



House Bill 1196

*County Boards of Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Implementation
Coordinator – Salary Grant*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 7, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1196. This bill would require the State, for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, to provide a grant to each county board of education to support the mandated Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation coordinator in each county.

All 24 local jurisdictions are deep into the implementation of the Blueprint and its many complex facets, many of which are very costly and pose immediate and long-term challenges for counties. This bill is a welcome step toward addressing the many fiscal components of the Blueprint.

As Maryland progresses in implementation, these coordinators, as envisioned by the law, will serve as the main point of contact between the local governments and the State on all matters regarding the Blueprint. Local Blueprint implementation coordinators are already proving critical for counties in liaising with the Department of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board.

The financial support of HB 1196 will provide critical help for counties – relieving them of the additional burden related to hiring and staffing implementation coordinators. Importantly, the bill would provide the necessary funding for all 24 jurisdictions to do so, at the same rate, for the entire implementation period legally requiring these positions, through FY 26. In doing so, HB 1196 creates full parity across all 24 localities and empowers each to hire the same high-caliber candidates to help guide their county through Maryland’s most consequential education reform in a generation.

Additionally, the passage of the bill would be a clear demonstration of the State’s willingness to partner and reasonably resource components of the Blueprint that would otherwise fall solely on the counties. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1196 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.