FAVORABLE
House Bill 472
Education – School Mapping Data Program - Established

House Ways and Means Committee
February 7, 2024

Christian Gobel
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 472. House Bill 472 creates the School Mapping Data Program in the Maryland State Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide funds to county boards of education to develop school mapping data of each public school in their district that can assist public safety personnel with responding to emergencies at a public school.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA believes the development and use of school mapping data can greatly assist first responders with delivering critical life-saving assistance to students and public school employees in the event of any emergency including fire, medical, or physical threats. MSEA appreciates that the bill requires the development of the school mapping data be compatible with existing software platforms used by schools and public safety agencies, without requiring the purchase of additional software or requiring a fee to access the data. Additionally, the school mapping data produced must be verified for accuracy by a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds. MSEA believes these features of the bill will greatly support the efficacy and successful implementation of the program.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 472.