

BILL: House Bill 1436
TITLE: Public School Construction – Projections and Funding -
Inflationary Adjustments
HEARING DATE: March 5, 2025
POSITION: FAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all the state's local boards of education, supports House Bill 1436, Public School Construction – Projections and Funding - Inflationary Adjustments.

The 24 school districts in Maryland are in need of adequate capital funding and annually request state and local funding to construct, renovate, and maintain school facilities.

Adequately maintaining school facilities requires significant investments from both state and local governments. The needs and uses of public schools are dynamic, and local boards of education must be able to adequately address and finance the range of facility needs in capital projects. Local school systems develop capital improvement plans (CIPs) and construct and maintain school facilities in accordance with adopted procurement and construction laws and regulations. Yet school construction costs continue to escalate, resulting in project costs that can dramatically exceed projected cost estimates and the anticipated state and local appropriations for pending projects.

MABE urges a continued commitment by the Governor and General Assembly in future years to provide the state's share of the funding needed to address the school facility needs identified by local school systems. MABE supports maintaining a state school construction program that annually funds major construction and renovation projects, and systemic projects, to the benefit of all school systems, and urges the Governor and the General Assembly to take steps to ensure that state funding for public school facilities is allocated equitably.

The projections of school construction and capital improvement needs is an essential responsibility of the Interagency Commission. MABE believes strongly that those projections should include an inflationary adjustment using a cost of construction inflation index. Those projections are likely to accurately inform the Governor for consideration when setting the annual allocation of school construction funds in the capital budget.

For these reasons, MABE respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT for House Bill 1436.**