



## *Maryland Retired School Personnel Association*

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, Maryland 21113  
Phone: 410.551.1517 • Email: [mrspsa@mrspsa.org](mailto:mrspsa@mrspsa.org)  
[www.mrspsa.org](http://www.mrspsa.org)

**House Bill 1300**  
**In Support Of**  
**Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**Hearing: February 17, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.**

Dear Honorable Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Michael Jackson, Vice Chair, and Distinguished Appropriations Committee members,

The Legislative Committee of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) requests a favorable report on House Bill 1300 Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation.

HB 1300 is aimed at providing globally competitive education to all Maryland students. After careful examination of high performing school systems across the country and around the world, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education has made recommendations that will strengthen teacher/administrator preparation, increase staff, encourage community schools, address struggling learners, English Language Learner (ELL) students, Special Education students, primary and secondary schools. It frames rigorous Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs, provides opportunities for higher salaries and focuses on subgroups/schools that perform poorly and much more. We want our students to graduate college and career ready, to be successful in their future. If we are to succeed, we must let our priorities determine our budget.

We are concerned, however, that counties will try to find their share of the monies needed to provide the local share by cutting the benefits (health insurance and others) our retirees have worked so hard to earn. Local school systems, not the state, provide health insurance benefits to retired employees. This is a hugely important benefit to all retired employees. Many retired school personnel, especially former support staff, receive little to no pension because their portion of their health insurance premium costs are more than what they earn in a pension each month.

Additionally, we are concerned that any taxes or fees raised to offset the cost of the Blueprint implementation take into consideration the effects on all retirees on small fixed incomes.

While we are retired and have some serious financial and personal concerns as mentioned above, we still support our public schools and want what is best for our students and active employees. Please keep in mind those of us who have already given so much to the students and communities of Maryland, as you debate this important legislation.

On behalf of the almost 14,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1300.

Sincerely,



Ann Marie Downey  
President



Virginia G. Crespo  
Legislative Aide