

Dear Legislators.pdf

Uploaded by: cynthia padgett

Position: FAV

Dear Legislators:

As a Marylander, constituent, and grandmother of children in the Maryland Public School System, I am very much in favor of HB 758 Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.

This bill simply requires lesson plans and instructional material used in public schools be posted on the public school's website. Teachers do this preparation internally already. It is now a matter of sharing this with parents.

The primary factor in student success is parental involvement. Giving parents, family members and tutors access to classroom materials will only help our students succeed. This will remove barriers and will allow parents to be involved and informed in their children's education.

In addition, this bill will ensure that what is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. Transparency creates trust.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S Padgett
15 Misty Hollow Ct
Phoenix, MD 21131

HB0758 written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: FAV

HB0758
FAVOR
Deborah Brocato
3206 Gloucester Dr
Fallston, MD 21047

Dear Delegates,

The State of Maryland should support the ability of parents to be aware of the influences in their children's lives.

HB0758 makes it easier for parents to access the lesson plans and instruction materials for their children by requiring this information be posted on the school's website.

Parents are primarily responsible for the upbringing of their children and the ultimate arbiter of what values they want their children to have.

I urge each of you to recognize parental rights and vote IN FAVOR of this bill.

Sincerely,
Deborah Brocato

Document 2(2).pdf

Uploaded by: Diane Kozlowski

Position: FAV

Access to Curriculum

As a parent of BCPS children, I have noticed the decline in transparency in the school system as to parents having access to instructional materials since the inception of the use of student computers. During the pandemic it was prevalent. Numerous times I tried to click on the assignments and was given the warning of “No Access”. I tried to contact the schools, principals, and teachers' numerous times to understand why parents cannot see what is taught.

I have asked the principals and the educators, where are the books and power points? The following excuses and messages I have received:

1. the material is copyrighted and therefore you can't see it,
2. you can look on the Scope and Sequence write ups; “Guidance is given in Policy and Rule 6000, the written curriculum includes "scope and sequence, goals and objectives, assessments, sample instructional activities and suggested resources.".
3. You can see students', worksheets, and documents in the school website.
4. An assistant principal said parents do not have “full access” and I could get pieces from teachers.

My rebuttals are the following:

1. In the past, books were sent home and those were copyrighted, no problem there. Teachers also put book chapters and videos on their school sites for all to see when the computers first started use in BCPS.
2. This is a policy written by bureaucrats and doesn't include the actual teaching materials. Parents do not want to see these long and boring documents, we want to see the actual books, websites, power points with sources and whatever else is utilized.
3. No, most of those are restricted with the “NO Access” tab coming up most of the time. We are only seeing the grades and the names of the assignments, not the actual assignments. We only see the assignments if our child brings paper home or ask what they are learning.
4. Most teachers are helpful, it the 20-25% who are not. A history teacher outright lied by saying he didn't use Power Points and didn't have any to show me. Even though my child said he does use them. What's the hidden agenda?

One teacher gave me a clear answer when he said: “The access is limited to google accounts within BCPS. Unfortunately, the easiest sharing options is only within the organization BCPS”. Clearly, the administrators are asking parents to go through hoops and labyrinths to actually look at what is being taught? What is the purpose of hiding the materials?

This is wrong. As a taxpayer and parent, I should have access to ALL teaching materials without having to spend hours, days and weeks navigating the system. I was so frustrated I began writing my delegates. Other parents are saying the same thing and having the same frustration.

Please pass HB0758.

Diane Kozlowski

Middle River, Md

HB 758 Testimony v2.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathy Szeliga

Position: FAV

KATHY SZELIGA
Legislative District 7
Baltimore and Harford Counties

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Government Operations and
Health Facilities Subcommittee

Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities
Subcommittee

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates

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February 24, 2022

HB 758

Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material

Why Do We Need This Bill?

When parents are involved, students have greater academic success and increased confidence. When administration and faculty partner with parents it creates more engagement and has a positive impact on everyone. This simple bill will require lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools to be posted on the public school's website.

