



**Senate Bill 869**  
**Primary and Secondary Education – Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program – Eligibility**  
**Budget & Tax Committee**  
**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**March 7, 2023**  
**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST is one of the fifty statewide networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and serves as Maryland’s affiliate to the National Afterschool Association. MOST is the backbone of the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016 to advocate for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.

Community Schools are foundational to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation. The Concentration of Poverty Grants provides the full-time Community School Coordinator, a Health Practitioner, and additional per pupil funding on a sliding scale. These investments are designed to make the school a hub for the community and co-locate services at the school that is identified through a comprehensive needs assessment. Targeted at schools with high levels of students living in poverty, often generational, the Community School strategy is designed to remove barriers to learning and engage all key stakeholders in the school’s success.

MOST and MD4CS applaud Senate Bill 869 for expanding school eligibility and speeding the phase-in of the Concentration of Poverty Grant per-pupil funding in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. For future legislation, we urge deeper analysis of the overall adequacy of the Concentration of Poverty provisions, as we believe they are currently insufficient, particularly at the lower levels, to support the full implementation of Community Schools. MOST, in partnership with Attendance Works, has completed an analysis that calls into question several key assumptions underlining the current formula. We ask you to review [the material](#) and conduct further analysis on CPG funding.

In the meantime, Senate Bill 869 is a good first step to apply more urgency to phasing in the resources for Community Schools. We encourage the committee to provide a favorable report for Senate Bill 869.

Additionally, the Maryland Education Coalition (MEC), Rick Tyler Co-Chair, and Freestate PTA join this testimony.

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