

# **Jerry Donald SB62 Testimony 2025 (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Jerry Donald

Position: FAV



The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 15th, 2025

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and honorable members of this committee,

As a member of the Frederick County Council and a teacher for 35 years, I fully support Senate Bill 62: Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth, and I encourage the committee to give this important legislation a favorable report.

During my career as a high school educator, unplanned increases to the school's student body was a regular obstacle. Before each school year began, I would be informed of how many students to expect in my classes, usually around 30 to 32, and prepare accordingly. Then, when the school year actually began and I received my student roster, the actual number of students would be closer to 40 than to 30.

In theory, adding a few extra students to each existing course doesn't sound too demanding — but logistically, it can severely impact resource scarcity. Over a dozen times throughout my career I would intend for students to be assigned a textbook, which they would then take home and use during homework or to study. Then, due to an unplanned increase in the class size, there wouldn't be enough books for each student. Instead, we would have to share the books during class, and I would have to print out sections of the book for assignments and reading. Not only did this slow the process and make it more difficult for the students to study and check their facts, but printing the assignments further increased the school's operational cost in printing paper and ink. Across an entire school for the entire year, that is thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of expensive and otherwise unnecessary paper waste.

Books were far from the only example. This year, my wife, a fellow teacher, saw the school she worked at **run out of desks**. At the start of the year, the school had to scramble to find a desk for every student.

On a very practical level, the lag in education funding for growing counties is holding students back. The taskforce created by this legislation will ensure Maryland knows how to match school funding to the student populace, so that no student has to go without the tools for a quality education.

Sincerely,

Jerry Donald  
Frederick County Council

**SB 0062 FAV FCG OCE LS25.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FAV



**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

**SB 62 – Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

**DATE:** January 15, 2025  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**FROM:** The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 62 – Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth** a favorable report.

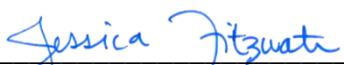
As you may know, Frederick County is the fastest-growing jurisdiction in Maryland and that trend is particularly apparent in our public school enrollment. While many school systems are currently seeing enrollment decrease, Frederick County Public Schools' enrollment growth rate has consistently been between 9 and 10 percent. This growth is a great endorsement of the quality education that FCPS provides and an asset to Frederick County as a community. However, it does not come without challenges and costs.

The current foundation formula that determines state aid uses outdated local enrollment numbers, resulting in unfunded students in jurisdictions with enrollment growth. Local enrollment is measured on September 30<sup>th</sup> of the prior school year, which means the State share of per-pupil funding does not reach school systems until the following school year. This puts a disproportionate burden on jurisdictions with high rates of enrollment growth, such as Frederick County. As student enrollment increases, school systems and the Counties that fund them need state support for the infrastructure and resources necessary to meet the needs of each student at the time that they are in our schools. While Frederick County is one of the few jurisdictions *currently* seeing growth, student enrollment often fluctuates and other jurisdictions may face this challenge in the future.

The General Assembly passed legislation last year to form a Frederick County School Construction Workgroup. The workgroup convened over the interim, and consisted of local elected officials, school board representatives, IAC representatives, and General Assembly members. One of the recommendations of this workgroup was for the State to reevaluate the formula that SB 62 aims to study. This task force would be critical to ensuring that growing school systems are being fairly accounted for during the funding allocation process.

SB 62 establishes a task force to look at this issue and make recommendations for adjustments to the funding provisions regarding student enrollment counts. As with many issues, I believe the first step to finding a solution is to bring together the many stakeholders and experts.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 62 and I urge a favorable report.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive  
Frederick County, MD

# **SB062\_favorable\_Josh\_Bokee.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joshua Bokee

Position: FAV

## **SB062: Education – Task Force on Education Funding and Population Growth**

### **Favorable**

Testimony as submitted by:

Josh Bokee

Frederick County, Maryland resident

[jbokee@gmail.com](mailto:jbokee@gmail.com)

The Hon. Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone

The Hon. Vice-Chair, Senator Rosapepe

Members of the Committee

My name is Josh Bokee, and I am a parent with a student in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS). I respectfully recommend to the committee a **Favorable** vote on SB 062 – Task Force on Education Funding and Population Growth.

The existing State aid formula for funding local public schools does not adequately account for situations in which a jurisdiction experiences rapid student enrollment. Recognizing the complexity of the issue, SB 062 would create a Task Force to comprised of the needed stakeholders to study, review and make valuable recommendations going forward.