Giving parents, family members, and tutors access to classroom materials will help our students succeed. This will remove barriers and will allow parents to be involved in their children's education.

Additionally, this will ensure that whatever is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. Transparency creates trust.

When our kids are absent, struggling, or questioning what they are being taught in the classroom, access to the materials should be available for parents. Some schools are already doing this. Additionally, teachers are accessing materials electronically so it should not be difficult to expand who has access to the materials.

All taxpayer funded educational materials should be available to the public.

What This Bill Does?

Requiring the posting of lesson plans and instructional materials used at public schools on the public school's website; and establishing requirements for the development, production, and inspection of certain instructional materials referenced in certain lesson plans.

Lesson Plans and Instructional Materials Should be Available to Parents - Please Support HB 757

LessonPlansBill.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Jo Witte

Position: FAV

Dear legislator,

Please vote **IN FAVOR** of **HB 758 Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.**

This common-sense bill will allow parents to be made of aware of lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools as the plans will be posted on the public school's website. This will help parents and students to understand what is being taught in the classroom and assist them in working together to further the education of the children.

The top factor in student success is parental involvement. Giving parents, family members, and tutors access to classroom materials will only help our students succeed. This will remove barriers and will allow parents to be involved in their children's education.

Additionally, this will ensure that whatever is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. Transparency creates trust.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Witte
7519 Weather Worn Way Unit E
Columbia, MD 21046

HB 758 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Lee

Position: FAV

Dear legislator,

As a former teacher, I am **IN FAVOR** of **HB 758 Lesson Plans and Instructional Material**.

This simple bill will require lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools to be posted on the public school's website.

The top factor in student success is parental involvement. Giving parents, family members, and tutors access to classroom materials will only help our students succeed. This will remove barriers and will allow parents to be involved in their children's education.

Additionally, this will ensure that whatever is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. Transparency creates trust.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lee
9310 Indian Trail Way
Perry Hall, MD 21128

HB 758.pdf

Uploaded by: Rosalie Chesley

Position: FAV

Dear legislator,

I am **IN FAVOR** of **HB 758 Lesson Plans and Instructional Material**.

This simple bill will require lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools to be posted on the public school's website.

The top factor in student success is parental involvement. Giving parents, family members, and tutors access to classroom materials will only help our students succeed. This will remove barriers and will allow parents to be involved in their children's education.

Additionally, this will ensure that whatever is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. Transparency creates trust.

Sincerely,

Rosalie Chesley
1226 Wild Rose Court
Marriottsville, MD 21104

HB-758_SP_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Reichert-Price

Position: FAV

Delegate Vanessa E. Aterbeary, Chair
And Members of The Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 758 Education- Public Schools- Lesson Plans and Instructional Material- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of The Committee,

There are many reasons why parents, as well as the public have the right to know what students are being taught and/or exposed to in school; several of which are listed below;

- Controversial material such as CRT has been a proposed addition to curriculum for several years and is now gaining a foothold and surging to the forefront. This, and any other materials inviting a negative social impact among the students should be visible for parents and community members. Many of which, do not support such curricula;
- Public school related expenses comprise at least half the budget in each Maryland county; taxpayers are interested stakeholders;
- Students are the future of our state; citizens should be aware of what our students are being taught;
- Many, if not most, of all school districts in Maryland, are failing students, as evidenced by test scores. Curricula should be more transparent so that solutions can be found.

Therefore, I ask that you vote a FAVORABLE return for HB 758- Education- Public Schools- Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price
221 Miller Street
Westernport, MD

HB0758 in favor.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Merryman

Position: FAV

Dear Delegate Szeliga

I am **IN FAVOR** of **HB 758 - Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.**

It is important to require lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools to be posted on the public school's website. Parents, family members, tutors must be involved and aware of lessons being taught to their children and students in Maryland schools so that the students can succeed in their schooling and life time achievements.

