

**SUPPORT**  
**Senate Bill 385**  
**Education – Funding for General Education Programs – Definition**  
**Alterations**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**January 31, 2024**

**Samantha Zwerling**  
**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 385, as amended by the sponsor, which would create a task force to examine changing the way student enrollment is calculated for the purposes of education funding.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports passage of an adequate, sustainable, predictable revenue stream that will adequately fund both the operating costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators.

As currently implemented, school funding is based on enrollment counts from the previous year. This does not do a good job of accounting for growth in enrollment in the current year, while school systems and educators still have to serve all students enrolled in a school whether the funding is there for that student or not. This gap impacts students and the services that educators can provide them. A task force is welcomed to ensure that school funding matches the students in our classrooms.

**MSEA urges a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 385 as amended by the sponsor.**