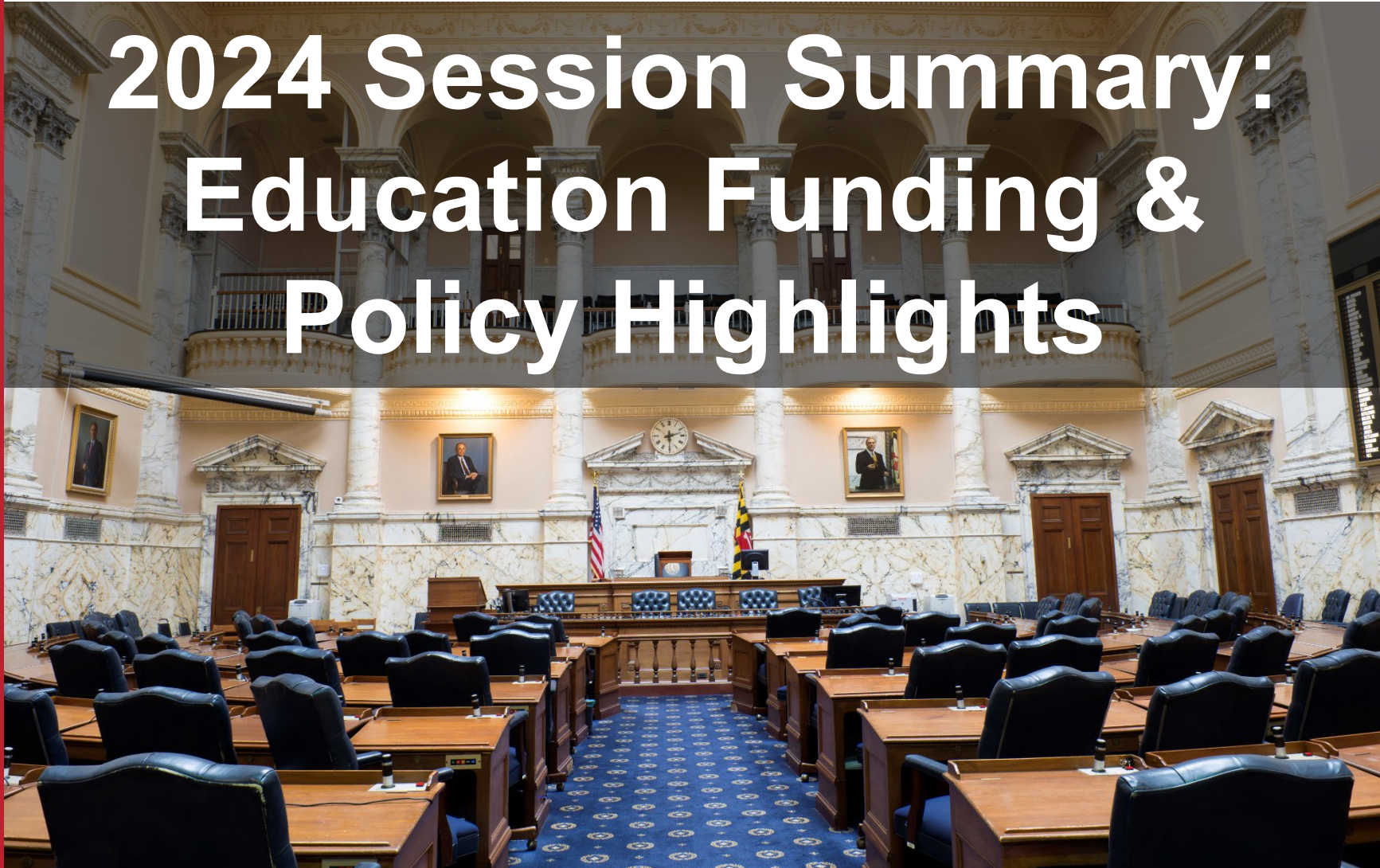




2024 Session Summary: Education Funding & Policy Highlights



Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- MABE Priorities
- Education Budget
- School Construction Budget
- Blueprint Revisions
 - PreK
 - Community Schools
 - Leadership Training
- Finance & Operations
- Employee Relations
- Student Health
- Food Services
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Special Education
- School Safety & Liability
- Juvenile Law
- Elections
- Local Bills
- *Failed Bills of Note*

MABE's Mission & Advocacy Goal

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.

2024 Session Overview

The 2024 legislative session saw the introduction of 1,535 House bills and 1,193 Senate bills, including the State operating and capital budget bills. MABE monitored more than 400 of these bills, with many becoming new laws with significant impacts on public education funding and policy.

- MABE's bill testimony on nearly 80 House bills and 60 Senate bills reflected MABE's Legislative Positions & Priorities, which include position statements on major policy areas.
- MABE legislative positions also reflect the association's Continuing Resolutions, which are updated and adopted by the full membership at MABE's annual conference.

