



**Senate Bill 92 – Education – Youth Enhancement- Establishment
Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and Environmental Affairs
Committees**

Date: January 15, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland. The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for all students in Maryland's public schools.

On behalf of MOST, MEC and MD4CS, we are providing this testimony in support of Senate Bill 92. Maryland remains in the bottom ten states for access to out-of-school time programming. Unfortunately, state funding for programs like LEAP and PSOE has been reduced over the last decade. We are going in the wrong direction.

Research confirms that afterschool, summer, and mentoring programs help close achievement gaps, reduce risk-taking behaviors, increase graduation rates, and lead to higher-paying careers (Vandell, 2024). Investment in initiatives like the Youth Enhancement Program proposed in SB92 changes lives.

We support the suggested amendments from the EAC that ensure youth with disabilities are included and accommodated in programs funded through this initiative, including access to transportation where needed. We also hope that increased funding and expansion to additional counties will be considered as resources allow.

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