



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 1000 and House Bill 1300 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation
Appropriations and Ways and Means

February 17, 2020

SUPPORT

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation establishes in law the policies and accountability recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) strongly advocates for and supports investments for the continuum of education – PreK to J(ob). In fact, when MCCC surveyed its Board of Directors last summer, the biggest concern of this diverse cross-section of business leaders was the attraction and retention of top talent. By investing in and strengthening our education system, we are ensuring our businesses can hire graduates right here in the state of Maryland. Additionally, after Marylanders have invested in these students throughout the education continuum, we want those future taxpayers to stay in the state. MCCC is particularly enthusiastic about following components of the Blueprint:

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The bill creates a CTE Committee within the Governor's Workforce Development Board to build an integrated, globally competitive framework for providing CTE to Maryland students in public schools, institutions of postsecondary education, and the workforce. Further, there is funding set aside for a partnership between a local board of education, a community college, and an industry partner for a CTE framework and curriculum that includes industry best practices.

Accountability

Because historic and substantive funding will be going toward the continued implementation of the Blueprint, MCCC appreciates the creation of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) as an independent unit of State government. The AIB is designed to hold other units of government accountable for implementing the Blueprint and evaluating the outcomes of the Blueprint during the implementation period. In addition to the Board dispensing the funds, the board may also withhold additional funds if it finds appropriate steps to improve student progress or implement the Blueprint have not been taken.

MCCC also supports **additional investments in prekindergarten** and early childhood education. Not only does quality childcare set our youngest residents up for success later in life, but it provides local businesses and working parents with more opportunities to grow – an important factor as we plan for the future of our regional economy.

A strong education system is pivotal to a strong economy. For this, and the aforementioned reasons, **MCCC supports the Blueprint for Maryland's Future** legislation and respectfully urges a favorable report.