



January 29, 2025

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee members.

My name is Michael C. Brown, and I am the President of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP). It is an honor to represent secondary school leaders across the state and to provide testimony in support of SB 0113.

As principals, we are at the forefront of education, working tirelessly to implement policies, regulations, and programs that impact the lives of students, staff, and communities. Our work spans critical areas such as school safety, student achievement, mental health, equity, and the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Having a principal's voice on the Maryland State Board of Education is not just beneficial—it is essential.

Principals are uniquely positioned to provide valuable insights into the day-to-day realities of running schools. We understand the challenges and opportunities that come with educating Maryland's diverse student populations, including English language learners, students with disabilities, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Our perspective ensures that policies are not only well-informed but also practical and equitable in their application.

Including a principal on the State Board would foster stronger collaboration between policymakers and practitioners, bridging the gap between decision-making and implementation. It would enhance communication, provide a clearer understanding of the needs of schools, and ultimately lead to more effective and impactful policies.

I want to thank Senator Kramer for sponsoring this important bill and the members of this committee for your dedication to Maryland's students and educators. On behalf of MASSP and the principals I represent, I urge you to give SB 0113 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Brown  
President

Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals