



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of
House Bill 82: Post College and Career Readiness Pathways – Cost to Student – Alteration**

Ways and Means Committee

Position: Oppose

January 31, 2024

Strong Schools Maryland champions full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **House Bill 82** would repeal a central provision of the 2021 law: the requirement that a county board of education provide career readiness (CCR) pathways at no cost to students who meet the CCR standard. Strong Schools Maryland urges the committee to reject HB 82.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a World Class education system where students can gain in-depth knowledge of a subject area, earn postsecondary credits, industry credentials, and engage in competitive entry college preparation programs in high school creating skilled and accredited graduates that are better prepared for post-high school success. HB82 is fundamentally incompatible with this vision.

House Bill 82:

- Alters Blueprint law in a manner that is not recommended by the lead implementation agencies including the AIB and MSDE;
- Takes away access to post-CCR pathways like AP courses, dual enrollment courses, and apprenticeship programs from students especially those from low socioeconomic backgrounds; and
- Violates the Blueprint's foundational principle of equity.

It is the responsibility of the Maryland General Assembly to advance legislation that builds on the Blueprint, consistent with its vision of an equitable statewide public education system. What this legislation proposes would set a dangerous precedent that inevitably will erode the legal standing and ultimate vision of the Blueprint. Serious consideration of this bill is serious consideration to maintain the status quo – one in which finances, geography, and other factors determine students' access to opportunities and success.

For these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 82.

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