



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of  
Senate Bill 984: Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**Position: Oppose**

March 6, 2024

As unwavering advocates for equitable education reform, Strong Schools Maryland is a network dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **Strong Schools Maryland urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 984: Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations**, proposing to change decision making and oversight responsibilities in various circumstances from the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and the State Department of Education (MSDE). This proposed legislation threatens to derail the progress and equity promised by the Blueprint while also limiting opportunities for students.

Under Senate Bill 984, the proposed alterations to implementation and monitoring authorities would reallocate responsibilities among key entities such as the AIB, MSDE, and local county boards of education. This change risks enacting ineffective accountability measures and raises concerns regarding oversight within the education system. The proposed legislation consolidates both the responsibility for implementation and accountability within the same entities, thereby threatening the integrity of the fifth pillar of the Blueprint: Governance and Accountability.

Not only does this bill violate the Governance and Accountability pillar of the Blueprint, it also conflicts with the intent of pillar three, College and Career Readiness. The proposed legislation allows counties to restrict student engagement in dually enrolled courses through caps on course loads and limitations on the times of year during which high school students may be dually enrolled.

Strong Schools Maryland envisions a future where we only seek to expand opportunities for transparency/accountability within the school system and also strive to enhance opportunities for our students to work to their fullest potential. We urge the General Assembly to reject the proposed legislation that threatens the stability of Blueprint implementation and instead focus on initiatives that uphold the integrity of the provisions of the law.

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 984.**

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