

**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1045
Primary and Secondary Education – Enrollment Count – Average Daily
Attendance**

**Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 9th, 2022
1:00 p.m.**

**Lauren Lamb
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 1045, which would define "average daily attendance" for purposes of calculating certain funding for primary and secondary education and alter the definition of "full-time equivalent enrollment" to include the average daily attendance of students in kindergarten through grade 12 on school days in September through December of the prior school year.

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).

Public school funding is calculated in part based on full-time equivalent enrollment, which, for many K-12 public school students, is determined based on the number of students enrolled in their schools on September 30th of the prior year. This bill seeks to change the metric from a fixed reporting date to a daily average over multiple months. Student attendance is essential for academic progress and success, and MSEA believes that robust attendance requirements should be promoted wherever possible. However, this change does not meaningfully promote student attendance; instead, it overcomplicates a data snapshot that is intended to ensure adequate funding for schools.



This legislation would increase administrative burdens and complicate reporting requirements to no discernable benefit. **We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 1045.**