

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1277
State Department of Education - Assessments - Study and Report**

**Ways and Means
Thursday, March 10th, 2022
1:00 p.m.**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1277, which would require the State Department of Education to perform a thorough study, analysis, and evaluation of student assessments given in the State, including the turnaround time for assessment results, the amount of time spent on different types of assessments, and the overall impact to students' and educators' schedules.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Educators want their students to succeed, and having data on students' progress is a valuable tool when preparing lessons and instructional materials. However, too often assessment schedules have unintended consequences that disrupt learning, limit the usability of data, and increase stress for all involved. Students deserve a well-rounded education, and that includes time for music, art, physical education, and necessary supports for students with IEPs or English Language Learners.

We thank the General Assembly for taking important steps to improve assessments by forming District Committees on Assessment through the More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017, and through the provisions of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including the requirement to screen certain assessments for cultural bias. Unfortunately, students and educators are still being impacted by over-testing and



assessment schedules that do not account for staffing needs. In the same way we evaluate students' learning, we must now measure our progress and determine what more needs to be done.

This study would provide valuable data to inform our next steps in making assessments efficient, useful, and meaningful for all involved.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 1277.