

Support of Senate Bill 879_SCS (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Cheryl Tolbert

Position: FAV



March 5, 2025

To Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

At Salisbury Christian School, we wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 879, which would extend dual enrollment opportunities and financial aid eligibility to nonpublic and homeschool students. These changes align closely with our core values of reverence, respect, relationships, and responsibility, as well as our vision to engage, excite, and equip students to become resilient learners, passionate world changers, and steadfast followers of Jesus Christ.

Reverence calls us to honor the God-given potential in every student, and this bill recognizes that students in nonpublic and home school settings deserve the same access to higher education opportunities as their public school peers. By removing financial barriers and expanding eligibility for dual enrollment programs, the bill affirms the dignity and value of every learner, empowering them to develop their God-given gifts and pursue academic excellence.

Respect is at the heart of our school community, and this bill reflects a broader respect for the diverse educational choices families make. Parents who choose Christian education or homeschooling do so with great intentionality, seeking an environment that nurtures both academic growth and spiritual formation. Allowing these students to participate fully in state-supported dual enrollment opportunities acknowledges and honors those choices, ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to thrive. Additionally, to safeguard religious freedoms, any state funding for dual enrollment programs should be directed straight to the college or university rather than the nonpublic school, ensuring that participation does not compromise the school's independence or mission.


Relationships are a cornerstone of our mission at Salisbury Christian School, and we see the inclusion of nonpublic and home school students in these programs as an opportunity to build stronger connections between secondary schools and institutions of higher education. This bill encourages collaboration between Christian schools like ours and colleges across the state, creating pathways for students to grow academically, deepen their faith, and prepare for their future callings. Our school also recognizes that maintaining fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability may require setting a reasonable limit on the number of dual enrollment courses covered by the grant, with families responsible for any additional course costs beyond that limit.

Finally, responsibility is a value we instill in our students, urging them to take ownership of their education and their futures. By expanding access to early college coursework, this bill equips students to be proactive in their learning journeys, developing the skills and perseverance they will need to become the resilient learners and passionate world changers we seek to cultivate - ultimately having a positive impact in the state of Maryland and across the United States.

At Salisbury Christian School, we are deeply committed to supporting our students in their pursuit of academic excellence, including those who participate in dual enrollment courses. As part of that commitment, we already provide financial assistance by covering the cost of books and lab materials for our students enrolled in these programs. We believe that eliminating financial barriers is essential in equipping students to take full advantage of these valuable opportunities. The proposed state grant funding would further ease the financial burden on families, and we stand ready to continue our investment in our students by coming alongside this initiative. By working together with state resources, we can ensure that more students have the ability to engage in rigorous college-level coursework that prepares them for their future academic and career goals.

At Salisbury Christian School, we believe that every student should have the opportunity to develop their God-given talents and pursue academic excellence without unnecessary barriers. Senate Bill 879 would allow more students to engage in rigorous coursework, gain valuable college experience, and step confidently into the future God has planned for them. We urge lawmakers to support this bill and stand with us in preparing the next generation of leaders who will make a meaningful impact on our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven M. Lamkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" being the most prominent part.

Steven M. Lamkin, Ed.D.
Head of School
Salisbury Christian School

testimony 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Eric Dallavalle

Position: FAV

Eric Dallavalle

Written Testimony

SB0879 – Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students

As a parent of private school students, I became aware over a year ago that public school students were provided the ability to attend community colleges at no cost. This was not only the class taught in the high school but also those taught on the college campus. I was able to testify in front of both the House and Senate subcommittees last year on this bill but unfortunately not able to do so this year. I am aware that after my testimony, in Frederick County, they now have limits on the number of classes students can take at Frederick Community College at no cost to the high school student. I do know this was due to budget constraints and an area they would save money. As a taxpayer in the state of Maryland, I know I made the choice of paying for my children's education when we decided to send them to private school. As a taxpayer, I do not feel as though it is fair that my tax dollars are going to public school students to get part of their college education for free. If the community colleges are in an agreement to provide the reduced cost for public school students, then it should be the same for all students in the county. As things stand right now, I would have my children enroll in colleges outside the State of Maryland instead of providing additional money to our local colleges for classes during high school and then for their actual college enrollment. My family is blessed to have grandparents covering most of my children's private school tuition. I know when many think about private school cost, they think about bigger schools with higher costs. The school my children attend has a cost that is at least 25% less than the last number I saw for the cost per student in Frederick County Public Schools. I do understand that the only way to bring the inequality into equality is higher cost to the state. Maybe we need to go back to when this was not offered as an option in high school. I would be pleased to see all community colleges offering the same discount to all high school students that are residents in their county. Thank you

