



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

HB 1290

Education – Public School
Construction – Funding and
Administration

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: March 1, 2022
Committee: Appropriations

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for House Bill 1290 – Education – Public School Construction – Funding and Administration.

School facilities should provide an optimal environment for teaching and learning. Adequate and safe school facilities support the State’s commitment to a K-12 public school system that provides excellence, access and opportunity for every Maryland student and compliment the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. A robust and responsive public school construction program is a priority for all of us.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Reflects the recommendations of the Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities which was established based on recommendations of the Knott Commission;
- Provides incentives for school construction projects meeting certain established criteria, including having a high percentage of students receiving free or reduced-priced meals, receiving good maintenance ratings, or constructing “net-zero” buildings;
- Establishes a revolving loan fund which will help local jurisdictions forward-fund the State’s share and, in some instances the local share, of school construction projects that may otherwise be deferred because of a local jurisdiction’s limited debt capacity; and
- Ensures an environment in which all students can learn and supports the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Further, County Executive Gardner supports technical amendments proposed by the Maryland Association of Counties that:

- Requires the creation of a workgroup to consider the use of the assessment data when it is completed and verified for accuracy.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges favorable **SUPPORT** for House Bill 1290.