



Maryland Education Coalition



Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Jr. – Co-Chairs

Web site - www.marylandeducationcoalition.org

Email – md.education.coalition@gmail.com

March 5, 2025

BILL(S): [HB1436](#) - Public School Construction - Projections and Funding - Inflationary Adjustments

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations

POSITION: SUPPORT

MEC mission is to advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for the nearly 900,000 students in over 1,300 Maryland public schools, and since at least 2016 we have urged the Governor's office and General Assembly members to expand and identify new revenue sources to ensure there is sufficient funding to fund State Aid for Public Education and other public services that benefit all Marylanders and meet their needs.

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) has been at the table of every major public education initiative for the past 45 years including the work of the Knott Commission and has been supportive of the Build to Learn Act. We also follow the work of the [Interagency Commission on School Construction](#).

MEC has advocated frequently during the past 20 years for Maryland to identify sufficient resources to bring all Maryland public schools facilities up to 21st Century standards, because there are still many schools across the state that are aging or beyond their useful life. We are also aware that although the state and local governments may approve projects to build new schools, additions or do major renovations to ensure students have access to school facilities that are safe and healthy with sufficient infrastructure to support technologies, cost overruns do occur.

However, we are also aware that some projects that are approved have been underfunded in recent years due to rapidly rising costs for labor and materials. Some of this is due to significant increases and fluctuations in inflation. When this occurs, some projects may be delayed or stopped, resulting in increased cost sometime larger than original inflation.

Therefore, we urge the committee to vote favorably for HB1436 - Public School Construction - Projections and Funding - Inflationary Adjustments. This may delay some projects due to the additional inflationary estimates, but we believe it will save funds and limit adjustments overall.

MEC members - ACLU of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children's Behavioral Health Coalition, Free State (Maryland) PTA, Decoding Dyslexia of Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, MSC-NAACP, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Public Justice Center, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman R. Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Sharon Rubinstein