
TO: Ways and Means Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 546 – Primary and Secondary Education - Educator Professional Development - Course on Well-Being and Flourishing

DATE: February 18, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provides this Letter of Support regarding **House Bill (HB) 546 – Primary and Secondary Education - Educator Professional Development - Course on Well-Being and Flourishing**.

MSDE shares the General Assembly’s commitment to strengthening educator well-being across Maryland. Supporting teacher wellness is not only essential to individual health and professional fulfillment, but also a key component of educator retention. Ensuring that teachers and school leaders have access to high-quality professional development focused on well-being directly supports workforce stability and improved student outcomes. The agency supports the requirement to make available a course addressing the dimensions of well-being, as defined in HB 546, to educators and administrators in Maryland. Pursuant to HB 546, the course will align with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) eight dimensions of well-being.

MSDE notes that an existing course currently available to Maryland educators meets the qualifications outlined in HB 546 and aligns with the federal [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s \(SAMHSA\) eight dimensions of well-being](#). The Teach Wise course, offered through Georgetown University, addresses critical areas including mental health, educator well-being, social-emotional learning (SEL), staff burnout, and related topics consistent with the objectives of the bill. Participants receive a certificate of completion and continuing education credits. Upon completion, the course is eligible for professional development points, and it will be included in the catalogue of professional learning opportunities circulated to local education agencies.

Importantly, this course is available at no cost to MSDE, local education agencies, or participants. As a result, MSDE is able to immediately promote and support access to a high-quality, no-cost option that satisfies the requirements of the bill, without the need to develop new course content or delivery infrastructure. MSDE appreciates the recognition that, should this or a comparable option no longer be available, resources would be necessary to develop and sustain a high-quality course and delivery system.

MSDE respectfully requests consideration of these comments as HB 546 is discussed and deliberated. For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov.