

**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 739  
Primary and Secondary Education - Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count  
- Alterations (Truancy Reduction Act of 2023)**

**House Appropriations Committee  
March 14, 2023**

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The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 739, which would alter the definition of "full-time equivalent enrollment" in the calculation for State education aid to include the average number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on September 30, December 31, March 31, and the last day of the prior school year.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. 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).

Per-pupil funding is calculated in part based on full-time equivalent enrollment, which, for K-12 public school students, depends upon the number of students enrolled in their schools on September 30th of the prior year. This bill seeks to change reporting requirements to an average based on multiple points throughout the school year. 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 apparent benefit. **We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 739.**