



Senate Bill 8
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee– January 29, 2025
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland. The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide.

MOST and MD4CS strongly support Senate Bill 8, which represents a common-sense, fiscally neutral approach to encouraging student participation in civics education and providing schools with expanded opportunities to foster civic engagement. For our democracy to thrive, young people must practice citizenship and develop a comprehensive understanding of the systems and processes that enable active civic participation. However, amidst the numerous mandates and requirements students must meet to graduate, civics education often does not receive the attention it deserves within the curriculum.

Recognition programs for students serve multiple purposes: they strengthen applications for post-secondary opportunities and scholarships, provide schools with a platform to showcase their value to families and communities, and, most importantly, contribute to a society enriched by educated, engaged, and informed citizens.

On behalf of MOST and MD4CS, we extend our gratitude to Senator Kagan for sponsoring Senate Bill 8 and respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

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