MABE's Legislative Priorities in 2024

MABE's adopted legislative priorities for the 2024 legislative session:

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

Education in the State Budget

SB 360 - FY 2025 State Budget Bill

SB 362 - FY 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)

- Increases Funding for Public Schools: State support for public schools will total \$9.1 billion. Aid to local school systems will increase an estimated \$457.1 million, or 5.3%.
- Improves the Financial Condition of the Blueprint Fund: The budget erases the projected FY 2027 Blueprint Fund shortfall by increasing taxes on cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices and dedicating both the new revenues and a portion of existing tobacco tax revenues to the Blueprint Fund.
- Other actions improving the health of the Blueprint Fund include reducing FY 2025 spending and transferring \$40 million from the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund.
- Preserves Reserves: About \$2.4 billion in cash resources are preserved including \$2.3 billion in the Revenue Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) (9.4% of general fund revenues) and \$128 million in the General Fund.

Education in the State Budget

SB 360 - FY 2025 State Budget Bill

SB 362 - FY 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)

MABE advocated for the following provision of the BRFA, as introduced. It was removed in the Senate, reinstated in the House, and adopted by the Conference Committee.

School-based Behavioral Health Highlight:

For FY 2025 only, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund provided for Coordinated Community Supports (the Consortium) may include reimbursements for school-based behavioral health services (not to exceed \$12 million), and to reimburse the Medical Care Programs Administration for services provided on a fee-for-service basis through a Medicaid waiver.

- Conference Committee Summary Report

Education in the State Budget

Supplemental Budget Impacts on Education Funding (State *and* Local Share)

- Governor Moore's Supplemental Budget No. 2 includes several increases and decreases in State education aid, with impacts on not only the State but also local share of funding for certain categories of Blueprint funding.

Examples:

- State Share of Foundation: -\$862,640 (reduction)
- Compensatory Education: \$644,367
- Prekindergarten: \$9,440,174
- Students with Disabilities: -\$901,267 (reduction)
- CTE: \$4,326,467
- Concentration of Poverty: \$4,906,361

Link to Supplemental Budget No. 2 (March 26, 2024):

https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/OperBgt/Fiscal_2025/Supplemental_Budget_No_2.pdf

School Construction in the Capital Budget

SB 361 - FY 2025 Capital Budget Bill

Public School Construction Program Funding	FY 2025
Aging Schools Program	\$6.1 million
Health School Facility Fund	\$90 million
School Construction Program	\$314 million
Supplemental Grant Program	\$40 million
Total	\$450 million

Blueprint

HB 1082 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation – Funding and Independent Evaluation – Alterations

- Requires each county board of education to provide \$150,000 for the salary and benefits of the Blueprint implementation coordinator.
- The State and county governments must pay for coordinator salaries in the same proportion as the foundation program.
- Local boards of education receive \$3.6 million in additional annual State and local funding for local Blueprint coordinator salaries (\$1.84 million in State funding and \$1.76 million in local funding).
- The requirement to appoint an implementation coordinator for each county, which currently terminates after FY 2026, is extended indefinitely.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Blueprint

HB 1426 - Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Alterations

- Authorizes the State Board and the AIB to establish limits on courses taken by dually enrolled students.
- Expands eligibility for state payments of National Board Certification Payments (NBC) fees to include certain non-classroom teachers, including administrators, assistant principals, instructional specialists.
- Authorizes the State Board, rather than AIB, to determine criteria for classroom teaching time.
- In 2024 only, the administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment may be completed after October 10.
- Makes other deadline extensions and misc. provisions.

Prekindergarten

HB 902 - Prekindergarten - Ulysses Currie Head Start Program - Eligibility for State Funds

- Establishes that a provider in the Ulysses Currie Head Start Program is eligible to receive full State funds under the full-day prekindergarten program, even if the program receives federal funds.
- Providers may be exempted from including specified structural elements that are evidence-based and nationally recognized as important for ensuring program quality, in order to qualify for full-day prekindergarten funding.
- This bill will presumably impact both state and local shares of prekindergarten funding for additional Head Start students beginning in FY 2026.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Prekindergarten

HB 1441 - Early Childhood Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs - Alterations

- Makes numerous changes related to publicly funded prekindergarten programs, including adjusting staff credentials, altering slot allocations for providers, requiring agreements between local boards and relevant agencies, authorizing applications for State funding for leased space, introducing support initiatives, establishing a career ladder for private prekindergarten providers, establishing provider hubs, and extending funding timelines for grant programs.
- Highlight: Extends PreK Expansion Grant funding, at nearly \$20,000 per pupil, through FY 2030 to incentivize private participation.
- Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, private PreK slots “shall account for at least 10% of the total” by county; increasing by 10% per year until 2028-2029 (when private slots must account for 50%).
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Community Schools

HB 200/SB 161 – Community Schools - Alterations

- Alters requirements for community schools and community school coordinators, including:
- Requires MSDE (Comm. Schools Dir.) to create a common needs assessment and evaluation form.
- Requires coordinators to submit detailed annual reports to MSDE and the AIB on funding and strategies. State then publishes these reports and statewide report.