Currently, in Frederick County, there is a gap between when large numbers of new students arrive in the school system at the beginning of the year and when State aid to match the student increase is actually applied.

While Frederick County is currently experiencing the most significant student enrollment growth of all of Maryland's jurisdictions it is not the only one doing so, as others including Carroll, Anne Arundel and Charles are also growing.

When the funding formula does not adequately reflect the actual numbers of students who are attending local schools, it creates ripple effects throughout the system. While the most obvious impacts are larger class sizes, it also means less time for school staff such as behavioral specialists and math and reading specialists to spend time with students in need.

As a parent, I believe that we are all in this together - the needs of students across the state are all vitally important. I commend the State, the General Assembly and members of the committee for your continued commitment and investment to public education throughout the years.

Funding is not unlimited which is why SB062 is needed now so that the issue can be thoughtfully studied, and recommendations can be put forward.

I thank the sponsors, Senator Karen Lewis-Young and Senator Justin Ready for introducing SB 062 and respectfully recommend a favorable vote by the committee. Thank you.

# Written Testimony in Support of SB62.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Yoho

Position: FAV



As members of the Frederick County Board of Education, we have seen firsthand the critical impact of growing student populations on our operating and capital budgets. We fully support the formation of the proposed Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth in SB 62 to analyze the challenges related to the delay in student enrollment counts and its effect on school funding. Due to our scheduled budget work session, we regret we are unable to testify in person.

Examining a new approach to school funding to account for growing county populations - such as Frederick, Howard, Charles, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and St. Mary's Counties - is essential to ensure educational equity and adequacy. Over the past ten years, Frederick County grew at a rate of nearly 10%, leading to increased school enrollment, strained resources, and infrastructure challenges. Given that the student population count lags a year when allocating funding, counties with growing populations are adversely affected. Modernizing the formula to more accurately reflect the student population will distribute resources in a more responsive and equitable approach – allowing these local education agencies (LEAs) to hire additional staff and invest in technology and programs that meet the needs of their growing student bodies.

As one example - at the student enrollment count on September 30, 2022, FCPS reported 46,996 students. At the student enrollment count on September 30, 2023, FCPS reported 47,681 – an increase of 685 students. In 2023, our per-pupil allocation was just over \$16,000 per student. For 685 students who enrolled in 2023 but were not included in the allocation, this equates to nearly \$11 million in revenue not allocated until the following year. However, these students are provided with a seat in a (possibly already overcrowded) classroom staffed by a teacher and other crucial personnel, programming, special education support, food/nutrition services, and transportation from the moment they enroll in FCPS. This provides just one example from year to year – imagine the impact of ten years of growth not accounted for in the school funding formula each year.

This delay in funding forced our Board of Education to make difficult decisions regarding our budget over the past several years - from increasing class sizes, reducing the ratio of technology for our primary students, and eliminating valuable programming to meet the unique needs of students. We fully support a full examination of the impact of growing populations on funding allocations to ensure that any growing county within the state of Maryland can meet the needs of their enrolled student population while not negatively impacting school districts that are remaining stagnant or losing students over time.

We appreciate the bi-partisan work of Senator Lewis Young and Minority Whip Ready for sponsoring SB 62, as well as Chair Guzzone and the members of the Budget and Taxation Committee for their willingness to consider the issue of fairness in education funding and student population growth.

Rae Gallagher, President  
Dean Rose, Vice President  
Karen Yoho, Legislative Chair

# **Testimony in support of SB0062 Task Force on Educa**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

01/15/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0062- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

**TO:** Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee  
**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0062, Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

Data from the Maryland Association of Counties report “**Why Does the State’s School Enrollment Count Matter?**”<sup>1</sup> and the high growth rates some counties like Frederick are undergoing means the formula for calculating student population and funding for those students lags a year behind the actual uncompensated growth in student populations.

The intent of this bill is to establish a Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth to analyze the challenges related to the delay in student enrollment counts and its effect on school funding and the connection between growing student populations and the provision of school funding. The report from the Task Force with its findings and recommendations would be due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15, 2025.

