



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of  
House Bill 1381: Education – Publicly Funded Prekindergarten – Payments to Private Providers and  
Building Use**

**Appropriations Committee**

**Position: Oppose**

March 12, 2024

Strong Schools Maryland actively advocates for the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which aims to establish a World-Class public school system for our state's students. With record-breaking investments in the education system, the State has shown dedication to ensuring that Maryland students excel on a global level. House Bill 1381 aims to alter Blueprint law, specifically the implementation of prekindergarten expansion, in a way that is fundamentally incompatible with this vision. **As a result, Strong Schools Maryland opposes House Bill 1381.**

House Bill 1381:

- Alters the definition of pre-K enrollment creating funding inequities by counting private prekindergarten students differently from public ones;
- Shifts burden to support eligible private pre-K providers completely to the State undermining the vision of the mixed delivery system and wealth equalized; and
- Poses physical risks to pre-K students as the proposed legislation limits the IAC's role in ensuring the safety of all preK classrooms.

As we continue to implement the Blueprint and implementation barriers arise, the General Assembly must allow the AIB and MSDE to work together to create, recommend, and implement solutions. In addition, the General Assembly must call out and shut down attempts like SB 1381, that aim to diminish the effectiveness of the Blueprint and, in the end, will negatively impact Maryland students.

In passing the Blueprint, the General Assembly committed students: to channel resources into five pillars to transform public education, through equitable practices, so that Maryland's student achievement would be competitive with not just every state in the country, but with the highest achieving countries in the world. House Bill 1381, however, poses a threat to the implementation of a successful mixed delivery system and the quality of pre-K spaces and education, hindering our efforts to establish a World-Class school accessible to all students.

**For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1381.**

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