

FAVORABLE
House Bill 200
Community Schools – Alterations

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 200, which would establish requirements to promote best practices in community schools, including developing a common needs assessment as a resource to Community School Coordinators (CSCs), adding to the objectives of a community school, and ensuring student, family, and educator voice is included throughout the support planning process.

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 wholeheartedly supports efforts to align community school policy with proven best practices. When community schools provide targeted supports to students and community members, we see improved academic outcomes, family and community engagement, and attendance, and corresponding reductions in rates of health challenges, student discipline, and chronic absenteeism.

Providing a common needs assessment tool promotes best practices and standardizes data collection while still allowing CSCs to tailor the tool to the community they serve. We also appreciate that information about community schools' priorities and services will be shared transparently while ensuring the privacy of students, families, and community members. As educators, we recognize the timeliness and necessity of developing strong community schools across our state, and this bill's inclusion of student, family, and educator voice is essential to that end.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 200.