



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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February 19, 2025

Board Chairman

Brannndon Jackson
District 6

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Budget and Taxation Committee

Board Vice Chair

Jonathan Briggs, M.Ed. MLS
District 2

Chairman Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Board Members

Dr. Tiffini Andorful
District 1

Re: SB429 - Excellence in Education

Pamela Boozer-Strother, MBA, CAE
District 3

Position: Support with Amendments

Vacant
District 4

Contact: Dr. Phelton Moss, Chair, Policy and Governance Committee
Phelton.Moss@pgcps.org | Johntel Greene, Government Relations Johntel@laperez.org

Robin Brown
District 5

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Feldman, and esteemed members of the Budget and Tax and Education, Energy, and Environment Committees,

Dr. Phelton C. Moss
District 7

Thank you for the work you all do on behalf of our students, educators, and staff across the state and in the Prince George's County Public Schools community. On behalf of the Prince George's County Board of Education, representing over 131,000 scholars, we express our general support for SB 429, while strongly advocating for necessary amendments to ensure the bill strengthens, rather than hinders, educational outcomes.

Zakyia Goins-McCants
District 8

Lolita E. Walker, MBA, PCC
District 9

Student Member

Jamal J. Jongo

There are many provisions that the Prince George's County Board of Education supports including the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which will help with our recruitment of high-quality teachers and teacher leaders, additional flexibility in the Concentration of Poverty per pupil grant fund administration, and additional supports for alternative pathways to teacher certification.

Secretary/Treasurer

Millard L. House II
Superintendent

This is an economically tough year for the state of Maryland. **We strongly urge the following amendments** to protect the Blueprint's commitments and sustain equitable educational opportunities. **Our four recommendations are made to safeguard the needs of our scholars, educators, and school communities.**

1. Restore Per Pupil Funding & Maintain Collaborative Time Implementation

Provisions delaying the collaborative time from FY26 to FY33 and altering the target per pupil funding amount are particularly detrimental for PGCPs, the largest school system in the state and most significantly impacted by these provisions. The delays to per-pupil funding increases will lead to a cumulative **loss of over \$1 billion** for Prince George's County Public Schools. FY2026 alone sees a **decrease of \$22 million** from the original



promised Blueprint funding. The postponement of collaborative time funding reduces essential resources for compensatory education and multilingual learners, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable students.

Recommendation: Maintain the original timeline for per-pupil funding and collaborative time implementation to ensure equity in resource allocation.

2. Preserve Community Schools Funding

Starting in FY 2026, PGCPs will have 19 new Community Schools, 11 of which will be eligible for the per-pupil grant in 2027. Community schools rely on these grants to provide mental health support, academic interventions, and family engagement services. The bill freezes per-pupil grant increases for new community schools in FY 2027 and FY 2028, which would deny the 11 newly eligible PGCPs schools access to critical funds.

Recommendation: Remove the funding freeze and continue per-pupil grant increases as originally planned.

3. Ensure Local Control and Reduce Administrative Barriers

Shifting oversight from local school systems to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) adds unnecessary bureaucracy, restricting district-level decision-making. Implementation of statewide initiatives could duplicate or compete with local efforts, such as recruitment of teachers and the proposed School Leadership Training Program.

Recommendation: Retain local authority over school leadership training and integrate Blueprint-specific professional development into current district-led programs.

4. Simplify Access to Collaborative Time Demonstration Grant

The \$48.42 million allocated over four years does not compensate for the significant per-pupil funding reductions. Additional administrative hurdles make it difficult for districts to access these funds.

Recommendation: Streamline grant access and provide direct funding to districts without excessive application burdens.

In conclusion, the financial impacts of these provisions as written would severely compromise Prince George's County Public School's ability to implement the 5 Pillars of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future effectively. As dedicated stewards of Maryland's public education system, the Prince George's County Board of Education stands ready to collaborate with you in a way that best serves Maryland's scholars. Your leadership in strengthening SB 429 is essential to securing the future of education in our state.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Board of Education urges your consideration on the above amendments for SB429.

Sincerely,

Prince George's County Board of Education