Note: The bill was amended to NOT provide school system flexibility on a portion of school-based funding.

Community Schools

HB 428/SB 370 - Community Schools - Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund – Establishment

- Establishes the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and related fund to provide rental assistance to eligible student households at community schools.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must administer the program in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- The Governor may include an appropriation of \$10 million in the annual budget bill for the program.
- Per MABE's request, the bill was amended to remove the mandated role of community school coordinators.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Community Schools

SB 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

- This Administration bill codifies the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) and establishes the ENOUGH Grant Program and Fund (\$15 million) to advance place-based strategies targeting child poverty.
- Grants must serve a community that includes census tracts with more than 20% of children living in poverty; and represent a partnership that includes at least one community-based organization, one public school, and one local governmental entity and has identified a lead partner and a fiscal agent.
- Grants are to increase community health and safety, job training and placement, access to high-quality education and health care, and leverage federal, local, and private funding.
- ENOUGH Program community needs assessments are to supplement and not conflict with the community school needs assessment.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.

Career & Technical Education

SB 33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024

- Requires public high schools, in the same manner in which the school informs students of postsecondary educational options (Naviance), to inform students of employment and skills training opportunities available through:
 - (1) apprenticeship sponsors registered with the division of workforce development and adult learning; (2) employers registered with the Maryland Dept. of Labor or local workforce development boards; and (3) schools licensed by MHEC that provide training, retraining, or enhancement in employment skills.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB 1492/SB 1042 - Education - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery - Student Information

- Alters the requirement that each public school that administers the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) select “Option 8” as the score reporting requirement to prohibit the general release of student information to military recruiters, and instead requires local school systems to notify students (and their parents or guardians) two weeks before administering the ASVAB of the option to withhold the release of a student’s personal information and ASVAB test scores to military recruiters.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Blueprint Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

- Consolidates and modifies the Blueprint law's required school leadership training programs, already required to be established by MSDE in conjunction with the AIB.
- Requires the State Superintendent of Schools, local superintendents of schools, and the chairs and vice-chairs of the State Board, AIB, and each local board to complete the training at least once.
- Encourages, to the extent practicable, training of all members of local boards, the State Board and AIB, principals, and senior leadership staff.
- Training is to be cohort-based to encourage collaboration and shared learning, provided through virtual sessions and in-person sessions, including through regional gatherings of education leaders and other meetings.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.
- Specific training topics are outlined on the following slides.

Blueprint Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

The school leadership training program shall include:

- a review of education in the United States relative to countries with top performing education systems and the implications of high performance for students, the economic security of the United States, and quality of life;
- a model for strategic thinking that will assist education leaders to transform districts and redesign schools under their leadership;
- overview of ethical leadership directly tied to the educational leaders' responsibility to drive equitable learning in their schools;
- lessons in transformational leadership;
- research-based model for coaching school leaders and instructional coaches;
- training to provide a working knowledge of research on how students learn and its implications;
- training to provide a deep understanding of standards-aligned instructional systems;

Blueprint Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

- a method for organizing schools to achieve high performance, including (1) building instructional leadership teams; (2) implementing career ladders for teachers; (3) overseeing teacher induction and mentoring systems; and (4) identifying recruiting and retaining high quality and diverse school leaders; and
- review of research regarding (1) the benefits to students from access to high-quality and diverse teachers; (2) methods to attract highly qualified teachers from diverse backgrounds who reflect the demographics of the students they teach; and (3) best practices for teacher retention, including retention of teachers from diverse backgrounds.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 291/SB 170 - County Boards of Education - Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic Posting of Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements

- Requires county boards of education to electronically post hearing information pertaining to the selection of a school site on the local school system website, in addition to in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.
- Repeals a physical posting requirement and specifies county boards of education can post notice on local school system websites to fulfill the notice requirements for bids on school buildings, improvements, supplies, or equipment above a certain value.
- Makes a technical change to specify that reporting requirements apply to items valued at more than \$100,000.
- Updates public notification requirements by specifying eMaryland Marketplace, instead of Maryland Contract Weekly, as an authorized publication.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 571/SB 485 - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications

- Modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program by altering key administrative deadlines, definitions, and components of the program's administration.
- The program start dates are delayed by nine months to July 1, 2025, for required contributions and six months to July 1, 2026, for benefit payments.
- The bill also authorizes the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to adopt regulations that establish application and renewal fees for private employer plans.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 760 - Office of Legislative Audits - Local School Systems - Report

- Requires each local school system to submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee on the status of the implementation of corrective actions to address repeat findings and recommendations identified by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) in the most recent six-year audit.
- This report is due by November 1 of the third year of a six-year audit cycle. Each local school system must publish the report on its website with any cybersecurity findings redacted in a manner consistent with auditing best practices.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 1115/SB 1026 - County Boards of Education – Budgets – Notice (Transparency in Education Spending Act)

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a process for the uniform reporting of information in a county board of education budget to timely share the information provided by a county board of education in that budget to a county governing body.
- County boards must prepare their annual budget to include as major categories (1) specified current funds held in reserve; (2) the amount of any federal funds received in the last fiscal year; and (3) the amount of funds held in trust or otherwise dedicated toward long-term obligations for retiree health care costs or other postemployment benefits, and information used to calculate the county board's obligation for those costs.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Note: The bill does NOT modify the law regarding fund transfers.

School Facilities

HB 1390 - Public Schools - Public School Construction - Funding and Administration

- Repeals the scheduled termination of the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) on June 30, 2026;
- Reduces the mandated appropriation for the Nancy K. Kopp Public School Facilities Priority Fund (PSFPF) by \$10 million annually beginning in fiscal 2027;
- Alters the purpose of PSFPF only for fiscal 2027;
- Requires the State to begin making payments to Prince George's County for a public-private partnership (P3) in fiscal 2025 (instead of fiscal 2026); and
- Clarifies legislative intent regarding \$450 million annual CIP funding levels for school construction is in addition to Built to Learn funding.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.

Note: the bill does NOT repeal the sunset for the \$6 million Aging Schools Program in FY 2026.

Employee Relations

HB 137 - Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention

- Establishes that a member of the administrative, educational, or support staff of any public, private, or parochial school acting in an official capacity is immune from civil liability for any personal injury or property damage resulting from an intervention in an altercation between students or other student disturbance if: (1) the member intervened in a reasonably prudent manner and (2) the member's actions do not constitute grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally tortious conduct.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

Employee Relations

HB 144/SB 232 - Public Employee Relations Act – Alterations

- This departmental bill alters provisions of the Public Employee Relations Act (PERA) by defining the term “interested employee organization” as an employee organization already representing employees in a bargaining unit or a petitioner who has met the showing of interest requirement under current law.
- The bill alters the timing of exclusive representative access to new employees under PERA. Additionally, the bill clarifies responsibilities of specified deputy directors and the process for investigations under PERA.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Employee Relations

HB 945/SB 771 - Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Requirements

- Repeals the graduation requirement, set to take effect in 2025, that graduates of teacher preparation programs must also pass a nationally-recognized portfolio-based assessment (§ 6–121); .
- Modifies initial teacher certification requirements to require a candidate to:
 - Pass the subject-specific examinations under current law (§ 6–125); and
 - Meet one of the following qualifications: (1) pass a nationally recognized, portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability (current law); or (2) complete a rigorous local school system teacher induction program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.
- Details on the local induction programs are described on the following slide.

Employee Relations

HB 945/SB 771 - Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Requirements

- A rigorous local school system teacher induction program must last for the lesser of 3 years or the amount of time a teacher may hold a conditional teacher certificate, and teachers must:
 1. pass a basic literacy skills assessment approved by the department;
 2. hold a degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and have earned a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on the most recently earned degree; or
 3. submit documentation satisfactory to the department of satisfactory having received effective evaluations from a local school system.
- Plans for local induction programs must be submitted to MSDE and AIB.

Employee Relations

HB 1157/SB 937 - Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program - Established

- Establishes the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program to provide support to eligible provisional teachers and noncertified education support professionals interested in teaching who pledge to fulfill a service obligation.
- Provides grants to local school systems in collaboratives for certain teacher candidates' expenses and program administration costs.
- Collaboratives (consisting of local school systems, employee organizations representing those employees, and approved teacher preparation programs) may apply for grants by submitting plans to MSDE.
- The Governor may include in the annual budget bill an appropriation for the program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Employee Relations

HB 1386 - Education - School Employee Antibias Training - Requirements

- Requires MSDE, in consultation with the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB), to develop guidelines for an antibias training program for school employees.
- Requires each county board of education to provide anti-bias training every other year to all employees whose job duties include frequent interaction with students.
- Requires training to be job-embedded, paid professional development provided during non-teaching time.
- To the extent practicable, training is to be offered in a peer-to-peer setting; take a half day or less, and incorporate lessons from local incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Higher Education

HB 75/SB 377 - Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program - Alterations

- Expands eligibility for Teacher Development and Retention Program educator stipends (a program to provide both initial stipends and internship stipends) to include students attending a Maryland community college.
- Extends the initial stipend and internship stipend programs to 2030.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Background:

- The Teacher Development and Retention Program is a pilot program designed to incentivize a cohort of students to pursue a career in the teaching profession. The purpose of the Program is to provide support to eligible individuals who ultimately pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a high-needs school, grade level, or content area in the State in which there is a shortage of teachers, as identified by the Department.

