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Education, Energy, and  
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Executive Nominations Committee



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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**February 21, 2025**

**The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee**  
**SB 791 – Public Schools – Career Ladder – Teacher Classroom Teaching Time**  
**Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the esteemed members of the distinguished Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 791 – Public Schools – Career Ladder – Teacher Classroom Teaching Time.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future when implemented calls for a 60/40 teacher collaborative ratio with teachers spending 60% of their time teaching in the classroom and 40% collaborative time. Before the Blueprint, teachers would spend 80% of their time teaching and 20% of their time in collaboration. This legislation would return the teacher time requirements to the 80/20 ratio.

Since the bill has been introduced, I understand the concerns that have been raised about SB 791 and would work with the members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee and other stakeholders to amend the bill to pause the current 60/40 teacher collaborative ratio and require the Maryland Department of Education and the Accountability Implementation Board to review the impact of the 60/40 teacher collaboration on instructional time for students.

Maryland State School Superintendent, Dr. Carey Wright, in her written testimony before the joint hearing on Senate Bill 429, the Governor's Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act stated: ... "The teacher shortage makes the implementation of collaborative time, as first envisioned by the Blueprint, impossible to implement without sacrificing instruction for students and risking negative impacts on student achievement. The Blueprint calls for hiring over 2,000 new teachers this coming year and 13,000 more teachers across the state over the 8-year phase-in of the policy provision. Absent a legislative remedy this year, LEAs must begin negotiating terms to adjust teacher workload for the upcoming school year.

"We must ensure that the collaborative time policy does not unintentionally decrease instructional time for students or negatively impact academic performance. To reduce teacher instructional time to 60% from 80% while holding constant the number of teachers in Maryland can only be achieved by covering more classes with unlicensed teachers or increasing class size."

In response to my question about the challenges of meeting the 60/40 teacher collaborative ratio that puts the teacher in the classroom a little over half a day, Accountability and Implementation

Board Chair Ike Leggett responded that the 60/40 teacher collaborative ratio would be reviewed and policy changes would be considered.

The current 60/40 goal is unattainable as the State of Maryland does not have enough teachers. Maryland State School Superintendent Carey Wright has estimated that 15,000 more teachers would need to be hired statewide to meet the Blueprint's collaborative time requirements. Local Maryland school districts already are facing severe hiring challenges with over 2,000 teacher vacancies statewide. At the same time, local school systems are struggling to recruit and retain substitute teachers and other supportive teaching positions. We should not be putting this added 60/40 teacher-collaborative burden on our local school systems.

There also is a time management issue with the 60/40 ratio. Currently, the 20% collaborative time requirement – particularly in elementary schools – is completed when students are in cultural arts, such as fine art, music, or gym. Students are not away from their primary classrooms long enough to increase the collaborative time of teachers in an effective manner without hiring additional teachers, substitute teachers, assistant teachers or teacher aides, and support staff.

Both the Governor and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) have recommended a pause in the 60/40 teacher collaboration ratio. The intention of SB 791 is to strengthen teacher time in the classroom and ensure that the current collaborative time policy does not unintentionally decrease instructional time for students or negatively impact academic performance. I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request to work with the Committee for a favorable report on SB 791 amended.