Senate Bill 879 Homeschool Dual Credit Testimony.p

Uploaded by: James Klauber

Position: FAV



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Office of the President

Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students– Senate Bill 879

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Friday, March 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

**Testimony in Support of the Bill Submitted by
Dr. James Klauber**

I write to ask you to pass this legislation to see that all students are covered by the dual credit benefits provided in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not just those enrolled in a public school. At Hagerstown Community College, we have seen dual credit enrollments soar with the advent of the Blueprint. However, students who attend a private school or a homeschool are left out. Washington County has a significant percentage of its homeschool population who are refugees from southwest Asian countries. These families, who largely homeschool through their Islamic Community Center, do not have the means to pay tuition for dual credit opportunities. They must wait until they complete high school prior to the triggering of Pell eligibility. This should not be the case in Maryland.

The Blueprint envisioned a world class level of education for all Marylanders. This bill seeks to close the gap that adversely affects those who homeschool or choose a private school. The actual numbers of students is fairly low, and would not create an adverse burden on the local education agency. As we work to close the equity gap in our county and state, this would be a meaningful step forward in that direction.

We hope that you will give this bill favorable consideration. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

James S. Klauber, PhD
President

SB0879 Favorable All Students Able to Aply for Ava

Uploaded by: Mary Nelson

Position: FAV

Mary Nelson
1465 Blue Ball Rd
Elkton, MD 21921

March 5, 2025

Brian Feldman, Chair and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Senate Committee,

Requesting a FAVORABLE report from committee members for SB0879

I agree with altering the definition of "dually enrolled student" to include a nonpublic secondary school student and a home school student to be eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant. Whether a student attends a public school, private school or is home-schooled should not be an issue when applying for a grant. Their families all pay the same taxes to support education. They all come under and are required to reach similar educational goals so they should be considered on equal terms for the grants.

Due to the extreme budget deficit Maryland has recently come into, including private and home-schooled students in the available pool of funds currently earmarked for the grants would be prudent. In future years as budgeting permits, the total fund can be increased for all students.

Please vote favorably to grant equal access to grants for all Maryland students.

Sincerely,

Mary Nelson
mgn136@gmail.com

Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Matthew Curtis

Position: FAV



Holly Grove Christian School

Excellence in Christ-Centered Academics

Matthew W. Curtis
Head of School

Brittany Price
Middle/High Principal

Denise Hopkins
Elementary Principal

To the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the voices of the people as you consider expanding the definition of "dually enrolled student" to include nonpublic secondary school and homeschool students. This change would make them eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

As Head of School at Holly Grove Christian School in Westover, Maryland, I represent over 100 secondary students who would greatly benefit from inclusion in these programs. Currently, our students do not receive the same tuition reductions as their public-school peers. This means they must pay a discounted rate for collegiate courses—on top of their private school tuition. Since public school students receive full dual enrollment benefits, the question remains: shouldn't all families who pay taxes have access to the same opportunities, regardless of where their child attends school?

Expanding eligibility for these grants would have numerous benefits. Money that families do not have to pay for dual enrollment courses means more money in their pockets which means economic stimulation. The alteration will allow more students the ability to complete courses earlier, getting these students into the workforce faster which will benefit the individual and the economy. Less college debt leaving college leads to greater financial freedom, and accelerating coursework completion helps fill critical job openings in our county and state.

I commend the committee for considering this change. It demonstrates a true commitment to equity and to meeting the needs of all Marylanders. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Christ,

Matthew W. Curtis

Head of School - Holly Grove Christian School

SB 879 - Carozza Testimony_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 7, 2025

The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
SB 879 – Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students –
Alterations
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the esteemed members of the distinguished Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 879 – Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations.

SB 879 as amended would expand the definition of a dually enrolled student to include non-public secondary school and home-schooled students to allow for more students to be eligible for the Part-time Grant program and the Early College Access Grant. This legislation would ensure equal access to dual enrollment programs no matter a student's educational path.

The dual enrollment program improves college and career outcomes for our students, and reduces potential financial barriers to college access. Non-public and home school students deserve equitable access to college just like their public-school peers, and SB 879 ensures this opportunity for more Maryland high school students.

Working with the House sponsor, SB 879 has been amended to be a pilot project in Washington County. I thank you for your kind consideration, and respectfully request a favorable report on SB 879 as amended.

SB879_MSEA_Lamb_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: UNF

UNFAVORABLE
Senate Bill 879
Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
March 7, 2025

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association opposes Senate Bill 879, which would alter the definition of "dually enrolled student" such that students enrolled in nonpublic schools or home schools are eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

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).