FCPS is currently the fastest growing public school system in Maryland. FCPS enrollment has increased by nearly 10% over the past 5 years, while 18 other school systems saw decreases during the same period. The total number of students is anticipated to increase by 5,990 students between 2022 and 2032. Between 2020 and 2024 the population of Frederick County grew by 9.7%.<sup>2</sup> . The State Board of Education has acknowledged this growth in student populations in Frederick County. It is clear the state strategic plan for school funding needs to adjust to consider the student population growth and this task force will assist in modification to the plan to adjust to real world conditions.<sup>3</sup>

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0062.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org/2022/10/06/whats-up-with-the-states-school-enrollment-count-and-why-does-it-matter/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/maryland/fastest-growing>

<sup>3</sup> <https://strategicplan.marylandpublicschools.org/maryland-at-a-glance/>

**SB62 - FAV - MSEA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Samantha Zwerling

Position: FAV

**SUPPORT**  
**Task Force on Education Funding and Student Popular Growth**  
**Senate Bill 62**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**January 15, 2025**

**Samantha Zwerling**  
**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 62, which would create a task force to examine changing the way student enrollment is calculated for the purposes of education funding.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents over 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports passage of an adequate, sustainable, predictable funding that would adequately support the operating costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators.

As currently implemented, school funding is based on enrollment counts from the previous year. This does not do a good job of accounting for growth in enrollment in the current year. Some counties, like Frederick County, are experiencing explosive growth which has now led to overcrowding in the schools. With a lag in funding due to outdated enrollment counts there's no additional funding for those new students, yet school systems and educators still have to serve all students enrolled. This gap impacts students and the services that educators can provide them.

A task force is welcomed to ensure that school funding matches the students in our classrooms. We appreciate the sponsor including MSEA as a representative on the task force among the other organizations.

**MSEA urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 62.**

# **MD County Enrollment Changes Over Time.xlsx - Shee**

Uploaded by: Senator Karen Lewis Young

Position: FAV

### Changes in Enrollment by School System Over Five Years

School Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Avg. % Change/4yrs	Avg. % Change/4yrs w/o 2020				
Fiscal year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023						
		% Change from 2019	% Change from 2020	% Change from 2021	% Change from 2022						
Allegany	7955.25	7715.75	-3.10%	7661.5	-0.71%	7699	0.49%	7,696	-0.05%	-0.84%	-0.67%
Anne Arundel	82486.25	81016.75	-1.81%	80867.5	-0.18%	81911.5	1.27%	81,749	-0.20%	-0.23%	-0.18%
Baltimore City	73532.5	73067.25	-0.64%	71358	-2.40%	69639.75	-2.47%	70,926	1.81%	-0.92%	-0.32%
Baltimore	110654.75	107733.25	-2.71%	107114.75	-0.58%	106795.25	-0.30%	106,103	-0.65%	-1.06%	-0.92%
Calvert	15577.25	14896.25	-4.57%	14949.25	0.35%	15011.25	0.41%	14,851	-1.08%	-1.22%	-1.31%
Caroline	5506.5	5303	-3.84%	5259	-0.84%	5357	1.83%	5,298	-1.11%	-0.99%	-0.78%
Carroll	24968.25	24191	-3.21%	24608	1.69%	25323.25	2.82%	25,619	1.15%	0.62%	0.19%
Cecil	14592.25	14216.75	-2.64%	14159.75	-0.40%	14344	1.28%	14,254	-0.63%	-0.60%	-0.50%
Charles	26579	26029.25	-2.11%	25986.75	-0.16%	26637.75	2.44%	26,729	0.34%	0.13%	0.17%
Dorchester	4466.25	4487	0.46%	4314.75	-3.99%	4212.75	-2.42%	4,282	1.62%	-1.08%	-0.09%
Frederick	42253	42043.25	-0.50%	43810.5	4.03%	45219.25	3.12%	46,023	1.75%	2.10%	1.09%
Garrett	3627.25	3489.75	-3.94%	3348.25	-4.23%	3294.25	-1.64%	3,251	-1.33%	-2.78%	-1.73%
Harford	37407	36520.75	-2.43%	36880	0.97%	36915.75	0.10%	36,952	0.10%	-0.31%	-0.56%
Howard	57386	55755.25	-2.92%	55838.25	0.15%	56130.75	0.52%	55,911	-0.39%	-0.66%	-0.70%
Kent	1800.25	1728.5	-4.15%	1706.5	-1.29%	1650	-3.42%	1,620	-1.85%	-2.68%	-2.36%
Montgomery	160386.25	156738.25	-2.33%	154409.5	-1.51%	155523	0.72%	154,455	-0.69%	-0.95%	-0.58%
Prince George's	130580	127504.75	-2.41%	124362	-2.53%	124660.75	0.24%	125,423	0.61%	-1.02%	-0.39%
Queen Anne's	7505	7171	-4.66%	7124	-0.66%	7091	-0.47%	7,152	0.85%	-1.23%	-1.07%
Saint Mary's	17138	16723	-2.48%	16714	-0.05%	16853.25	0.83%	16,699	-0.92%	-0.66%	-0.64%
Somerset	2685	2657.75	-1.03%	2557.75	-3.91%	2561	0.13%	2,603	1.61%	-0.80%	0.18%
Talbot	4448.75	4291.5	-3.66%	4232.75	-1.39%	4227	-0.14%	4,229	0.05%	-1.29%	-0.94%
Washington	21830	21087.25	-3.52%	21100	0.06%	21193.75	0.44%	21,377	0.86%	-0.54%	-0.56%
Wicomico	14482.25	13865	-4.45%	13888	0.17%	14211.5	2.28%	14,411	1.38%	-0.16%	-0.20%
Worcester	6421	6332	-1.41%	6402.25	1.10%	6330	-1.14%	6,324	-0.09%	-0.39%	-0.66%
<b>Frederick County Specific Numbers</b>											
Eligible Foundations Students (Column 2 = Change YoY)	42253	42043.25	-209.75	43810.5	1767.25	45219.25	1408.75	46022.5	803.25		
Per Pupil Allocation by year (Total, State)	<u>\$14,176</u>	\$7,317	<u>\$14,501</u>	\$7,481	<u>\$15,261</u>	\$7,731	<u>\$16,324</u>	\$8,341			
Total State PPA			\$307,630,460.25		\$327,746,350.50		\$349,590,021.75		\$383,873,672.50		
Total Missing State PPA Allocation			-\$1,534,740.75		\$13,220,797.25		\$10,891,046.25		\$6,699,908.25		
<a href="#">Source #1</a> Eligible Foundations Students											
				Even in the midst of CoVID-19, Frederick County had the second smallest change in percentage of new children enrolled in the state.							
Created by Andrew Burgoyne											

