



Board Chairman
Brannon Jackson
District 6

February 24, 2026

Chair Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee

Board Vice Chair
Jonathan Briggs, M.Ed. MLS
District 2

House Bill 490 Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions

Position: Support with Amendment

Board Members
Dr. Tiffini Andorful
District 1

Contact: Dr. Phelton Moss, Chair, Policy and Governance Committee
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Pamela Boozer-Strother, MBA, CAE
District 3

Dear Chair Barnes and esteemed members of the Appropriations,

Aimee Olivo
District 4

Thank you for the work you all do on behalf of our students, educators, and staff across the state and in the Prince George's County Public Schools community. On behalf of the Prince George's County Board of Education, representing over 130,000 students, and thousands more in our school communities, we write in support of this legislation with two recommended amendments.

Robin Brown
District 5

While we generally support the intention and the majority of provisions in this legislation, which provide needed flexibility and address implementation challenges that have emerged during the Blueprint rollout. However, we respectfully request two critical amendments to ensure the bill's long-term effectiveness for our students.

Dr. Phelton C. Moss
District 7

First, we request that Section 5-222 be amended to make the CEP hold harmless provision permanent rather than sunseting in FY28. We strongly support extending this provision through FY27, which will have a favorable impact of approximately \$90 million statewide. However, the current proposal creates a significant funding cliff beginning in FY28 that would result in substantial revenue losses for PGCPs precisely when our FY27 budget cuts would be taking full effect. This provision is not a temporary accommodation but rather a necessary structural adjustment to ensure accurate compensatory education counts for districts with high CEP participation.

Zakya Goins-McCants
District 8

VACANT
District 9

Student Member
Erioluwa Ajakaye

Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Shawn Joseph
Superintendent

Second, we request that Section 5-223(9) be amended to make CPG flexibility for fine arts and enrichment programming a permanent allowable use rather than extending it only through FY27. As detailed in our testimony supporting the standalone HB352, these programs serve as proven accelerants of learning for our highest-need students. In our current fiscal environment, where we are managing a \$150 million budget gap while simultaneously accelerating student achievement, CPG funding flexibility is essential. If we are to move from "pockets of excellence" to "excellence everywhere" as the Blueprint envisions, we must retain strategic flexibility in deploying resources for comprehensive programming.



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We support the bill's other provisions, which align with our current practices and create no new financial implications for PGCPs. The CTE and post-CCR pathway clarifications (Section 7-205.1) reflect programs we are already implementing. The dual enrollment expansion through 2030 aligns with our practice of allowing students to take additional credits beyond the Blueprint minimum. We agree with expanding wraparound services to explicitly include academic interventions (Section 9.9-101.31,11). The teacher certification and career ladder modifications (Sections 21-209, 21-210, 21-211) provide reasonable flexibility without new costs. Finally, we support ending duplicative technology reporting requirements (Section 5-212(c)(3)).

These requested amendments must be understood within the context of PGCPs's unprecedented fiscal challenges. Despite managing a \$150 million budget gap, Interim Superintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph has demonstrated remarkable operational discipline, cutting teacher vacancies nearly in half, restoring \$20 million in attendance funding, and identifying \$76.8 million in reductions focused on non-instructional spending. The amendments we request are essential to ensuring that HB490 provides not just temporary relief but sustainable structural improvements that enable long-term strategic planning and continuous acceleration of student outcomes.

We respectfully request that the committee adopt these amendments and issue a favorable report on HB490 as amended. We remain available to work with the committee on specific amendment language.

Thank you,

Prince George's County Board of Education