



SUPPORT: House Bill 154

Open Meetings Act - County Boards of Education - Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 5th, 2026

The Blueprint Coalition is a coalition of more than 30 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and is co-led by Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland Education Coalition. The coalition is dedicated to the full implementation and funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and works to ensure that Maryland's public education system meets the needs of all students, particularly those most impacted by systemic inequities. **Grounded in our shared values, the Blueprint Coalition believes that data, reporting transparency, and public accessibility are essential to ensuring the Blueprint can address structural inequities, including racism and discrimination. For these reasons, we offer favorable testimony in support of House Bill 154.**

House Bill 154 strengthens transparency and public accountability for county boards of education by requiring timely public access to meeting agendas, materials, minutes, and live and archived video of open meetings. These enhanced Open Meetings Act requirements are critical to ensuring that families, students, educators, and communities can meaningfully engage in decisions that directly affect public schools and the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

The Blueprint is a long-term, multi-billion-dollar commitment to equity, accountability, and improved outcomes for Maryland's students. Its success depends not only on funding, but on transparent governance and accessible information that allows the public to understand how decisions are made and how implementation is progressing across districts. House Bill 154 advances that goal by ensuring consistent public access to school board deliberations and materials statewide.

Too often, inconsistent posting of agenda, limited advance notice, or lack of archived recordings creates barriers to participation, particularly for families, educators, and students who cannot attend meetings in person or during standard work hours. House Bill 154 helps remove those barriers by standardizing transparency practices across all county boards of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. These requirements support meaningful community engagement and strengthen public trust in local education governance.

The Blueprint Coalition strongly believes that public accountability is not an administrative burden, but a necessary condition for equitable implementation. When communities have access to information, they are better positioned to identify challenges, elevate concerns, and partner with school systems to ensure that the Blueprint delivers on its promise.

For these reasons, the Blueprint Coalition urges the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 154.

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.