Higher Education

HB 545/SB 441 - Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award - Public School Nurses

- This bill expands eligibility for the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award to include public school nurses with two years of experience who provide health services in a public school and are employed by a local school system or local health department (LHD) to provide health services through an agreement with a local board of education.
- The bill also expands the requirements of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to publicize the program to include doing so to eligible public school nurses in an effort to recruit and retain nurses working in public schools in the State.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 86/SB 180 - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies

- This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with local boards of education, to establish a policy for public schools to authorize the school nurse and designated school personnel to administer a bronchodilator to a student who is determined (by an individual with specified training) to be, or is perceived to be, experiencing asthma-related symptoms or is perceived to be in respiratory distress.
- A bronchodilator may be administered to such a student regardless of whether the student has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease or has been prescribed a bronchodilator by a licensed health care practitioner.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 204/SB 165 - Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training

- Requires each public school in the State that offers an athletic program and each public institution of higher education that offers an athletic program to provide specified mental health training to each participating coach.
- Requires MSDE, MDH, each local board of education, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) to develop guidelines for public schools to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students (including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse).
- MHEC must work with MDH to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 522 - Public Schools - Student Telehealth Appointments - Policy and Access

- Requires MSDE and MDH to jointly to adopt State guidelines by Dec. 31, 2024 for school health services regarding student access to telehealth appointments during the school day in public middle and high schools.
- Requires each local board of education to establish a policy before the start of the 2025-2026 school year to accommodate students who need to participate in telehealth appointments scheduled during the school day.
- On request, MSDE must provide technical assistance to local boards to establish telehealth policies.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 1219 - Public and Nonpublic Middle and High Schools - Venue-Specific Emergency Action Plans for Athletic Facilities (The Bailey Bullock Act)

- Requires each public middle and high school to include a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) as a component of its venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities.
- Requires all nonpublic middle and high schools receiving State funding to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities, including a CERP, identical to the emergency action plans required of public middle and high schools.
- For both public and nonpublic schools, the CERP must (1) identify the appropriate school personnel as the cardiac emergency response team to respond to incidents involving sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while at an athletic facility; (2) coordinate with first responders in the local emergency medical services (EMS) to integrate the plan into local emergency response protocols; (3) include specified evidence-based core elements recommended by an appropriate national organization; and (4) be annually reviewed and updated by each middle school and high school.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

SB 1099 - Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings

- Expands the purpose of the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program (AED program) to include an initiative to co-locate up to two doses of naloxone with each automated external defibrillator (AED) placed in a “public building,” including public high schools.
- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board must (1) develop and implement the initiative in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and (2) adopt regulations jointly with MDH. The initiative must be funded using available funds from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF).
- This bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

School Meals

HB 386/SB 425 - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Alterations (Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024)

- Authorizes elementary schools participating in the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program to serve breakfast in any broadly accessible part of the school, including from “Grab and Go” carts after the arrival of students to the school, provided that students are allowed to consume the meal in the classroom after the start of the school day.
- Requires approval from MSDE and the local board of education.
- Clarifies that secondary schools that serve breakfast, including from “Grab and Go” carts after the arrival of students to the school, must serve these breakfasts in any broadly accessible part of the school.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Meals

SB 579 - Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal Expansion Report

- Requires the MSDE to report to the General Assembly on the cost to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in public schools in the State by December 1, 2024.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2025.
- Note: Legislation to mandate state funding for universal free school breakfasts and lunches was estimated to cost in excess of \$90 million (SB 557, 2023).

HB 475 - Education - Open-Source Phonics Matching Grant Program - Establishment (Open-Source Phonics Matching Grant Program Act)

- Establishes the Open-Source Phonics Matching Grant Program within MSDE to provide matching funds to open-source phonics organizations to provide free, open-source phonics learning materials to be used by adults to tutor students in the State.
- MSDE must (1) distribute grants to open-source phonics organizations and (2) by December 1, 2025, and every other year thereafter, collect statistics and other information and report to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the program.
- For each fiscal year, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$150,000 to the program.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

HB 785/SB 738 - Freedom to Read Act

- This emergency bill establishes a State policy that local school systems operate school library media programs consistent with specified standards.
- Each local school system is required to develop and implement a policy and procedures to review objections to materials in the school library media program, subject to certain requirements.
- A county board of education is prohibited from taking retaliatory actions against certain school library media program personnel for performing their job duties consistent with the standards.
- The bill similarly establishes that it is the policy of the State that each library must operate in a manner consistent with the specified standards.
- Emergency bill taking effect upon the Governor's signature.

Driver Education & Field Trips

HB 1482 – Uninsured Driving Penalties - Funding for the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund, Driver Education, and Transportation to Field Trips

- Establishes the Driver Education in Public Schools Grant Program (\$2 million) to provide grants to public schools and nonprofit organizations to assist public schools in offering driver education courses to students. Likewise, the bill establishes the State-Aided Institutions Field Trip Grant Program (\$600,000) to assist public schools in transporting students to field trips at State-aided educational institutions.
- MSDE is to prioritize public schools at which at least 40% of the registered students are eligible for the federal free or reduced-price meals.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Special Education

HB 336/SB 592 - Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program, Individualized Family Service Plan, and 504 Plan Meetings

- Requires the State Treasurer to develop written informational materials about the Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE), which must be distributable electronically or by hand, and provide those materials to the State Board of Education and local boards of education for distribution to parents during individualized education program (IEP), individualized family service plan (IFSP), or 504 plan meetings as specified.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Special Education

