



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1079 (PG 502-23)
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County – Board of Education and
School System Revisions and Local Public Campaign
Financing for Board of Education Members

POSITION:

SUPPORT W/ AMENDMENTS

HB 1079 (PG 502-23) – Prince George's County – Board of Education and School System Revisions and Local Public Campaign Financing for Board of Education Members – For the purpose of altering the purpose of and the duties and responsibilities of the Prince George's County Board of Education; altering the voting authority of the student member; removing the Governor's approval from the board member removal process; renaming and altering the duties of the County Superintendent of Schools; establishing an Office of Accountability and Compliance to be headed by an Inspector General; altering the residency, term limit, and compensation requirements for elected members of the county board.

The County Council would like to first extend thanks to the Sponsor of the bill, the Prince George's County House and Senate Delegations, the County Executive and her staff, and the many stakeholders and members of the public who have participated in the creation of this piece of legislation. We are grateful for the leadership of all of those involved for their engagement on this critical issue.

We applaud many aspects of this legislation, including reducing the chair and vice chair term limits to one term and the increased salaries for board members. We firmly oppose term limits on board members. Based on our knowledge and expertise as both the local legislative body to Prince George's County and previous expertise on the County Board of Education, we offer some suggested amendments. Please see Page 2, where they are described in more detail.

The Prince George's County Council respectfully requests the Committee's consideration of its amendments to HB 1079 (PG 502-23) and appreciates your time and attention to this important matter.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

**Prince George’s County Council Position Statement - HB 1079 (PG 502-23) – SUPPORT W/
AMENDMENTS**

Page 2

AMENDMENTS

1. Page 3, starting on line 22: We have concerns about prescribing the duties of the Chair of the Board of Education and codifying it into law. We feel these duties, which may change from time to time, should be determined by the Board.
2. Page 4, lines 10-12: This is duplicative as the Board already has a process for reviewing the bylaws.
3. Page 4, starting on line 17: Again, we have concerns about being so prescriptive with the list of professional development topics each member should complete.
4. Page 5, lines 4-7: We don’t believe the professional development statement is needed.
5. Page 7, lines 8-10: This is duplicative, as an audit committee through the school system already exists. The Board of Education has a Standing Committee: Operations, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee which is responsible for “reviewing issues pertaining to the management and audit of functions in the County Public School system, reviewing and providing recommendations regarding fiscal, capital, and human resources, including the Board’s operating budget, the Capital Improvement Program, staffing plans and allocations.”
6. Page 9, lines 16-21: The purpose of this poll seems flawed. We should not use a poll to measure the effectiveness of the County Board, Superintendent and School System, student achievement data should be the measure and focus of the school system’s effectiveness.
7. Page 11, lines 6-7 and 15-16: A unanimous vote is too high of a threshold. We suggest either a simple majority or a two-thirds vote.
8. Page 17, lines 27-28: We oppose instituting term limits on board members. The voters of Prince George’s County determine the members’ terms.