



**Testimony in SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS of
House Bill 1287: State and County Superintendents of Schools – Employment Contracts –
School Leadership Course or Program**

Ways and Means Committee

Position: Favorable

March 6, 2024

At Strong Schools Maryland, we envision a Maryland that leads the nation in achieving equitable student outcomes – one of the ways this vision is realized is through Pillar 2 of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, which outlines the necessity to hire high-quality and diverse teachers and administrators. **Strong Schools Maryland supports House Bill 1326**, which strengthens existing language around school leadership training requirements for superintendents, **with amendments**.

House Bill 1326 reinforces the idea that continued education for Maryland’s school leaders allows them to better adapt and improve in the quickly-changing education landscape by requiring the State Superintendent and county superintendents to complete a school leadership program during their time in the role. The proposed legislation also requires that the provision be included in the superintendents’ contracts as a means of accountability and transparency.

Currently, in codified Blueprint law, the AIB and MSDE is to collaborate to provide “school leadership training programs” to the State Superintendent and local school superintendents. Despite being the third year since the passage of the Blueprint, there has been no proof or update from the AIB, the leading Blueprint implementation agency, that this important provision of the law is being carried out. As a result, a disturbing number of school administrators and leaders are unfamiliar with the goals and requirements of the Blueprint.

As you debate this legislation, we urge the committee to add a provision to this bill that requires that the programming include training on the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, similar to the language that is currently in law Ensuring that Maryland’s school leaders are equipped with the most up-to-date information and strategies to make World-Class schools in Maryland a reality.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1287 with amendments.

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