

Bill:	Senate Bill 540	Date:	March 27, 2024
Title:	Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established	Committee:	Ways and Means
Position:	Letter of Information	Contact:	Kim Buckheit kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of information for Senate Bill 540.

MCSS strongly supports efforts to improve the quality and utility of school mapping data and its availability to authorized users such as first responders to ensure the safety and security of school occupants and communities. MCSS acknowledges that school mapping data is currently being generated by school districts and the State for other purposes, including facilities management, such as facilities maintenance, facilities-portfolio planning, and capital budgeting and funding. Therefore, it is essential that all school mapping efforts conform to IAC standards that support all of the uses of such data described above.

It is estimated digital maps of a school would cost local school systems between \$1,000 to \$3,000 per school, depending on the size and complexity of the facility and mapping specifications. Excluding funding allocated for School Resource Officers (SROs), the Safe Schools Fund¹ has been funded with \$600,000 dollars (\$25,000 per school system) for the last three years.

MCSS remains committed to assisting local school systems in the implementation of a layered approach to school safety. The inclusion of emerging technologies is one element of a well-designed school safety plan.

Thank you again for taking the time to review this information as you consider Senate Bill 540.

¹ The Safe Schools Fund includes funding that is separately allocated for School Resource Officers and adequate law enforcement coverage in the amount of \$10MM and \$600K for the categories eligible under Ed. Art. §7-1512(f).