

SUPPORT
**Property Tax Credits – Public School Employees, Health and Safety
Improvements, and Property Use for Local Housing Programs**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 66 which would enable county and local governments to enact property tax credits for school system employees.

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).

This bill acknowledges that the affordable housing crisis exacerbates the educator shortage we are facing in Maryland and across the country. Educators want to be able to afford to live and be a part of the community in which they work but many times they are not able to afford it. Unfortunately, as the pandemic has made the educator shortage worse, it has also made the landscape for affordable housing worse. These compounding issues not only affect the quality of our schools and the services that are available to our students, but it also affects the strength of our communities and the state economy.

Further, MSEA appreciates the bill's language to include all educators. Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are crucial parts of our school ecosystems and many times are not making a living wage to support themselves and their families. These professionals include instructional assistant, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, secretaries, and more. If a county were to enact a property tax credit as envisioned under this bill, it could be extremely impactful for our ESPs who want to continue working in our schools but also need to earn a living wage and pay their bills.



This enabling legislation gives local governments the authority to set tax policy that is right for their communities. As counties compete for the best educators, this is another incentive a county could offer an educators to help attract the best talent.

MSEA urges a favorable report on House Bill 66.