



Maryland Education Coalition



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SB937 - Establishing the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION – SUPPORT

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) advocates for adequate, equitable policies, funding, and transparent accountability statewide for the estimated 900,000 students in Maryland’s public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. **We work to ensure that Maryland provides all public school students “a thorough and efficient System of Free Public Schools; and shall provide by taxation, or otherwise, for their maintenance” as defined in the Maryland Constitution**, so all students are prepared to graduate college or career ready as defined in state and federal law. We believe this is their civil right.

According to a MSDE report (July 2022) –“[Maryland’s Teacher Workforce: Supply, Demand, and Diversity](#)”, approximately 50% of Maryland certification applicants yearly are prepared in another state! In contrast, a study by [Educators Rising](#)” with an affiliate at Towson University, found that almost 60% of teachers nationally teach where they went to school. MEC believes that Maryland along with our higher education community can do better.

MEC supports SB937, which would “Establishing the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program to provide grants to local school systems for employees who pledge to fulfill a certain service obligation as a full-time teacher in the State; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Program and to take certain actions to develop and implement the Program; establishing the eligibility for certain teacher candidates in the Program and requiring teacher candidates to be paid a certain rate and offered certain benefits under the Program”.

MEC also notes that during July 2022, the Maryland State Department of Education published the following report – “[Maryland’s Teacher Workforce: Supply, Demand, and Diversity](#)”. This report documents and supports many of the issues that can be found within SB 937 including vacancies by local school system, attrition rates and Vacancies by Certification Area (page 16), which shows **that there were over 1,922 vacancies of certified educators in 2022!** *Below you will find the top vacancies by certification area and critical need.*

Certification Area	Vacancies
Special Education Generic: birth-adult	402.7
Elementary Education (1-6)	254
Speech/Language Pathologist	117.1
Mathematics (7-12)	111

Certification Area	Vacancies
Early Childhood (PreK-3)	104
School Counselors	96.5
ESOL (PreK-12)	82.8
English (7-12)	82

MEC is concerned with these numbers and believes that Maryland needs to recruit, train, place and retain more educators from Maryland in our public schools, where they grew up and went to school. They are more likely to relate to and gain the respect of students, so they come to school ready to learn more successfully with fewer behavior problems. They also come to work more prepared to understand and address cultural, personal challenges and community challenges. This is needed more now than ever before.

Therefore, MEC urges that committee to issue a favorable report on SB937- Establishing the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program and hopes that all understand the urgency of passing this bill.

ACLU of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children’s Behavioral Health Coalition, Free State PTA, Decoding Dyslexia of Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, MSC-NAACP, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland School Psychologists’ Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman R. Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Sharon Rubinstein