Redder = more unfunded students, Greener = more overfunded students

Sources: Maryland Department of Education: <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCAA/SSP/index.aspx>

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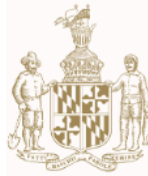
**SB 62 Cover Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Karen Lewis Young

Position: FAV

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG  
*Legislative District 3*  
Frederick County

Committee on Education, Energy,  
and the Environment



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 15th, 2025

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and esteemed members of this committee,

This bill, SB62 Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth, will establish a task force to study the gaps in funding that occur in school systems across the state due to the growth in their enrollment rates. Every year, the attendance snapshot is taken on September 30th but the funding due each school system, based on that snapshot, is not disbursed until July 1st the following year. The problem is that some school systems are growing at rates that leave counties fully responsible to absorb the difference.

In Frederick County, our school system has grown an average of more than 3% over the past 5 years. In FY23, this left 2,212 children without state funding — and Frederick is not the only county impacted by this phenomenon. In that same time frame, 6,280.75 students throughout Maryland went without education funding for the entire school year. Please see the attached spreadsheet for an analysis of the growth in all counties.

Education is a high priority for this body, nevertheless, we must be cautious about placing an undue burden on local government. The task force will study this pressing issue and share a report before next session on how best to address the growth some counties are facing in relation to the school funding formula. We will consult best practices around the country. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "Y" at the end.

Senator Karen Lewis Young

# **SB 62 - Task Force on Education Funding and Studen**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FWA



**MARYLAND STATE & DC  
AFL-CIO**

Donna S. Edwards  
*President*

Gerald W. Jackson  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

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**SB 62 - Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
January 15, 2025**

**SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President  
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 62 if amended to include representation of professional school personnel. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 62 establishes a Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth to analyze the complex issue of delays in student enrollment counts and student population growth as it relates to school funding. The task force includes members appointed from the General Assembly, state departments, boards of education, and school associations. However, SB 62 does not include representation for *all* professional school personnel and support staff that work directly with students every day. This exclusion limits the task force's ability to fully study the issue, as these professionals offer critical insights into the challenges that students face and provide practical solutions and guidance on how it affects funding and overall educational outcomes. It is essential that their voices be included in these conversations as these decisions not only affect their careers but also the futures of their students.

To fix this issue, we propose the following amendment:

Insert the following text after (b)(3), moving all subsequent text down:

*“(4) one representative appointed by the Maryland State and District of Columbia  
AFL-CIO representing professional school personnel;”*

The Task Force's proposed scope emphasizes addressing the challenges related to student enrollment and its effect on school funding and student population growth while also being tasked to make recommendations on school funding provisions. We strongly believe the quality of the conversation is significantly enhanced when we include the voices of those who directly impact our school systems and students.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to only support SB 62 if it has been amended to address these concerns.



