



Board of Education of Howard County  
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,  
Ways and Means Committee  
March 29, 2023



**Board of Education  
of Howard County**

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**SB0266: FAVORABLE**

**Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports - Membership -  
Alteration**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **SB0266 Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports - Membership - Alteration** to strengthen representation of key school-based stakeholders.

SB0266 adds a school counselor to the membership of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports. The counselor must be certified by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and would be designated by the Maryland School Counselor Association.

The charge of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports as written into the Blueprint for Maryland's Future under § 7-447.1 of the Education Article is: to support the development of coordinated community supports partnerships to meet student behavioral health needs and other related challenges in a holistic, nonstigmatized, and coordinated manner; to provide expertise for the development of best practices in the delivery of student behavioral health services, supports, and wraparound services; and to provide technical assistance to local school systems to support positive classroom environments and the closing of achievement gaps so that all students can succeed. While the current list of members includes representatives such as local superintendents, boards of education, teachers, social workers, school psychologists, and health workers, school counselors are notably absent as important professionals that contribute to the full scope of student behavioral health needs in the school setting.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of SB0266 from this Committee.