

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 486 – School Health and Wellness Personnel – Assessment and Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers

Hearing Date: February 11, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) strongly supports *Senate Bill 486 – School Health and Wellness Personnel – Assessment and Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers*. The legislation requires the Departments of Health and Education to conduct a regular assessment of school health and wellness professionals, including school nurses. The legislation would also add a school nurse to the Council for the Advancement of School-Based Health Centers.

MASHN believes that a regular assessment of the number of school nurses and other health professionals in schools is essential. The last publicly available data is from 2018-2019 (see attached). Given the rapidly changing nature of the healthcare workforce, we need more current data to monitor the school nurse shortage and develop initiatives to address the shortage.

MASHN also supports the addition of a school nurse to the Council for the Advancement of School-Based Health Centers. Coordination is essential between school health programs and school-based health centers. Maryland requires a school health program (commonly known as a nurse's office) in every school, while only about 90 schools have school-based health centers. School-based health centers are a community health centers that are for students and located within the four-walls of a school.

MASHN appreciates the Committee's long history of commitment to school health. Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to add school nurses to the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Repayment Program (SB 441/HB 545 – Senator Beidle/Delegate Mireku-North). This year, we ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Employer (2022)	School Nurses	Licensed Practical Nurses	Certified Nursing Assistant	Other Health Services	Enrollment (2018-19)	Schools Count	Students Per Nurse	Nurses Per School
Allegany	22	1	0	6	8539	26	388	0.85
Anne Arundel	77	21	135.5	7	83300	124	1082	0.62
Baltimore	173	0	40	0	113814	174	658	0.99
Baltimore City	50	3	127	1	79297	167	1585.94	0.30
Calvert	18	7	0	2	15936	25	885.33	0.72
Caroline	8	2	7	0	5829	10	728.63	0.80
Carroll	48	3	0	3	25179	44	524.56	1.09
Cecil	29	0	0	0	15307	29	527.83	1.00
Charles	35	9	0	0	27108	38	774.51	0.92
Dorchester	12	4	1*	1*	4785	13	398.75	0.92
Frederick	26	8	56	0	42713	68	1642.81	0.38
Garrett	0	11	0	0	3842	12	NA	NA
Harford	61	5	0	0	37826	54	620.10	1.13
Howard	59	0	62	0	57907	77	981.47	0.77
Kent	2	0	4	1	1912	5	956.00	0.40
Montgomery	118	0	212	59	162680	208	1378.64	0.57
Prince George's	198	21	0	2	132667	208	670.04	0.95
Queen Anne's	14	2	0	0	7749	14	553.50	1.00
SEED School	1	1	0	1	404	1	404.00	1.00
Somerset	6	4	1	1	2930	9	488.33	0.67
St. Mary's	33	3	0	0	17999	30	545.42	1.10
Talbot	6	0	6	1	4674	8	779.00	0.75
Washington Hospital	16	10	26	1	22681	45	1417.56	0.36
Wicomico	28	0	9	2	14949	25	533.89	1.12
Worcester	17	0	0	0	6810	14	400.59	1.21
Statewide	1057	115	685.5	87	896837	1428	848.47	0.74

Notes * 1 person certified as CNA and CMT

Data Source and Years: Nursing data from 2018-2019 MSDE Survey; Enrollment and school count data from 2018-2019 MdReportCard Enrollment Data; the local employer is current year (2022)