HB 903/SB 797 - Education – Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program and Fund – Established

- Establishes the Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education (AAACSE) Program and Fund administered by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). The AAACSE Program directs resources and services to eligible students to provide access to legal, advocacy, and consultant services.
- Eligible students are those with a disability whose parent (1) has a household income not more than 150% of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) income guidelines and (2) made at least one attempt to resolve a disagreement with a public agency regarding the child's special education services or program.
- Beginning in FY 2026, the Governor must include \$1 million to the AAACSE Fund in the annual budget bill.
- Training for advocates and consultants to be developed in consultation with the MSDE, local school system special education directors, disability rights advocates, and representatives from the judiciary.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Special Education

HB 1076/SB 1091 - Education - Blind and Visually Impaired Students - Textbook Equity

- Requires, by January 1, 2025, local boards of education to require publishers that sell pupil edition textbooks to provide an electronic file of the textbook in a specified standard to the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) when the publisher provides the textbook.
- MSDE, NIMAC, and local boards must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to accomplish these purposes.
- Local boards must, by March 15 of each year, determine the instructional materials that will be used in the upcoming school year by students with individualized education programs (IEPs) and 504 plans under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- A local board must coordinate with the Instructional Resources Center (IRC) to provide the instructional materials in a specialized format to students who are blind or visually impaired, no later than the first day of classes of the upcoming school year.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

HB 416 - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements

- Prohibits active shooter drills or trainings in schools from including specified activities that may be traumatic for students or school personnel.
- Requires local school systems to (1) notify parents in advance of active shooter drills or trainings in schools; (2) provide mental health follow-up to students and school personnel after an active shooter drill or training; and (3) collect data on the effectiveness and psychological impact of the drills or trainings and report the data to the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) for further analysis.
- Requires MCSS to develop and distribute model content regarding the State's firearm storage laws, as specified.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

HB 472/SB 540 - Education - School Mapping Data Program **– Established**

- This bill creates the School Mapping Data Program in the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) to provide funds to local school systems to produce school mapping data for each public school in the county, including charter schools.
- The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) must adopt facility mapping standards for the uniform mapping of the physical attributes of public schools.
- The bill authorizes the School Safety Subcabinet to use funds in the Safe Schools Fund to make grants to local school systems under the program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

HB 1167 - Maryland Center for School Safety - Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program – Established

- Establishes the Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program in the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS).
- The purpose of the program is to provide grants to local school systems to improve emergency notification systems and communication between public elementary and secondary school personnel, a public safety answering point (PSAP), and a public safety agency during emergency events.
- Local school systems that apply for and receive grants must use the funds to improve emergency notification systems or enhance communications within the school and with public safety agencies.
- By September 1, 2026, MCSS must ensure that the program is operating and available to each local school board.
- The Governor may include an appropriation in the annual budget bill for the program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

SB 1077 - Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees

- Authorizes the Governor to provide \$15 million in fiscal 2026 and \$20 million in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter to the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems or law enforcement agencies to assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools.
- Expands the authorized uses of the grant funds to include school security employees.
- Requires the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), and the MSDE to jointly review the state of physical security in schools and the existing guidelines on school safety every two years.
- Local school systems must implement school security guidelines resulting from this review.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

HB 284/SB 122 - Education - Provision of Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline Telephone Number - Alteration

- This bill alters the name of the crisis hotline that must be provided by a local board of education to each student in grades 6 through 12 from the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- A local board of education is not required to reprint or reissue school handbooks or student identification cards in use on the effective date of the bill in order to comply with the bill.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

SB 452 - Courts - Prohibited Liability Agreements - Recreational Facilities

- Establishes that any provision in a contract or agreement relating to the use of a “recreational facility” that purports to limit the recreational facility’s liability or release the recreational facility from, or indemnify or hold harmless the recreational facility against, liability for injury caused by or resulting from the negligence or other wrongful act of the recreational facility (or its agents or on-duty employees) is against public policy and is void and unenforceable.
- Defines a “recreational facility” as a commercial recreational facility, a commercial athletic facility, or an amusement attraction.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- The bill generally prohibits a registered juvenile sex offender from entering onto public or private school property just as adult registrants.
- This bill makes numerous changes to the juvenile justice process in the State, including (1) altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; (2) altering procedures relating to juvenile intake, complaints, detention, and probation; (3) repealing provisions relating to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services; (4) altering provisions relating to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices; and (5) altering reporting requirements for the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU), the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP), and the Department of Juvenile Service (DJS).

