



**Testimony to the House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees
In OPPOSITION to
House Bill 1432: Education - Prekindergarten and Withholding of County Board Funding
(Blueprint Accountability and Flexibility Act of 2024)**

March 6, 2024

The Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint coalition) is a statewide group of more than 50 organizations within and beyond the realm of education, all focused on ensuring the Blueprint is fully funded and implemented with fidelity. **The Blueprint Coalition stands in firm opposition to House Bill 1432: Education - Prekindergarten and Withholding of County Board Funding (Blueprint Accountability and Flexibility Act of 2024).**

HB1432 is fundamentally misaligned with the intent of the Blueprint and formulated to support local jurisdictions in resisting the changes they must make to adjust to the paradigm shift the Blueprint represents. The bill:

- Delays by three years, the implementation and funding timelines for including students and families in Tier 2 of the Blueprint's prekindergarten expansion model;
- Delays by three years, the Blueprint's requirement that private providers comprise 50% of the prekindergarten system; and
- Is primarily a cover to require the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) to punitively withhold a quarter of state aid funding from school systems that don't perform well on the standardized MCAP assessment or are found to have 'inappropriately spent' any amount of funding.

HB1432 ignores the intent of the Blueprint and would present severe obstacles to its stated goal of providing a World Class Education to every student in the state. For those reasons, the undersigned members of **the Blueprint Coalition urge an unfavorable report.**

Strong Schools Maryland
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)
Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST)

Maryland Coalition for Community Schools
Maryland State Education Association
League of Women Voters of Maryland