



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115 | www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education

March 28, 2023

Board Chair

Judy Mickens-Murray

Maryland General Assembly
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Board Vice Chair

Lolita E. Walker

11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

District 9

RE: House Bill 0119

Board Members

David Murray

Good afternoon, Senator Brian J. Feldman (Chair),

District 1

Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Judy Mickens-Murray and I serve as the Chairperson of the Prince George's County Board of Education. After careful consideration by the Board's Policy & Governance Committee, I would like to share the sentiments of the Board on several pending bills.

Jonathan Briggs

District 2

Pamela Boozer-Strother

District 3

Shayla Adams-Stafford

District 4

HB 0119

The Prince George's County Board of Education joins our colleagues in the Maryland Association of Boards of Education in opposition to HB 119. This bill would violate principles of 'home rule' by usurping local control over curriculum frameworks, standards and instructional materials. HB 119 would result in the takeover of any local discretion or even flexibility in the delivery of instruction in every subject. The bill would undermine the governing authority of Boards of Education and handcuff teachers, who are best able to determine instruction in the classroom.

Dr. Zipporah Miller

District 5

Branndon D. Jackson

District 6

Kenneth F. Harris II

District 7

Making matters worse, HB 119 grants the State Superintendent authority to determine if a local school district is following every detail of the state standards, and then allows the superintendent to withhold millions of dollars of state funding if a district is deemed not in compliance. A School Board would only be given 30 days to take any corrective action. Given our commitment to the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the Prince George's County Board of Education views this bill as unnecessary and disruptive.

Madeline LaSalle Frazier

District 8

Dr. Juanita Miller

Appointed Member

Curtis Valentine

Appointed Member

Walter L. Fields, MPA, MA

Appointed

I hope that you will support local decision-making in developing curriculum, assessments, grading policies and respect the professional judgement of local educators.

We ask that you oppose HB 119.

Student Member

Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Monica M. Goldson

Chief Executive Officer