The Part-Time Grant Program and Early College Access Grant represent laudable efforts to ensure that Maryland students have access to dual enrollment programs, regardless of their family's income. MSEA believes that public funds should support the education and flourishing of students in public schools, not subsidize private entities that do not abide by the standards and regulations set by county boards of education. The proposal in this bill would siphon college access funds from public school students in need, thus undermining this body's commitment to investing in a high-quality, world-class public education system for Maryland students.

We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on Senate Bill 879.

SB0879- State Board- Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Kincaid

Position: UNF

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
BILL: Senate Bill 0879- *Institutions of Higher Education-Dually Enrolled Students-
Alterations*
DATE: March 07, 2025
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully opposes SB0879, which concerns alterations to the definition of "dually enrolled" students and the related implications for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant. MSDE is committed to supporting equitable access to high-quality education for all Maryland students. However, we believe that the implications of HB0725 have not been fully considered, particularly concerning the financial and administrative impact on LEAs tasked with implementing these changes.

SB0879 proposes to expand the definition of "dually enrolled" students to include those from nonpublic secondary schools and home-schooled students. This expansion could significantly impact the fiscal responsibilities of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) without a corresponding provision for additional funding or resources. Our key concerns include:

- **Increased Financial Burden on LEAs:** Expanding eligibility for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant to include a broader student base could substantially increase the number of participants in dual enrollment programs statewide. This would, in turn, place a heavier financial burden on LEAs, which are already required under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to cover tuition and fees for "dually enrolled" students who meet the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard.
- **Administrative Challenges:** The proposed changes could lead to significant administrative challenges for LEAs and higher education institutions. The need to accommodate an increased number of dually enrolled students could strain existing resources and complicate program management and oversight, potentially affecting the quality and efficacy of these education programs.
- **Equity and Access Concerns:** While the intention of broadening access is commendable, without careful planning and adequate funding, there is a risk that the expansion could dilute the support provided to currently eligible students, many of whom rely on these programs to advance their postsecondary and career goals.

We recommend that any legislative efforts to adopt the requirements in SB0879 include comprehensive stakeholder engagement to ensure that changes do not inadvertently place undue pressure on our education system or compromise students' educational outcomes.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate SB0879. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs) at 410- 767- 0504, or akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.

200 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201 | 410-767-0100 Deaf and hard of hearing use Relay.

SB0879 Howard Co BOE Testimony 030725 for EEE - Du

Uploaded by: Staff Howard County

Position: UNF



**Board of Education
of Howard County**

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*Superintendent,
Secretary/Treasurer*

**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 7, 2025**

SB0879: UNFAVORABLE

Institutions of Higher Education - Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **Institutions of Higher Education - Dually Enrolled Students - Alterations** as an unclear bill that has the potential to become an unfunded mandate for local school systems to divert public resources to private and home-schooled students.

SB0879 expands the definition of “dually enrolled student” to include a nonpublic secondary school student or a home school student so that these students are eligible to apply for the Part-time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant. Further, by expanding the definition of dually enrolled student, the bill specifies that a public institution of higher education may not charge a nonpublic secondary school student or a home school student tuition.

The [fiscal and policy note on this bill from 2024](#) indicated “local community college revenues may decrease due to the expansion of the definition of ‘dually enrolled student’ and the existing prohibition against charging a dually enrolled student tuition. It is unclear if a local school system is responsible for the cost of tuition for a dually enrolled private or home school student. To the extent a local school system is responsible, local school system expenditures increase.” Although the bill doesn’t expressly state local school systems would pay these costs, testimony by sponsors of the bill in 2024 indicated that was the intent. Additionally, to the extent the grant programs noted under SB0879 are awarded to private or home-schooled students, less funds would be available for dually enrolled public school students. Currently, verification of dual enrollment participation for billing purposes lives in the HCPSS student information system, as are course outcomes for students that determine eligibility for future cost coverage. It would be impossible for HCPSS to track and verify enrollment and course outcomes for students not enrolled in HCPSS, providing additional challenges in effectively stewarding HCPSS fiscal resources.

As a legislative platform, the Board opposes legislation mandating that public schools accommodate private or home-schooled students in academic or extracurricular programs offered in the public schools. With total resources for education limited, diversion of public funds for dual enrollment to private and home-schooled students reduces resources available for public schools, while eroding direct responsibility for tax funded educational programs.

For these reasons, we urge an UNFAVORABLE report on SB0879 from this Committee.