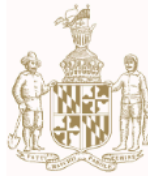


KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

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's growth has far exceeded any other public school system in the State. In FY23, this left 804 children in Frederick without state funding — but Frederick is not the only county impacted by this phenomenon. In that same time frame, more than 2,000 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, flowing style.

Senator Karen Lewis Young