



SUPPORT: Senate Bill 0859
Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025
Budget & Taxation Committee
March 5, 2025

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) strongly supports Senate Bill 0859 because it will provide resources that Maryland communities need while also ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share to the public services we all benefit from.

AEMS is committed to ensuring that all students in the state of Maryland have access to high quality arts education. We envision a public education system in Maryland that supports, cultivates, nurtures, and uplifts all students' creativity through a robust arts education experience so that they can thrive in a healthy society. We believe that it is critical for the most financially successful Marylanders to better contribute to the wellbeing of the whole of the state and help provide the funding necessary to fund our public education system. Education is the most important investment we can make with the highest return on investment out of any other area.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act will:

- Raise at least \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue when fully phased in
- Lower taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders by expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit
- Close corporate tax loopholes to ensure wealthy multinational corporations can't avoid paying state taxes
- Balance our upside-down tax system and ensure millionaires pay their fair share by adding upper income tax brackets and adding a surtax on investment income

We can't grow our economy if we are cutting back on, rather than investing in, public schools, child care, and transit services. The arts sector is a \$12.8 billion feature of the Maryland economy with hundreds of millions in consumer spending and a wide range of careers available. Investing in public education and its arts programs will strengthen the pipeline of artists to not only better serve the lives of Marylanders but also to bolster our economy and state revenue. Businesses – and the Maryland workers they employ – value these services and it is only fair that the largest corporations pay their share, just like our Maryland small businesses already do.

And, it's wrong that the wealthiest Marylanders, those earning more than \$700,000 per year, pay a lower tax rate than those in any other income group. The Fair Share for Maryland Act will help address this.

We ask the committee to make a favorable report on SB 0859.

For questions, please contact AEMS Executive Director Rachel McGrain at rmcgrain@aems-edu.org.