



# Maryland Education Coalition



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**BILL(S):** [SB0859](#) - Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

**COMMITTEE:** Senate [Budget and Taxation](#)

**POSITION:** **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) has been at the table of every major public education initiative for the past 45 years and when the Blueprint was passed in 2020, MEC representatives collaborated with General Assembly leaders to ensure the Aid to Education budget was fully funded in future years. Therefore, **if the Governor and General Assembly make no funding changes to the public education budget, it will remain fully funded through at least FY 2026!** This is consistent with the promises made Marylander nearly 900,000 students, their families, and educators.

MEC mission is to advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for the nearly 900,000 students in over 1,300 Maryland public schools, and since at least 2016 we have urged the Governor's office and General Assembly members to expand and identify new revenue sources to ensure there is sufficient funding to fund State Aid for Public Education and other public services that benefit all Marylanders and meet their needs.

**Adequate funding for public education is required by the - [Maryland Constitution, Article VIII](#), backed by the courts and Marylanders.** Therefore, MEC urges the General Assembly to issue a favorable report for [HB1014 - Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025](#) in its entirety, which could generate at least \$1.6 billion in revenue or more than the Governor's proposal\*. If passed, this bill will not only supplement [public education funding](#), but it could help support funding for other Maryland priorities such as [State Workers](#), [Transportation](#), or [Climate](#).

An [Analysis of the Governor's FY 2026 Budget](#) by the [Maryland Center on Economic Policy](#) (MDCEP) found that about **one-third of all of the proposed budget cuts would significantly impact public education** even though we have seen no evidence that public education has a direct impact on Maryland's current budget deficit. They estimated that **within five years, the cuts to public education will be about 2.5 billion dollars**. This does not include the local share impact. Therefore, it is critical that the General Assembly approves this legislation and others that will generate revenue.

## **HOW WILL APPROVING THE FAIR SHARE FOR MARYLAND ACT OF 2025 BENEFIT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MARYLAND?**

- Although the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is currently fully funded through at least FY 2026 *if the General Assembly does not approve any reductions, delays or cuts proposed by the Governor*, the Blueprint by law requires the state to increase its investment by \$3.8 when the Blueprint is fully implemented in future years and those investments must continue now to ensure students continue to make progress on academic performance
- Failing to fully fund the Blueprint will make it impossible to achieve the Blueprint's full vision and hurt our students chances of becoming college or career ready by 10<sup>th</sup> grade, graduate on time prepared for successful careers or post-secondary education experiences, build up our workforce, and boost Maryland's economy.
- Increases in salaries and benefits help recruit, retain and train highly qualified educators, and would expand access to high-quality pre-kindergarten and improved services for students with disabilities

Therefore, **MEC strongly urges a favorable report for HB1014 - Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025**. Keep your promise to Maryland's children and families. We also ask our state leaders to attract revenue-generating industries more successfully, that will also generate quality jobs and services. Maryland's children and families need sustainable initiatives that will meet all of their public service necessities.

**\*A Maryland Center on Economic Policy analysis found that DLS did not fully calculate all revenue categories**

**MEC members** - ACLU of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children's Behavioral Health Coalition, Free State (Maryland) PTA, Decoding Dyslexia of Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, MSC-NAACP, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Public Justice Center, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman R. Hettelman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Sharon Rubinstein