

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*



JENNIFER AIOSA  
*Director of Government Affairs*

AMANDA KONTZ CARR  
*Legislative Officer*

WILLIAM J. THORNE  
*Legislative Associate*

**BILL NO.:**           **HB 1441**

**TITLE:**                Early Childhood Education – Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs – Alterations

**SPONSOR:**           Chairwoman Atterbear

**COMMITTEE:**       Education, Energy, and the Environment

**POSITION:**         **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                March 27, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1441 – Early Childhood Education – Publicly Funded Prekindergarten programs – Alterations. Modest alterations to teacher certification and flexibility for expanding Pre-Kindergarten will help counties meet their obligations under the State’s Blueprint.

Baltimore County supports Maryland’s Blueprint for Education and its goals to enhance educational spending and expand educational resources for children. We also believe that additional flexibility in meeting some of the requirements within the Blueprint would enable each local school system the ability to meet their needs in the most efficient way for that system. Providing modest flexibility in teacher certifications, as well as additional resources directed to training young teachers, will greatly help meet the demands of expanded prekindergarten.

With additional flexibility, counties can creatively utilize additional spaces for prekindergarten, allowing us to focus limited resources on hiring and training teachers, rather than building expensive capital projects.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1441 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).