

BILL: Senate Bill 831
TITLE: Education Support Professionals - Workgroup and Bonus
DATE: March 9, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Budget & Taxation
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 831 to benefit and reward the educational support personnel in every school system across the state.

Senate Bill 831 would invest available state funding in bonuses for support staff who have contributed significantly to the teaching and learning of students throughout the pandemic and the return to in-person learning.

Education support professionals include a broad range of noncertificated staff members, including: teachers' aides and paraeducators, administrative assistants, custodians, bus drivers, facilities maintenance staff, security and technology staff, food service workers, and many other critically important school employees. This legislation would appropriately direct the state to provide \$500 bonuses to each of these staff members, in each of the next two years. If bonuses are not funded this year, the bill would require that \$1,000 bonuses be included in next year's budget. In addition, the bill calls for a compensation study.

MABE requests one technical amendment to clarify and ensure that the bill's reference to noncertificated education support professionals is clear, by inserting "under Title 6, Subtitle 5, of this article" after "professional" in line 27 of page 3 of the bill.

The Blueprint ensures new statewide systems of compensation, working conditions, and professional development for educational staff, and increases per pupil funding to support these initiatives. MABE supports initiatives by the General Assembly to provide more state funding and bonuses for educational support professionals in line with the initiatives contained with the Blueprint. These professionals are essential to achieving the goals outlined by the Blueprint.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 831, with the amendment described above.