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- Under current law, with specified exceptions, a sex offender registrant is generally prohibited from knowingly entering onto real property that is used for public or nonpublic elementary or secondary education or on which is located certain child care homes or a licensed child care institution, as specified by law.
- The bill applies this prohibition to juvenile sex offender registrants. Under current law, a “juvenile registrant” means a person who is required to be included in the registry of juvenile sex offenders that is maintained by DJS separately from the sex offender registry.
- However, the bill does not amend the section of law allowing a student who is a sex offender registrant from participating in or attending a specific program approved by a county board of education; (2) a Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents; or (3) a certain nonpublic educational program as specified by law.
- Under current law, a person must be included in the juvenile sex offender registry if (1) the person has been adjudicated delinquent for an act that, if committed by an adult, would constitute rape in the first degree, rape in the second degree, or sexual offense in the third degree and (2) the person was a minor who was at least 14 years at the time the delinquent act was committed.

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- The bill expands the juvenile court's jurisdiction to include a child who is at least age 10 and is alleged to have committed an act that would, if committed by an adult, be (1) a crime involving weapons under § 4-203 (wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun) or § 4-204 (use of a handgun or antique firearm in the commission of a crime) of the Criminal Law Article; (2) a crime involving firearms under § 5-133 (possession of a regulated firearm), § 5-134 (sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm), § 5-138 (sale, transfer, or disposal of a stolen regulated firearm), § 5-142 (removal or alteration of an identification mark or number on a firearm), § 5-203 (possession of a short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun), or § 5-703 (untraceable firearms/violating serial number requirements for firearms) of the Public Safety Article; (3) a crime involving animals under § 10-606 of the Criminal Law Article (aggravated cruelty to animals); (4) a sexual offense in the third degree under § 3-307 of the Criminal Law Article; and (5) theft of a motor vehicle under § 7-105 of the Criminal Law Article, if the child has previously been referred to an at-risk youth prevention and diversion program for specified violations.

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- The bill reduces from 25 days to 15 business days the number of days by which a DJS intake officer is required to make an inquiry to determine whether the juvenile court has jurisdiction and whether judicial action is in the best interests of the public or the child.
- The bill eliminates a statutory exception under which the DJS intake officer may not forward a complaint to the State Attorney.
- The bill expands the written reporting requirements for law enforcement officers taking a child into custody, including written reports on referrals to at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs, and in cases where no further action was taken.
- The bill extends the time limits on juvenile probation for misdemeanors and felonies.

Elections

SB 271 – Election Law - Revisions

- Requires the public official responsible for the use of a public building requested by a local board of elections for an early voting center to make the building available to the local board in accordance with existing provisions that (1) require a public building (including light, heat, and custodial and janitorial services) to be made available for a polling place without charge and (2) require that electioneering and campaign signs be allowed on the premises of the public building to a specified extent.
- The State Board of Elections must adopt regulations that establish an appeals process for a public official responsible for a public building requested for use by a local board of elections to contest the availability of the public building during the period of time the building would be used as an early voting center.
- The bill takes effect January 1, 2025.

Artificial Intelligence

SB 818 - Information Technology - Artificial Intelligence - Policies and Procedures (Artificial Intelligence Governance Act of 2024)

- Codifies the AI Subcabinet of the Governor's Executive Council; and requires the subcabinet to develop an AI roadmap by Dec. 1, 2024 and complete a report by Dec. 1, 2025 (*including recommendations on the responsible and productive use of AI in local school systems*).
- Expands the responsibilities of the Secretary of Information Technology and Department of Information Technology (DoIT) as they relate to the procurement and use of artificial intelligence (AI) by State agencies, including the establishment of AI policies and procedures.
- Requires public senior higher education institutions to establish policies and procedures related to the development, procurement, and use of AI.
- Requires units of State government to conduct data inventories, inventories of systems that use AI, and impact assessments of data systems that use AI.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Online Student Activity

HB 603/SB 571 - Consumer Protection - Online Products and Services - Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)

- This bill requires a “covered entity” that provides an online product reasonably likely to be accessed by children to complete a “data protection impact assessment” of the online product.
- The bill establishes numerous rules, procedures, and prohibitions related to the assessments.
- A covered entity that violates the bill’s requirements is subject to a civil penalty of up to (1) \$2,500 per affected child for each negligent violation and (2) \$7,500 per affected child for each intentional violation.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.
- [MABE Testimony](#)

Local Bills Passed

- HB 108 (SB 451) - Baltimore County Board of Education - Nonstudent Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarships – Alterations
- HB 151 - Charles County Board of Education - Vacancy Procedures - Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving
- HB 376 - Study on the Feasibility of Relocating the Prince George's County Public School System Headquarters PG 501-24
- HB 495 (SB 78) - Education - Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission - Publishing and Meetings Requirements
- HB 515 (SB 114) - Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public-Private Partnerships for Calvert County Public Schools
- HB 541 (SB 657) - Anne Arundel County - Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators – Established
- HB 761 - Montgomery County - School Bus Stops MC 6-24
- HB 821 (SB 654) - Prince George's County - Student Support - Specialist Networks and Success Action Plans (Student Supports and Success Act) PG 502-24

