



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 40

**Interagency Commission on
School Construction – Systemic
Renovation Projects - Eligibility**

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: January 19, 2022
Committee: Budget & Taxation

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 40 – Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility.

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.

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

- Reinforces the strong commitment reflected in the Built to Learn of Act of 2020 to provide safe public school facilities that support students, teachers and staff with environments that are conducive to effective teaching and learning;
- Expands eligible school construction projects funded from the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund to systemic renovation projects, acknowledging systemic renovations as a valuable and necessary tool in extending the life of publicly funded school facilities and thereby protecting these substantial uses of taxpayer dollars;
- Provides access to much needed funds to allow county governments to meet critical facility needs and maximizes their capacity to improve, upgrade, and renovate existing schools to meet current standards; and
- Provides flexibility to local governments in balancing the need to provide new seats for students with the need to renovate existing facilities.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges favorable **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 40.