

BILL: SB0113

TITLE: State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal

DATE: January 27, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

Good Afternoon, members of the committee of Education, Energy, and the Environment. We are a group of five students out of South River High School, and we are honored to address you today. We hope to represent the student body in hopes of representing a group that is not often heard.

We are hoping to advocate for the Senate Bill 113 for the inclusion of a principal on the State Board of Education. The current Maryland State Board of Education is composed of various stakeholders such as parents, students, and teachers. However, it would be critical to include a principal on Board of Education because of their essential role in the student environment. Principals are leaders in our school who directly engage with the student body on a frequent basis. With the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's future, principles are tasked with many new tasks on a daily basis. The future of Maryland's education system is being made by the Maryland State Board of Education which only includes members such as a student member, a parent member, and a teacher member.

If implemented, the principal that is elected will have a voice on the Board of Education which will allow for the board to make better informed decisions surrounding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. In addition to this, principals are close with the student body and can represent their needs along with the student members. The addition to the Maryland Board of Education will improve students' education because principals can help to represent students and help provide ideas for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Principals can bring different experiences and insights that can be invaluable to the Maryland Board of Education.

Implementation of this bill would also align with other states goals to include principals on the State Board of Education. States such as North Carolina and New Jersey have both implemented a principal member onto their boards.

We hope that the committee considers the need for the insights that principals can bring to the Maryland Board of Education and the Blueprint for Maryland's future. The inclusion of principals can allow school administration to have more of a say about what is being implemented with the plans for Maryland's educational future.

We want to thank the members of the committee for their time and consideration for the bill. We are hopeful for the favorable report on Senate Bill 113.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Vander Roest, Gabriella Assante, Alexis Daily, Ryan Mioduszewski, and Dominick Berardi

