

# MPM Thinks

## Where Thinking is the Norm

### HB 57 Education – Public Schools – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established

#### Support

Maryland House of Delegates  
House Ways and Means Committee

Jan. 29, 2026

As an education consultant in Harford County of MPM Thinks, a business that is involved in educating youth and adults alike, I enthusiastically support HB 57 Education – Public Schools – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established. This bill is very simple in its effort to recognize public schools and students' achievement in civic readiness and engagement with an award called the Civic Seal of Excellence beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. To facilitate this effort, House Bill 57 seeks to establish a Maryland Civic Excellence Program within the Maryland State Department of Education. Furthermore, it highlights:

1. Consulting with experts and stakeholders,
2. Developing guidelines to assist participating in local school systems determination of student civic proficiency and civic literacy,
3. Recognizing the award by awarding a cord, medal, or insignia on the students' high school diploma,
4. Collaborating with nonprofits, civic organizations, or institutions of higher education to support the program, and
5. Accounting for the value of participating by having local school systems submit to MSDE a report on the program.

This program gives value to the importance in being involved civically and understanding the plethora of societal governance and rights that Marylanders should know and practice. Such a program further garners prospects for youth and for public schools to promote participation in camps, programs, enrichment activities, and leadership opportunities. Examples include:

- Serving as an election judge beginning at age 16;
- Testifying before local boards of education and municipal or council leaders;
- Participating in the Federal Bar Association's Civics Essay Contest or that of MML Mayor Essay;
- Being involved in the Maryland State Board of Elections Annual High School Voter Contest, the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute, or the MD Civic Education Coalition;
- Practicing parliamentary procedure to maintain decorum in a meeting or assembly; and
- Attending the YMCA Youth in Government, the National Civics Bee, or 4H Civics Program.

The best thing about this bill is that it expands outreach to more than just students elected in student government and attracts all students to be involved in their society by rewarding them. Another favored outcome is the increased partnerships that local school systems will have to provide resources for our students. **It is for these reasons that I urge a favorable vote on House Bill 57.**

Sincerely,

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