



**Maryland's Voice for
Nonpublic Education**

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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY MARCH 15, 2022

HOUSE BILL 1156 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION - EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

SUPPORT

Maryland CAPE is our state's chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of roughly 120,000 nonpublic school students attending nearly one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland.

Maryland CAPE advocates on behalf of providing the tools necessary for **all** children to succeed in life. Parents must choose for their children the setting and form of education that is most suitable for their growth. Regardless of whether that is in a public school or if they deem a nonpublic or religious school to be that environment, the ability for a parent to be empowered with these decisions is of remarkable importance.

Governments and school systems make significant investments for each and every student to enable them to receive the education they will need to be productive members of society. Allowing parents to share in that responsibility and partnership would be in everyone's best interests.

House Bill 1156 would provide this option for Maryland parents and students – especially those who are lower and middle income – by creating Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Currently, there are six states in the U.S. that operate ESAs. In each of the states, the rate of satisfaction among those who those who have participated in surveys has been unanimously positive. One key population that ESAs have successfully served and this bill would facilitate is its use to support the students with disabilities and special needs.

Beyond special needs, the many uses that the ESA program offers can truly provide a rich and productive educational experience that is worthy of consideration.

We hope you will issue a favorable report on HB 1156. Thank you!