

I support HB 939.

This legislation would be very helpful for my family. We just moved back to the area after being away for 18 years. I grew up in this community and graduated from Dulaney High School. My public school education was wonderful and I had some of the most amazing teachers. My parents say that my high school education back in the 90's was as good or even better than my brother's education at Gilman. I was excited to come back and have my own children get to have this top notch education. Well, things have changed a lot in 30 years...and I never had to go to schooling through a pandemic. Can you imagine being completely new to a school district, knowing no one, and be restricted to virtual school? At least my 2nd grader's class turns their cameras on. My middle schoolers typically have their cameras off. This is not the best way to make any social connections. In virtual school, my middle school children only have each of their subjects twice a week, rather than five times a week in a typical year. I have no idea how they are going to actually cover the course material this year. I am still not convinced that BCPS will open this March and I'm even more concerned that the best we are going to get next fall is hybrid schooling. This is unsustainable for these children. Private schools in the Baltimore area are very expensive and it is not in our budget to put three kids in private school. If this legislation passed, it would give our family the ability to make choices that are best for our children. This whole situation is really hurting our children. The private schools in our area are open, public schools just over the line in Pennsylvania are open and are open in many other states as well. This is hurting the children academically, socially, and emotionally. We still don't know the long term affects this past year will have on our children. I do know one of my husband's classmate's from college lost his son this last year to Covid, but not in the way you think. Just a few days short of his 13th birthday, this young boy committed suicide. It was so unexpected, but his father directly attributes his son's rash decision to the isolation caused from Covid. We have to do better for our children. If the federal funding were to follow the child, so many more opportunities would open up.

Thank you for your time and effort in proposing this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Meghan Hughes  
District 3