



**Testimony in opposition to
House Bill 1202: Public Schools – Curriculum and Instructional Materials**

**Ways and Means Committee
Position: Oppose**

March 8, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. **Strong Schools Maryland urges an unfavorable vote on House Bill 1202: Public Schools – Curriculum and Instructional Materials.**

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state’s students. This requires an instructional system that is fully aligned from prekindergarten through 12th grade to a college and career readiness standard, including highly competitive college preparatory programs, credit-bearing early college programs, career and technical education programs with opportunities for science-based agriculture education, and pathways for students who do not achieve the college and career readiness standard by the end of 10th grade. Curriculum used in Maryland schools plays a crucial role in this goal.

House Bill 1202:

- Requires curriculum and instructional materials used in a public school to be posted and “prominently displayed” on the school’s website.
 - This places an unnecessary burden on educators and administrators who already do not experience adequate preparation time; and

- Establishes requirements for the production and inspection of certain instructional materials referenced in certain curriculum.
 - This opens the door to controlling education policies and removing teachings of accurate history, comprehensive health, and other subjects.

Maryland's robust education standards and frameworks can be found on the [MSDE website](#), and local school systems, such as [Montgomery County](#), make contact information available to parents who have questions regarding curriculum and course descriptions. Additional posting of all curriculum and instructional material is unnecessary and creates an enormous burden for teachers and administrative staff.

Currently, the state of Florida is experiencing a [controversial educational revolution](#), led by Governor DeSantis to address so-called "woke" education. This includes an ongoing book ban campaign, anti-LGBTQ+ school policies, and blocking AP African American Studies for "woke indoctrination." DeSantis has even hinted at removing *all* Advanced Placement courses from schools. Bills such as House Bill 1202 may not directly bring these policies to Maryland, but they will certainly bring this ideology at a time when our schools *should* be experiencing extraordinary changes to become globally competitive through the Blueprint.

Strong Schools Maryland works to build power with directly impacted Marylanders—including a diverse range of parents and guardians in every corner of the state—to ensure we can collectively shape the World-Class system of education we're striving for. House Bill 1202 will not get us there; it will complicate the already complex journey we face to create World-Class schools for all students.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1202.

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