

**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 769
Student Data Privacy – Protections, Digital Tools, and Student Data Privacy
Council**

**House Ways & Means Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 769, legislation that originated in the Student Data Privacy Council and aims to help protect student data.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for 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).

MSEA was proud to serve on the Student Data Privacy Council and hopes to continue, should this bill and the Council's reinstatement of service be passed into law. MSEA agrees that we must do all we can to protect student and educator data in all forms. This bill expands the coverage of what would be deemed confidential information, in an effort to protect students from identity fraud and theft as well making them vulnerable to intrusive marketing.

MSEA looks forward to further discussions on vetting online tools in a systemic way, while also maintaining educator autonomy in determining which tools are best for their students. The reinstatement of the Council's work will allow for conversations on this topic.

MSEA urges a favorable report of House Bill 769.