

Support 728.pdf

Uploaded by: A.Kaye Kenney

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Support for SB728 – Community College Promise Scholarship Eligibility for Delmar High School Graduates

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 728, which would expand eligibility for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship to include Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School in Delmar, Delaware.

Students who live in Delmar, Maryland often attend Delmar High School due to the unique interstate structure of the Delmar community and its school system. While these students are Maryland residents, they currently face barriers to accessing certain state higher education benefits because their high school is located just across the state line in Delaware.

SB728 corrects this inequity by ensuring that Maryland residents who attend Delmar High School are treated the same as other Maryland students when applying for the Community College Promise Scholarship. These students and their families pay Maryland taxes, contribute to Maryland communities, and deserve equal access to the educational opportunities the state provides.

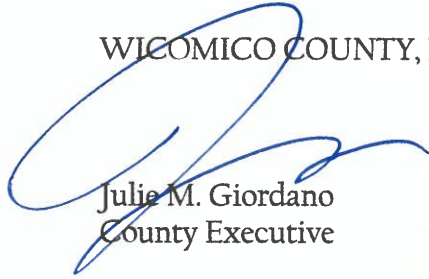
By expanding eligibility, this bill supports workforce development, increases access to affordable higher education, and helps Maryland residents continue their education at our community colleges.

I dutifully urge the committee to give SB728 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie M. Giordano', is written over the typed name and title.

Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

SB 728 Written Testimony from Wor-Wlc Community Co

Uploaded by: Deborah Casey

Position: FAV

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Deborah Casey, Ph.D.

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

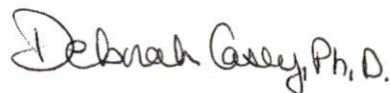
As the president of Wor-Wic Community College, I am committed to ensuring residents of Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties have access to high-quality education. For this reason, I strongly support Senate Bill 728-Community College Promise Scholarship Eligibility for Delmar High School graduates, which would make graduates of Delmar High School who reside in Delmar, Maryland, eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. This change will address an existing access gap for Wicomico County residents.

When the Wicomico County Economic Impact Scholarship (WEIS) was created in 2016, it recognized the unique bi-state nature of the Delmar School District by including Delmar High School graduates. However, when the statewide Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship was introduced in 2019, this nuance was overlooked, leaving residents of Delmar, Maryland, excluded. Senate Bill 728 accounts for this oversight and ensures these students have the same opportunity to benefit from the transformative power of education.

Beyond providing access, the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship is linked to stronger student success outcomes. Among Fall 2024 recipients, students enrolled in more credits per term and were more likely to maintain positive academic standing (satisfactory or dean's list) compared to peers who did not receive the scholarship. These outcomes are critical to note, as enrolling in more credits and staying in good academic standing strengthen momentum toward degree completion, reducing time to graduation and increasing the likelihood that students persist through to earning a degree.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding educational access for Wicomico County residents by issuing a favorable report on State Bill 728.

Sincerely,



Deborah Casey, Ph.D.
President

SB0728_MACC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 11, 2026

**SB 728 - Higher Education - Community College Promise Scholarship Eligibility - Delmar
High School Graduates**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 728**. Maryland residents should have equal access to the State's higher education programs and financial aid opportunities. However, a unique geographic situation affecting the Town of Delmar means that some Maryland students graduate from Delmar High School, which is physically located just across the state line in Delaware. Despite being Maryland residents, these students may not currently qualify for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship because the statute requires graduation from a high school located in Maryland.

Senate Bill 728 corrects this technical issue by ensuring that Maryland residents of Delmar who graduate from Delmar High School remain eligible for the Community College Promise Scholarship. These students live in Maryland communities, contribute to Maryland's workforce, and should have the same opportunity to access this important program as other Maryland high school graduates.

Community colleges serve as the primary pathway for many of these students to pursue higher education and workforce training. Ensuring that Delmar, Maryland students are eligible for the Promise Scholarship supports educational access and strengthens workforce development opportunities on the Eastern Shore. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 728**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.

SB 728 - Carozza Testimony_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



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Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2026

The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
SB 728 – Higher Education – Community College Promise Scholarship
Eligibility – Delmar High School Graduates
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and my fellow members of the distinguished Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 728 – Higher Education – Community College Promise Scholarship and ask for a favorable report.

SB 728 would allow students from Delmar, Maryland who attend and graduate from Delmar High School to be eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. The Delmar school district has two physical locations: Delmar Elementary School is in Delmar, Maryland and Delmar Middle and Senior High School, home of the Wildcats and Field Hockey State Champions for nine consecutive years, is in Delmar, Delaware. These Delmar, Maryland students are Maryland residents, yet as their local high school building is physically located in Delmar, Delaware, they are currently prevented from accessing the Promise Scholarship.

The Town of Delmar lies half in Maryland, and half in Delaware, as the state line runs down the middle of State Street. The town is named after the first syllables of Delaware and Maryland, Delmar, highlighting its bi-state culture. I am proud to represent a town with these unique circumstances which can sometimes lead to unique issues like this bill intends to address.

Currently, Delaware residents who graduate from Delmar High School are eligible to receive the Inspire Scholarship, which funds four years of full tuition at Delaware State University or the SEED Scholarship which funds up to ten semesters to complete programs through Delaware Technical Community College. Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School – estimated at 61 out of 161 for the 2026 graduating class and 77 out of 181 for the 2027 graduating class – are faced with the difficulty of funding their post-secondary education without the resources available to their Delaware peers.

