

SUPPORT
Task Force on Education Funding and Student Popular Growth
House Bill 53

House Appropriations Committee
January 28, 2025

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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 53, which would create a task force to examine changing the way student enrollment is calculated for the purposes of education funding.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents over 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports passage of an adequate, sustainable, predictable funding that would adequately support the operating costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators.

As currently implemented, school funding is based on enrollment counts from the previous year. This does not do a good job of accounting for growth in enrollment in the current year. Some counties, like Frederick County, are experiencing explosive growth which has now led to overcrowding in the schools. With a lag in funding due to outdated enrollment counts there's no additional funding for those new students, yet school systems and educators still have to serve all students enrolled. This gap impacts students and the services that educators can provide them.

A task force is welcomed to ensure that school funding matches the students in our classrooms. We appreciate the sponsor including MSEA as a representative on the task force among the other organizations.

MSEA urges a favorable report on House Bill 53.