
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 769
Education—High School Students—Graduation and
Attendance Credit for Vocational Training**

**House Ways and Means Committee
February 19, 2020
1:00 p.m.**

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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 769, which authorizes county boards of education to award credit and attendance toward meeting graduation requirements or postsecondary credentials to high school students who participate in work-based training and classroom instruction completed under registered apprenticeship programs. This legislation will make it easier for Maryland's high schoolers to engage in the types of work-based learning opportunities that will prepare them for post-secondary college and career opportunities.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA believes career and technical education (CTE) provides students with important skills and career opportunities so they can better compete in the Maryland economy. As such, we support efforts to adequately fund the expansion of these efforts—so that more students have access to these opportunities—and to enact programmatic and policy changes necessary for their successful implementation. By allowing high school students to receive credit for their time spent as apprentices and permitting these students to use their apprenticeships as a means of meeting some of their graduation requirements, we make it easier for students to explore CTE options and gain valuable hard and soft skills that can benefit them well into the future—be that in the pursuit of a college career or in pursuit of industry recognized certification. No matter their choice for a future path, we know that these students will be in a more solid position as they take their place in the state's economy, benefitting all Marylanders.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 769.