Additionally, this will ensure that whatever is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. Transparency creates trust.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Merryman
520 Piccadilly Rd.
Towson, MD 21204

HB758 Schools.pdf

Uploaded by: Sylvia Zorn

Position: FAV

Dear legislator,

I am **IN FAVOR** of **HB 758 Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.**

This simple bill will require lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools to be posted on the public school's website.

The top factor in student success is parental involvement. Giving parents, family members, and tutors access to classroom materials will only help our students succeed. This will remove barriers and will allow parents to be involved in their children's education.

Additionally, this will ensure that whatever is being taught in our public schools matches our values and is appropriate and accurate. **Transparency creates trust.**

Sincerely,
Sylvia Zorn
8680 Hoerner Avenue
21234

HB758 Lesson Plans and MOI 2.24.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: UNF



HB758 EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – LESSON PLANS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

February 24, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB758 Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material**. This bill mandates the posting of lesson plans and instructional materials used at public schools on the public school's website. It also establishes requirements for the development, production, and inspection of certain instructional materials referenced in certain lesson plans.

As required by MSDE, a local superintendent of schools must ensure that curricular materials are aligned with State educational content standards. These standards drive the creation of curricula that teachers utilize in the design of daily instruction. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with researching, investigating, and evaluating both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local boards allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable. This bill is overly prescriptive and interferes with local board governance and the Superintendent's authority in accordance with State law. AACPS opposes such efforts.

The requirements set forth in the legislation would also increase teacher workloads. More specifically, the implementation of the bill would require additional work for teachers outside of their teaching day with students; that additional time would either need to be carved from current assignments – including planning, professional development, meetings, and clubs – or would be added to the teacher's workday. In addition, the definition of lesson plan would require some teachers, depending on grade level, to produce multiple outlines each day. The scale of this requirement, given the level of detail, would be massive for teachers. There may be instances where a teacher needs to pause on a planned activity due to student readiness, questions, or other factors and, using their professional expertise, pivot to other materials in the moment. Under this bill, a teacher would essentially be unable to do so as such an adjustment would not align with the requirements set forth in the bill.

AACPS currently publishes content standards on their public facing academic websites. The public can, at any time, go to the website and review the courses and the standards within those courses. In addition, library materials are outlined on the school system's website. Additionally, at the beginning of the year, students in middle and high school receive course syllabi for each of their courses. In elementary school, parents receive grade level curriculum letters that outline the concepts taught in the four marking periods. AACPS' new learning management system also allows parents/guardians to view their student's classroom materials. This learning management tool allows AACPS the opportunity to create a more robust school-home partnership to support all students.

It is troublesome that the bill does not mandate posting of materials in schools with less than 400 students. This would create inequity to access for many families with children in these schools.

Given the uncertainty of the scale of the legislation, it is difficult to estimate the fiscal impact; however, a conservative estimate on the cost of implementation is approximately \$14.6 million. The cost is associated with the additional compensation the school system would be required to pay teachers for the additional time needed to implement the requirements in the bill. AACPS opposes unfunded mandates.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB758.

HB 758.Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.pdf

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: UNF

BILL: House Bill 758
TITLE: Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: February 24, 2022
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 758, which would mandate the policy and procedures governing public access to lesson plans used in classroom instruction. MABE opposes this bill in favor of preserving each local board's governance role and authority to develop educational policies and procedures, including in the critically important area of parent and guardian involvement and engagement in their student's learning. Specifically, MABE opposes developing statewide regulations or any one-size-fits-all set of requirements for the management or publication of lesson plans.

MABE's top legislative priority focuses on strong support for governance authority for local boards of education to adopt education policies and school system budgets reflecting local priorities and resources. MABE supports broad discretion for local board decision-making authority in exercising legislative, judicial, and executive functions in accord with state and federal law and principles of equity and excellence for all students. Specifically, MABE advocates that state and local initiatives not reduce local board governance or budgetary authority or create unfunded mandates.

