

BILL: House Bill 448
TITLE: Nonpublic Education - Special Education Placements - Renaming and Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act)
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
DATE: February 15, 2023
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all twenty-four of the state's local boards of education, supports House Bill 448, which would require the State to fund an increased share of the salary expenditures of nonpublic special educational programs to achieve greater parity with the salaries of public school teachers.

Local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that students receive high quality special education programs and instruction to meet the unique needs of every disabled student. Maryland's private professional educators and school administrators play a significant role in providing special education services in accordance and compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and corresponding federal and state regulations.

MABE, on behalf of all local boards of education, has great respect and appreciation for the dedication and commitment of public and non-public educators who ensure that the educational needs of students qualifying for special education services are being met. Therefore, MABE recognizes the merits of providing equitable salaries for public and non-public educational staff.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on HB 448, with amendments to ensure that the legislation will not increase costs for local school systems arising from the bill's implementation of the salary parity program.