



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115 | [www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education](http://www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education)

February 21, 2025

## Board Chairman

Brannndon Jackson  
District 6

Chairman Brian J. Feldman

Education, Environment, and Energy Committee

Maryland State Senate

## Board Vice Chair

Jonathan Briggs, M.Ed. MLS  
District 2

**Re: SB821 Primary and Secondary Education - Student Immunization - Temporary Admission Period**

## Board Members

Dr. Tiffini Andorful  
District 1

**Position: Support**

Pamela Boozer-Strother, MBA, CAE  
District 3

**Contact:** Dr. Phelton Moss, Chair, Policy and Governance Committee  
[Phelton.Moss@pgcps.org](mailto:Phelton.Moss@pgcps.org) | Johntel Greene, Government Relations [Johntel@laperez.org](mailto:Johntel@laperez.org)

Vacant  
District 4

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and esteemed members of the Education, Environment, and Energy Committee,

Robin Brown  
District 5

Thank you for the work you all do on behalf of our students, educators, and staff across the state and in the Prince George's County Public Schools community. On behalf of the Prince George's County Board of Education, representing over 130,000 students, we are writing to express our strong support for SB821.

Dr. Phelton C. Moss  
District 7

Zakyia Goins-McCants  
District 8

This bill would require each county board to temporarily admit students under specific circumstances related to proof of immunization appointments. It would also extend the 20 calendar days to 60 calendar days. We often encounter unique student situations that, under the current 20-day immunization requirement, effectively prevent students from attending schools at a critical time in their education and restrict the number of students included in our funding formula. As one of Maryland's largest school districts, this small policy change can significantly impact our districts' overall per-pupil funding.

Lolita E. Walker, MBA, PCC  
District 9

## Student Member

Jamal J. Jongo

**1. Student Impact:** Each year, students miss valuable instructional time while families work to obtain or verify immunization records. This disruption disproportionately affects our most vulnerable students, including those from mobile families and those experiencing housing transitions. From July 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, Prince George's County Public Schools averaged more than 4,000 newcomer students in grades PreK -12.

## Secretary/Treasurer

Millard L. House II  
Superintendent

**2. Financial Impact:** The Foundation Program relies on headcount reporting that happens during the start of the enrollment period. When students are barred from the classroom due to immunization records, it can result in millions of dollars of lost funding to our county's education system. For SY25-26, 918 students were identified as not being funded by the per pupil Foundation funding because the students did not provide proof of immunization prior to the September 30<sup>th</sup> student enrollment submission to the Maryland State Department of Education. This resulted in a loss of \$8,469,468 Foundation funding.



**3. Healthcare Access:** In Prince George's County, we have observed significant challenges for families scheduling immunization appointments during the compressed time frame between summer break and school start. Medical providers are often overwhelmed with requests during this period, creating unnecessary barriers to school attendance. This legislation aligns with our commitment to supporting families rather than creating barriers.

**4. Mobile Student Needs:** With our diverse and dynamic student population, we frequently encounter families who move between schools, districts, states, and even countries. These families often don't receive immunization requirement notifications until they begin the enrollment process, creating additional challenges for timely school entry.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Board of Education urges a favorable report on SB821.

We thank you for your continued support and welcome further discussion. We are prepared to provide any additional information necessary to assist in advancing this bill. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to educate, advocate, and act, together.

Sincerely,

Prince George's County Board of Education