Blueprint Coordinator Support

Require state and local government cost-sharing for the salaries and services of local Blueprint Implementation Coordinators.

- Amend the law to require combined state and local funding to provide annual allocations of $150,000 to fund the salary, benefits, and administrative supports for each of the 24 local Blueprint Implementation Coordinators.

Other Funding & Policy Issues in 2024

- Legislation to address the critical shortages of teachers and other school-based professionals.
- Actions to ensure adequate state revenues to support the full implementation of the Blueprint.
- Actions to sustain and increase investments in school safety programs and technologies.
- Efforts to support resiliency and energy efficiency in student transportation and school facilities.
- Efforts to enhance student and family access to community mental health services.
- Legislation to address the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education.

Other Funding & Policy Issues in 2024

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education

- MABE anticipates legislation governing the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address concerns about its use in educational settings, particularly relating to student data privacy, transparency, academic integrity, equity, bias, and ethical use.
- MABE has always supported strong protections of student data privacy and the role of the Student Data Privacy Council.
- MABE supports equitable access and high standards regarding the use of educational technology in the classroom and school setting.

January is School Board Recognition Month

Governor Wes Moore Names January 2024 "Maryland School Board Recognition Month"

- Earlier this month Governor Wes Moore released a Proclamation naming January 2024 "Maryland School Board Recognition Month."
- In his Proclamation recognizing local School Boards' "work to ensure a rigorous and world-class educational experience for every Maryland student," the Governor specified how greatly Maryland students benefit from School Boards "providing access to essential academic, social, emotional, and economic supports."

January is School Board Recognition Month

State Board President Clarence C. Crawford recognizes local board of education leadership.

- MABE thanks President Crawford for sharing with each of Maryland's 24 local school boards a Certificate of Appreciation for the boards' dedicated leadership of their local systems, schools, and students.

Thank You!

- Michelle Corkadel
  MABE President
  Anne Arundel County Board of Education

- Jennifer Swickard Mallo
  MABE Legislative Committee Chair
  Howard County Board of Education Chair

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MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-5414 800-841-8197
Fax: 410-841-6580

www.mabe.org