

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee

Early Childhood Subcommittee

Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 306
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3793 • 301-858-3793
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793
Michele.Guyton@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SUPPORT – HB678 – Arts Equity in Education Act

February 24, 2022

Thank you, Madame Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Michele Guyton serving District 42B in Baltimore County and I am here today to request your consideration of HB678 – Arts Equity in Education Act. This bill aims to expand access to arts education by requiring the State Department of Education to strengthen accountability for compliance with COMAR for the Fine Arts and establish a grant program to achieve these aims.

The Arts Equity in Education Act dedicates funding to supplement school district efforts in meeting COMAR’s requirements and closing equity gaps in arts education. The funding may be used for resources such as staffing, materials, equipment, and professional development. The Act will be administered by MSDE through existing grant and reporting processes already required in COMAR.

Arts education has been proven to promote academic achievement, have therapeutic behavioral benefits, and even improve attendance. Each and every student in Maryland deserves to have access to quality arts education as part of their public-school experience. Equity in arts education is sorely needed, however. For instance, Anne Arundel and Queen Anne’s County schools average more than four arts teachers per school, while Baltimore City schools average fewer than two. Baltimore City also has the highest teacher workload compared to other jurisdictions by far. The Arts Equity in Education Act will work to close gaps like these.

I urge a favorable report on HB678 designed to increase equity in arts education throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,

Delegate Michele Guyton District 42B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".