



Maryland Education Coalition



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BILL: SB0062 (HB0053) - Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation

POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago and is made up of over twenty statewide organizations and individual advocates with extensive experience. (see below). We advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability for the estimated 900,000 diverse students* in Maryland’s public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status.

We believe there must be meaningful public education stakeholder participation in the decision-making process at the local, state and federal level as defined in federal law consistent with the membership of the previous [Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State Of Maryland](#)

MEC offers the following amendments:

SECTION 1, b – Change Maryland PTA to “Free State PTA”, which is the current official name of the State PTA in Maryland

- x) one representative of students with Disabilities
- xi) one representative for students who are Limited English or Multilingual
- xii) one representative for who are FARMs or Lower Income
- xiii) one representative for students who are Gifted & Talented

Each of these major student groups are defined in federal and state law as well as COMAR regulations and have unique funding and student needs requiring dedicated funding and should have a knowledgeable voice at the table.

2024 Enrollment Counts by Student Group

Group	Percentage of All	Total per Group
FARMs	50.0%	447,477
Limited English	13.1%	117,734
Students with Disabilities	12.7%	114,170
Gifted & Talented	15.8%	141,872

SOURCE: [Students Receiving Special Services Data](#)

Therefore, MEC supports SB 62 with the above amendments and plans to follow the work of this task force if approved. We may also be able to assist with identifying members for each of the student groups mentioned above.