



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of  
House Bill 909: Local Share of Major Education Aid – Nonrecurring Costs Exclusion**

**Appropriations Committee  
Position: Unfavorable**

February 28, 2024

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, which calls for an equitable investment into the Maryland education system. **Strong Schools Maryland is writing in opposition to House Bill 909**, which allows a county board of education and a county governing body to exclude costs that are in excess to local share as nonrecurring and supplemental to the school's operating budget.

The passage of the Blueprint came with innovative funding approaches by the General Assembly and Administration and the reinforcement of the concept of "wealth equalized" where both the State and local jurisdictions come together to fully fund Maryland's education system.

We are concerned that House Bill 909:

- Mischaracterizes costs that are in excess to the local share amount as "nonrecurring" and supplemental, when those costs may be crucial and necessary to support students in the school district;
- Conflates the idea of local share of major education aid with the maximum a county/city needs to fund their schools, while it is truly the minimum; and
- Allows county/city governments to waive their commitment to fully fund the school system in comparison to previous years.

Education costs in Maryland are rising due to economic factors like inflation and because Maryland, with the passage of the Blueprint, recognized what it actually means to meet the needs of students so they can learn and thrive in school. House Bill 909 is an irresponsible attempt to shift the commitment of fully funding schools off of local governments.

**For these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 909.**

*For more information, contact Riya Gupta at [riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org)*