

Maryland Education Coalition

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HB 0082 Post College and Career Readiness Pathways - Cost to Student - Alteration House Ways and Means Committee - Chair Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary POSITION: Unfavorable

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) mission is to advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for all public school students in Maryland, regardless of their academic, demographic, economic, or geographic status so each can reach their academic potential.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Pillar 3 strategies are designed to expand access to programs and experiences supporting students along their career and secondary education pathways. The provision that requires school districts to provide these opportunities at no cost to students or their families removes barriers based on economics. These students will have met the college and career readiness standards therefore, under the Blueprint, the school district will receive additional funding for each eligible student which will offset costs incurred to provide college preparatory, dual enrollment, certificate-bearing programs, and more. There should be no need to charge students, which will likely exacerbate access inequities.

In addition, the decision to charge or not should not be left to the school district's discretion so that students in every jurisdiction have the same benefits for achieving college and career-ready standards.

MEC supports the goal within the Blueprint of broadening students' horizons through diverse and inclusive college and career-readiness programs. MEC opposes House Bill 82 for its potential to create inequities in access while districts receive additional state funds to make these opportunities possible. MEC urges an unfavorable report for HB 82.