



The Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)
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Good afternoon. My name is Addie Kaufman; I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals. After 36 years in education as a teacher and administrator, I retired from the principalship and accepted the position with MASSP.

The Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP), on behalf of school-based administrators in all twenty-four school districts supports Senate Bill 394. This bill will expand the State Board of Education to include a school principal. MASSP applauds past legislation, which added a student, and more recently a teacher, and parent representative to the State Board, and MASSP supported those additions. It is now time to add a school principal to the State Board.

A school principal leads the ENTIRE school community including parents, teachers, staff, and students. Principals are responsible for the overall operation of the school, which includes instructional programming, continuous improvement, financial operations, building maintenance, student scheduling, staff hiring, discipline, coordination between central office and school staff, and much more. Students, teachers, and parents bring their perspectives to discussions around policy, regulations, and guidelines while principals would bring a much broader perspective. Principals are instructional, transformational, and school reform leaders; they are not simply

managers. Implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will be the responsibility of school principals who will work with all other stakeholders in the school community. Having the voice of school principals on the State Board of Education is imperative and inclusive. Students, staff, and parents all collaborate, work with, and report to the school principal, yet this important voice is currently missing.

Schools do not function as a triangle of students, staff, and parents alone. They function as a circle with students, staff, parents, and administrators working together for continuous improvement and student achievement.

MASSP strongly encourages the addition of a school principal to the Maryland State Board of Education. This addition is a meaningful way to ensure that school principals not only have a seat at the table but have a voice as policies are created and revised.

MASSP applauds this legislation's recognition of the important role school principals play in school and student success.

For these reasons, MASSP supports Senate Bill 394 and urges a favorable outcome.