



**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,
Appropriations Committee
March 14, 2023**

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

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**HB1211: FAVORABLE
Education - Compensatory Education - Maryland Neighborhood Tier System
Calculation**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **HB1211 Education - Compensatory Education - Maryland Neighborhood Tier System Calculation** as an updated school funding method that accounts for Maryland’s most vulnerable students.

As reported by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in January 2023¹ “the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future specifically called for the study of and data collection for new measures of poverty – neighborhood indicators of poverty – that better capture the number of students in circumstances of poverty, the number of students in circumstances of concentrated poverty, and the depths of poverty in which a student lives.” HB1211 alters the funding calculation for compensatory education based on policy option two found within this report.

The Maryland Neighborhood Tiers (MNT) as used in HB1211 would increase the total state responsibility for compensatory education aid by \$382 million in FY2024. MSDE estimated Howard County would have an additional 1,191 students eligible, increasing the required state share by \$3,582,804 and the local share by \$6,856,776 (see table 32 on page 72 of the above report).

According to the MSDE report, “the current prevailing indicator of poverty, FARMs eligibility, reflects the availability of only one resource – household income. Instead of relying on income as the only measure of poverty, incorporating other measures of socioeconomic status and identifying concentrations of poverty will create a more equitable and accurate identification of students and schools in need.” To the extent use of MNT will provide additional students important educational supports and move towards more equitable academic success, Howard County Public School System staff and the Board support the provisions of HB1211.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of HB1211 from this Committee.

¹ Maryland State Department of Education, “Report on Neighborhood Indicators of Poverty,” January 20, 2023, https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2023/01/2023-Indicators-of-Poverty_Formula-Addendum.pdf.