# **EACtestimony.SB62.pdf**

Uploaded by: Leslie Margolis

Position: FWA

# Education Advocacy Coalition

## for Students with Disabilities

### SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 62: Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

**DATE: JANUARY 15, 2025**

**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, provides this testimony in support of Senate Bill 62 with amendments. Senate Bill 62 would establish a task force on education funding and student population growth.

The EAC supports the establishment of such a task force to analyze challenges related to student enrollment counts and its effect on school funding and the connection between growing student populations and the provision of school funding, and to make recommendations to improve the provision of school funding. These challenges are particularly pertinent to funding for students with disabilities who receive special education services. Therefore, the EAC suggests that the membership of the task force be expanded to include at least one individual with expertise related to students with disabilities and special education. This perspective will be critical to the success of the task force and the development of recommendations that will improve funding for all student populations.

For these reasons, the EAC supports Senate Bill 62 with amendments.

To discuss or if you have questions, please contact Leslie Seid Margolis, Co-Chairperson, at [lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org](mailto:lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org) or 410-370-5730.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene A. Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC

Rene Averitt-Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, MSED, Education Consultant

Beth Benevides, Autism Society of Maryland, Education Advocacy Coalition Co-chair

Ellen A. Callegary, Attorney

Melanie Carlos, xMinds (Partnership for Extraordinary Minds)

Stephanie Carr, S.L. Carr Education Consultants, LLC

Rich Ceruolo, Parent

Michelle Davis, M.Ed., ABCs for Life Success

Jennifer Engel Fisher, Weinfeld Education Group

Lisa Frank and Andrea Bennett, The Special Kids Company

Marjorie Guldan and Rosemary Kitzinger, Bright Futures, LLC

Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony: Senate Bill 62

January 15, 2025

Page Two

Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course, LLC

Leilani Hardy, Maryland Coalition of Families

Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate

Morgan Durand Horvath, Abilities Network

Stacy Ganz Kahn, Educational Resources Group of Greater Washington

Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland

Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland, Education Advocacy Coalition Co-chair

Mark B. Martin, Law Offices of Mark B. Martin, P.A.

Beth Nolan, Education Team Allies

Sumaiya Olatunde, H2D Counseling

Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center

Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Kate Raab and Nicole Joseph, Law Offices of Nicole Joseph

Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism

Jaime Seaton, BGS Law, LLC

Ronnetta Stanley, M.Ed., Loud Voices Together

Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group, LLC

Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint

Maureen van Stone, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Jessica Williams, M.Ed., Education Due Process Solutions

Liz Zogby, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition



**MEC STATEMENT - BILL SB0062 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Rick Tyler, Jr.-Chair

Position: FWA



# Maryland Education Coalition



Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Co-Chairs

Web site - [www.marylandeducationcoalition.org](http://www.marylandeducationcoalition.org) \*\*\* Email - [md.education.coalition@gmail.com](mailto:md.education.coalition@gmail.com)

January 15, 2025

**BILL: SB0062 (HB0053) - Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

**COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation**

**POSITION: Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago and is made up of over twenty statewide organizations and individual advocates with extensive experience. (see below). We advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability for the estimated 900,000 diverse students\* in Maryland’s public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status.

We believe there must be meaningful public education stakeholder participation in the decision-making process at the local, state and federal level as defined in federal law consistent with the membership of the previous [Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State Of Maryland](#)

MEC offers the following amendments:

SECTION 1, b – Change Maryland PTA to “Free State PTA”, which is the current official name of the State PTA in Maryland

- x) one representative of students with Disabilities
- xi) one representative for students who are Limited English or Multilingual
- xii) one representative for who are FARMs or Lower Income
- xiii) one representative for students who are Gifted & Talented

Each of these major student groups are defined in federal and state law as well as COMAR regulations and have unique funding and student needs requiring dedicated funding and should have a knowledgeable voice at the table.

### 2024 Enrollment Counts by Student Group

Group	Percentage of All	Total per Group
FARMs	50.0%	447,477
Limited English	13.1%	117,734
Students with Disabilities	12.7%	114,170
Gifted & Talented	15.8%	141,872

SOURCE: [Students Receiving Special Services Data](#)

Therefore, MEC supports SB 62 with the above amendments and plans to follow the work of this task force if approved. We may also be able to assist with identifying members for each of the student groups mentioned above.