



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of
Senate Bill 1062: Education – Prekindergarten and Withholding of County Board Funding (Blueprint
Accountability and Flexibility Act of 2024)**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Oppose

March 6, 2024

Strong Schools Maryland actively advocates for the full funding and faithful implementation of The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future that 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. Senate Bill 1062 aims to alter Blueprint law and enforce financial punitive actions of school systems that are fundamentally incompatible with this vision. **As a result, Strong Schools Maryland opposes Senate Bill 1062.**

Senate Bill 1062:

- Alters the timeline for Blueprint implementation of pre-K expansion and hiring in a way that has not been recommended by the lead implementation agency, the Accountability and Implementation Board. These timeline alterations negatively and dramatically impact pre-K availability and access and the overall outcome goals of the Blueprint; and
- Creates irresponsible punitive mechanisms to withhold funds from school systems. Withholding of funds is an ineffective and backwards method to create positive student outcomes, instead higher funding leads to better test scores, better graduation rates, better student outcomes, etc.¹

As the Blueprint is Maryland’s living education code, it is important to acknowledge that there may be a need to make shifts in the law as we look forward and there is a high level of accountability and transparency needed on levels of Blueprint implementation. However, the General Assembly must call out and shut down misguided attempts, such as SB 1062, 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 made the commitment to 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. Senate Bill 1062, however, poses a real threat by diverting funds away from our public education system, hindering our efforts to establish a World-Class school accessible to all students.

For these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 1062.

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¹ [National Bureau of Economic Research](#)