



HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 1326

**PREKINDERGARTEN SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM - ESTABLISHMENT
MARCH 11, 2025**

SUPPORT

Maryland CAPE is our state's chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of over 135,000 nonpublic school students attending over one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland.

House Bill 1326 would establish a Prekindergarten Savings Account Program, and provide that the State shall deposit into such funds a certain per pupil amount for qualifying students, etc. This legislation will help families to save for their children's early education. Early childhood education is a critical time in a child's development, and this bill would empower parents to choose the best prekindergarten options for their children.

We know that families who are able to invest in early education are better able to prepare their children for academic success. But, as you know, many families struggle due to their financial burdens. The Prekindergarten Savings Account program would make this opportunity more accessible to families across Maryland.

Many schools operate prekindergarten childcare centers and facilities as part of their operations. Our schools are well aware of the struggles surrounding child care for a large amount of our parent bodies, and we support any effort that will provide a measure of relief to this burden. HB 1326 is a meaningful solution that will not only benefit individual families but also help strengthen the educational ecosystem for all of Maryland's children.

With this bill, Maryland will empower parents to make informed and intentional choices about the best prekindergarten options for their children, giving them the tools to ensure a bright and successful start. We respectfully encourage a favorable report on HB 1326.

Thank you.