

I want to write about the huge opportunity I have seen for this state legislature, our Maryland State Board of education and our Local boards of Education to help the parent and school system relationships which will ultimately benefit our students the most as, their parents get more involved in assisting in their education.

The facts have come with the release of the updated Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Data stats. While it seems like it is reported as a positive “that the statewide ELA results signal a return to Pre-pandemic proficiency rates with improvements across all grade levels and student groups”. I wonder how a low of 21% and a High 64% is acceptable? Basically our Highest grade is a D. As well as for our 10th graders 53% of all students taking the assessment were proficient. Shockley this is a 10% increase compared to 2018-2019. Meaning your reporting the fact that we went from a very low E to a higher E as acceptable and positive?

Since I already reported that Math was abyssal in my MD state Department education on 1-24-2023 and they are still trending that way I will not go into those stats. I will add that my testimony that was broadcasted on the MDSE website was cut out. I did follow up with an e-mail to the state board asking about this. I have yet to receive a response from anyone.

As I have witnessed many interpret this data differently with different solutions. I am here to provide some parents' perspective. We see this as for lack of a better term – “A huge area of needing improvement”. One solution many see is switching focus so much on requiring local BOE to implement This comprehensive Health framework. This Framework is pushing Gender Ideology, which is not agreed upon in any realm, on Kindergartners as well as talking about anal sex with 12 years old. After seeing these MCAP stats many parents are questioning why this Board went to the legislature to try and forced this into the curriculum by LAW especially when counties exerted their independence. Many are questioning what kind of Delegate would even introduce a Bill as such or even vote to pass the bill after seeing this DATA.

We feel this comprehensive health framework is taking away too much time, effort, and resources from creating a curriculum that is now needed more than ever in the State of Maryland, one that is solely academic focused without all these other things crowding and confusing our children's minds. I see Parents more focused now on making sure their children don't start suffering from Identity crisis then understanding simple ABC and 123. Instead of getting their children tutoring in these subjects they need help with they are seeking a therapist. I have personally seen hospitals overrun with children waiting for beds at mental

health facilities. I have seen children's manly young girls, restore to self-harming. I have seen parents on wait lists just to get their child a chance to speak to a therapist.

The Maryland education system is focusing so much on their differences which is increasing division and Bulling because adults feel they need to push inclusion. I certainly believe in acceptance and inclusion, but I do not believe in adults using the word inclusion to push their political movements to their benefits. Just to provide one example of a political agenda would be what is specifically in this bill - Gender Ideology teachings starting at Kindergarten.

Another example of this push of inclusion is Flags other than the American flags in classrooms. It is in many opinions that the American flag is all that is needed in schools. This Flag is all inclusive and represents all of us. We may not be the perfect society. There are always rotten apples in an apple tree but that one rotten apple does not make up the whole tree. I personally feel we are by far the most diverse Humane land of Freedom and opportunity. We should embrace that instead of tearing it apart.