Local Bills Passed

- HB 971 (SB 851) - Washington County - Interscholastic Athletics - Student Eligibility Waiver and School Classification
- HB 995 (SB 852) - Washington County Board of Education - Members - Residency Requirement
- HB 1016 (SB1152) - Frederick County - School Construction Master Plan Workgroup
- HB 1409 - Dorchester County - Definition of Public School Employee – Alteration
- HB 1440 (SB1132) - Howard County Public Schools - Differences in Capital Budget Proposals - Report Ho. Co. 16-24
- HB 1450 (SB1186) - Howard County Task Force to Study Revenue Options for School Capital Needs Ho. Co. 18-24
- SB 191 - Prince George's County - Property Tax Credit - Public School Employees PG 503-24

Failed Bill - Highlights

HB 558 - Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework - Established

- This bill would have required the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), to develop a comprehensive health education framework that includes, at a minimum, specified topics.
- Each local board of education must create an age-appropriate curriculum that is consistent with the comprehensive health education framework as specified.
- Each local board of education must establish policies, guidelines, and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt their student out of the family life and human sexuality topic.

Failed Bill - Highlights

SB 1058 - Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

- This bill would have (1) established new statutory requirements and timelines for the development of curriculum and content standards in all subject areas by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE); (2) by January 1, 2025, require MSDE to review, revise, and adopt new social studies curriculum standards to include antihate education, as specified; (3) require each local board of education to establish curriculum guides and courses of study aligned with the content standards develop by MSDE; and (4) authorize the State Superintendent to withhold State funds from a local school system if the local board of education fails to establish curriculum resources and courses of study aligned with the content standard and curriculum standards developed by MSDE.

Failed Bill - Highlights

SB 892 - School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment

- This bill would have created the Public Charter School Facility Fund, administered by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), to provide funding to public charter schools for eligible expenses associated with public charter school facilities.
- The Governor would have been authorized to include an annual appropriation in the budget bill of up to \$2,000 per student enrolled in a public charter school.

Failed Bill - Highlights

HB 1175 - Education – Public School Employers and Employees – Subcontracting for Services

- This bill would have prohibited a public school employer from entering into a subcontracting agreement that replaces or supplements any work performed by bargaining unit employees or following the expiration of an existing collective bargaining agreement, except under specified circumstances.
- Public school employee or exclusive representative affected by a violation of a local school system following the process could file an unfair labor practice with the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) and may be entitled to a remedy that may include reinstatement, back pay and benefits, tenure and seniority credit, attorney's fees, expert witness fees and related costs, and any other relief PERB deems appropriate.

Failed Bill - Highlights

HB 1237 - State Department of Education - Task Force to Study the Maryland Online Special Education System

- This bill would have established the Task Force to Study the Maryland Online Special Education System and provides for membership of the task force.
- MSDE must staff the task force, which must study the system that includes both the Maryland Online Individualized Education Program (MOIEP; IEP) and the Maryland Online Individualized Family Service Plan (MOIFSP; IFSP).
- The task force must study the effectiveness, functionality, and usability of the Maryland Online Special Education System; and determine the availability of other platforms.

Failed Bill - Highlights

HB 196 - Motor Vehicles - School Buses - Seat Belts

- This bill would have required every school bus purchased on or after July 1, 2027, and registered in the State to be equipped with three-point seat belts that are accessible to passengers for every seat on the school bus.
- Local school systems must provide student instruction on school bus safety and the proper use of seat belts on school buses, as part of an existing program of safety education.
- The failure of a school bus operator to ensure that an occupant of a school bus was wearing a seat belt may not be the basis of a civil action for damages against the school bus operator or a school, school district, or municipality.
- Statewide fiscal impact estimated to be \$4.9 million.

Failed Bill - Highlights

HB 909 - Education – Local Share of Major Education Aid – Nonrecurring Costs Exclusion

- This bill would have authorized a local board of education and a county governing body to agree, on or before June 1 of each year, to designate “certain spending” that is in excess of the local share of major education aid as nonrecurring costs that are supplemental to the regular school operating budget and, therefore, excluded from the highest local appropriation that is used to determine maintenance of effort (MOE) for the following year.

Failed Bill - Highlights

HB 1257 - Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan

- As first introduced, this bill would have established a 50-school restorative practices school program, including the requirement for hiring restorative practice coaches for each school.
- As amended, and passed in the House, the bill would have updated the requirements for the State's school discipline guidelines and regulations to include restorative practices (instead of approaches). The bill would have required MSDE to develop a comprehensive plan for the establishment of restorative practices schools.

Additional Resources

- [MABE's 2024 Session Advocacy Center](#)
 - MABE testimony on over 70 House bills and over 60 Senate bills
 - MABE Bill Report, including MABE's bill positions and status of over 400 bills
- [The 90 Day Report](#) – Comprehensive summary of the 2024 legislative session, including the operating and capital budgets. Department of Legislative Services (4/12/24)
- [General Assembly](#)
- [Department of Legislative Services](#)

John R. Woolums, Esq.
Director of Governmental Relations
Maryland Association of Boards of Education
621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401
O: (410) 841-5414
C: (410) 570-7365
jwoolums@mabe.org
www.mabe.org