



To: House Ways and Means Committee
 House Appropriations Committee
 Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: House Bill 504/Senate Bill 429 – Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act

Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Our organizations are writing with concerns about the proposed revisions to wrap-around services in *House Bill 504/Senate Bill 429 – Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act*. We request that the Committees delete the following language on page 27 in lines 2-7:

(12) Improving the learning environment ~~AND NUMBER OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS~~ at the school; ~~and~~

(13) Any professional development for teachers and school staff to quickly identify students who are in need of these resources; ~~AND~~

~~(14) OTHER SERVICES AS DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN GUIDANCE OR REGULATION.~~

The proposed language would dilute necessary funding for wraparound health, social services, and educational support services at community schools. Wraparound services are absolutely essential to ensure educational success for students from communities with high rates of health and economic disparities.¹ The Blueprint already provides community schools with the flexibility to invest where the needs are highest – in school health and wellness personnel, educational supports, or school-based health centers. **Please preserve the integrity of the Blueprint by safeguarding wrap around services for community schools.** If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Maryland Assembly for School-Based Health Care
Maryland Association of School Health Nurses
Maryland School Counselors Association

Maryland Occupational Therapy Association
National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter

ⁱ Cumming, T. M., Strnadová, I., Lee, H. M. & Lonergan, R. (2022). Education-centered formal Wraparound Services in support of school-aged students with complex support needs: A systematic review. *Australasian Journal of Special and Inclusive Education*, 46, 47-60

Stenersen, M. R., Kelly, A., Bracey, J., Marshall, T., Cummings, M. Clark, K., & Kaufman, J. (2021). Understanding racial-ethnic disparities in Wraparound care for youths with emotional and behavioral disorders. *Psychiatric Services*, 73, 526-532

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