
INFORMATIONAL

Senate Bill 468

Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools – Start Time for Instruction

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on Senate Bill 468, which would require beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, all middle schools in the State to begin instruction no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and all high schools in the State to begin instruction no earlier than 8:30 a.m., except in cases where a waiver is granted by State Board of Education. Additionally, the legislation would require each county board of education and each public charter school to implement a certain public service campaign to raise awareness on sleep deprivation and later school start times.

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 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

We appreciate efforts to support students' health and readiness to learn. To the extent to which changes to school scheduling may affect school personnel's job requirements, we would urge that the implementation and impact of any changes are discussed and negotiated with local educators' unions. Bringing unions into the implementation process will mitigate potential unintended consequences to the wraparound services that schools provide and ensure that educators can support students effectively.