The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship for students who enroll at a Maryland community college. Eligible students can receive up to \$5,000 to cover any remaining tuition and mandatory fee expenses **after** Federal or State financial aid has been applied. This Scholarship lowers financial barriers to earning workforce relevant credentials, increase first year college enrollment, and help students enter high demand local fields with marketable skills. Maryland Delmar High School students should **not** be denied eligibility and

opportunities to benefit from the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship due to the physical location of their high school located in Delmar, Delaware.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and swift report on SB 728.

SB 728.pdf

Uploaded by: Meghan Music

Position: FAV



March 11, 2026,

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair,
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 728 – Higher Education – Community College Promise Scholarship – Eligibility**, sponsored by Senator [Sponsor Name].

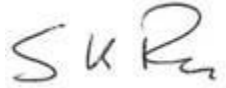
SB 728 makes an important clarification to the eligibility requirements for the Community College Promise Scholarship by ensuring that Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School remain eligible for this critical financial aid program. Because Delmar High School serves students in a unique border community shared between Maryland and Delaware, Maryland residents attending the school may face unintended barriers when applying for certain State financial aid programs tied to high school location or residency criteria.

The Community College Promise Scholarship plays an essential role in Maryland’s efforts to expand access to affordable higher education and workforce training. The program supports students pursuing associate degrees, workforce credentials, and transfer pathways while helping reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education. Ensuring that all eligible Maryland residents—particularly those living in border communities—have fair access to this opportunity aligns with the State’s broader goals of promoting educational attainment, economic mobility, and workforce development.

SB 728 addresses this narrow but meaningful gap by clarifying eligibility so that Maryland residents graduating from Delmar High School are not inadvertently excluded from participating in the program. By doing so, the bill strengthens equity in the administration of the Community College Promise Scholarship and ensures that students are not disadvantaged due to geographic circumstances beyond their control.

For these reasons, the Maryland Higher Education Commission respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 728**.

Yours in Service,

Handwritten signature of Sanjay Rai in black ink.

Secretary Sanjay Rai
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship.pdf

Uploaded by: Micah Stauffer

Position: FAV



Wicomico County Public Schools

2424 Northgate Drive, Salisbury • P.O. Box 1538, Salisbury, MD 21802-1538 • 410-677-4400

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Micah C. Stauffer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 6, 2026

Dear Senator Carozza,

On behalf of Wicomico County Public Schools, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 728 and respectfully request that Maryland resident graduates of Delmar High School be considered eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. Delmar's bistate structure means many Maryland students attend Delmar Middle and High School in Delaware while remaining residents of Wicomico County. As a result, these Maryland graduates may not currently access the same instate last dollar support available to their peers attending school across the state line, despite comparable academic preparation and community ties.

Extending Promise Scholarship eligibility to Maryland resident Delmar High School graduates would directly benefit students and our region. It would lower financial barriers to earning workforce relevant credentials, increase first year college enrollment, and help students enter high demand local fields with marketable skills. In turn, this keeps more graduates learning, working, and contributing here at home, strengthening families and the broader Wicomico County economy. This adjustment would also bring greater parity for Maryland students who have progressed through a unique, shared educational ecosystem while remaining Maryland taxpayers and potential Maryland workers.

We value our strong partnership with the Delmar School District and appreciate your consideration of this request. Our team stands ready to provide additional data, context, or language to support any legislative or administrative pathway that would allow Maryland resident Delmar graduates to qualify for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of students and families.

Sincerely,

Micah C. Stauffer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

www.wicomicoschools.org

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Uploaded by: Michael Bleile

Position: FAV



DELMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Delaware's True "Neighborhood School!"

200 North Eighth Street • Delmar, Delaware 19940
Phone (302) 846-9544 • Fax (302) 846-2793

March 6, 2026

Dear Senator Carozza,

I am writing to advocate for Maryland resident graduates of Delmar High School and to respectfully request that they be considered eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship.

The Delmar School District straddles the Delaware and Maryland state lines, located in both Wicomico County, Maryland, and Sussex County, Delaware. The school district consists of two physical locations. The Delmar Elementary School, serving pre-kindergarten through fourth grades, is in Delmar, Maryland and is part of the Wicomico County Public School system. The Delmar Middle and Senior High School, serving fifth through twelfth grades, is in Delmar, Delaware and is its own district under the Delaware Department of Education. The Delmar School District works closely with Wicomico County Public Schools to ensure that all students in our unique community receive the best possible education.

Currently our Maryland graduates are at a disadvantage when it comes to funding their post-secondary education. Our Delaware graduates are eligible to receive the Inspire Scholarship, which funds four years of full tuition at Delaware State University or the SEED Scholarship which funds up to ten semesters to complete programs through Delaware Technical Community College. However, these programs are only available to Delaware residents. The class of 2026 consists of approximately 161 students with 61 Maryland residents. The class of 2027 consists of approximately 181 students, with 77 Maryland residents. Each year our Maryland resident graduates are faced with the difficulty of funding their post-secondary education without the resources available to other students all around them.

Providing access to this scholarship would not only support individual students but would also strengthen the broader community. When students can continue their education with financial support, they are more likely to graduate, enter the workforce with valuable skills and give back to the places that helped shape them. I respectfully ask that you consider reviewing the eligibility criteria so that Maryland resident graduates from Delmar High School may have the opportunity to benefit from the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information about our school and students.

Sincerely,

Michael Bleile, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent/Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
Delmar School District

michael.bleile@delmar.k12.de.us