MABE believes the principle of local governance by boards of education is fundamental to a sound system of public education, and that a sound system of public education is fundamental to sustaining the well-educated citizenry essential to a flourishing democracy. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and academic and financial accountability. State law provides that "educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of a county board of education" and that local boards "determine, with the advice of the county superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system." Local boards exercise this governance authority in compliance with state and federal laws and in conjunction with the policies and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

Each local board plays a vital role in governing the local school system and engaging local communities and promoting participation by parents and other community members in the education process. Local boards are the primary advocates for local, state, and federal funding to support the teaching and learning of students and efficient and effective school system administration. Through MABE's board development program and other professional development activities, each board is striving to continuously improve its ability to govern in a manner that best meets the needs of all students in the local school system.

Local governance authority of boards of education in Maryland and throughout the nation is often challenged by state, federal, and private sector initiatives. MABE advocates that the General Assembly, Governor, and State Board engage in collaborative development of new policies and programs. MABE appreciates the strong historical record of the General Assembly's recognition and support for the governance role of local boards.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 758.

HB758_MSEA_Lamb_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: UNF

**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 758
Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material**

**Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24th, 2022
1:00 p.m.**

**Lauren Lamb
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly opposes House Bill 758, which would require that all lesson plans and instructional materials used at public schools be posted on the public school's website, and would establish certain requirements for the development, production, and inspection of instructional materials referenced in lesson plans.

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).

The mandates in this bill would add a tremendous bureaucratic burden to already-understaffed schools. A recent MSEA survey of Maryland public school employees showed that 92% of educators say workload is a serious or very serious concern, and 91% say that burn out is a serious or very serious concern.¹ As staffing shortages grow and 60% of educators say that they are considering leaving the profession or retiring early due to the pandemic, this legislation is uniquely ill-suited to meet the needs of the moment.²

¹Maryland State Education Association (2022). *Poll: Crushing Workloads Burning Out Educators; Right To Bargain For Smaller Classes Would Improve Retention*. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://marylandeducators.org/poll-crushing-workloads-burning-out-educators-right-to-bargain-for-smaller-classes-would-improve-retention/>

²Ibid.

Educators are highly trained, dedicated professionals who have the expertise to source, develop, and adapt quality educational materials that meet the unique needs of their students. Though this bill purports to offer transparency, its methods are excessive, unwarranted, and redundant: content standards and model frameworks are already widely available online for public reference.³ Adding yet another administrative burden to educators' workloads would further strain school resources and provide no benefit to students.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 758.

³Maryland State Department of Education (September 2020). *High School United States History Framework*. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DCAA/SocialStudies/HSUS.pdf>

House Bill 758_Oppose.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Shamoyia Gardiner

Position: UNF

TESTIMONY AGAINST

Testimony to the Ways and Means Committee

In opposition to

House Bill 758: Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material

February 24, 2022

Strong Schools Maryland strongly urges an unfavorable vote on House Bill 758: Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a statewide teacher workforce that is racially diverse, of the highest quality, and that has the autonomy to conduct deep work, as their many years of education, preparation, and certification suggest they deserve. The Blueprint envisions a more productive school day for teachers, with less time spent in face-to-face instruction to allow for small group tutoring, communication with families, collaborative planning with other teachers, and more.

House Bill 758 imposes a mandate that will trickle down to stress teachers out *even more* than they currently are, for very little, if any overall benefit. What's worse is that the bill would impose fiscal mandates on local education systems, even as the Governor's FY23 budget cuts money for the "instructional material" the bill positions as necessary to support its overall intent.

Strong Schools Maryland is of the opinion that prior to placing any additional demands on teachers and school system administrators, the Maryland General Assembly should look first to ensuring that all local school systems are adequately funded to carry out the foundational expectation we have of them. Next, when we have identified concerns to be addressed, we urge the members of the General Assembly to put those solutions forward after extensive discussion with the directly impacted population. It is quite evident that the initial step has not been conducted, as Baltimore City and Prince George's county collectively will be short changed by \$125 million in the coming school year, if the proposed budget is allowed to stand.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on this bill until the two above conditions have been met.

If you have questions or requests for additional information, you can email:

Shamoyia Gardiner
Executive Director

shamoyia@strongschoolsmaryland.org