



**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.<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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**

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<sup>i</sup> 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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