



**Board of Education  
of Howard County**

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**Board of Education of Howard County  
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,  
Ways and Means Committee  
March 26, 2025**

**SB0845: FAVORABLE**

**Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - Educator Identification  
Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - Educator Identification Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)** as amended by the Senate.

SB0845 as originally introduced required all Maryland school systems to become associate members of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) and use its Educator Identification Clearinghouse to screen all current and prospective educators, beginning July 1, 2025.

From [NASDTEC's frequently asked questions](#):

NASDTEC, through the clearinghouse, maintains a database of all disciplinary actions reported by NASDTEC members and disseminates this information to all participating NASDTEC jurisdictions. The goal of the clearinghouse is to provide each NASDTEC member state/jurisdiction with a notification of an action taken against the certificate/license of an educator by other member states/jurisdictions and in doing so, to protect the interests of children served by the professional education community within the United States and beyond.

Once an educator's misconduct case is final and the results made public, the prosecuting jurisdiction reports to the clearinghouse information on the adverse action taken against a license or certificate, including public reprimands and denials. The clearinghouse organizes the data and makes it accessible to NASDTEC members who can then compare the information to their current lists of licensed educators and applicants. In addition, the clearinghouse enables its members to maintain a comprehensive database, so every licensure applicant in a given jurisdiction can be checked against records in the clearinghouse. While the presence of a name in the database does not necessarily preclude an individual from successfully obtaining a license in a jurisdiction, it does provide the governing agency a safety net enabling officials to review the nature of the adverse action before issuing the certificate or license.

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is not currently a member of NASDTEC, however Human Resources staff have previously researched the benefits and limitations of the clearinghouse. For example, information is only accurate/available if the prosecuting jurisdiction reports the misconduct case to the NASDTEC clearinghouse. Because participation is voluntary, there is the possibility that even when consulting the NASDTEC clearinghouse, a case may not be included simply because it was never reported. The timing of when misconduct cases are reported also may be impactful. Meaning that a

teacher may apply and be hired within Maryland prior to the misconduct case even being completed and reported. Annual dues for an associate member is \$500.

Through the TEACH portal within the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) certification process teachers are periodically checked against the NASDTEC database. This is in addition to the HB486 check done for applicants who have direct contact with minors specific to prior work history and sexual misconduct, as well as the full human resources background check including fingerprints that is done prior to employment.

[SB0845 has been amended](#) to clarify the intended use by local school systems as well as mitigate the unfunded mandate the original bill presented. Initially, the bill removes specific reference to NASDTEC and more broadly describes a clearinghouse that MSDE must select and register each local school system with. MSDE would also be responsible for paying for applicable fees and dues associated with membership for the local school systems. The amendments further limit the scope of utilization of the clearinghouse to screen each individual who applies for an educator position within the local school system on or after July 1, 2025.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report on SB0845 as amended by the Senate from this Committee.