

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 293
County Boards of Education – Antibias Training for Members – Requirement

House Ways & Means Committee
March 19, 2025

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 293, which would require each member of a county board of education to complete antibias training at least once during the member's term.

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).

As we continue to see a disturbing rise in hate crimes in our state, educators have a critical role to play as leaders within the school community, which is why we were proud to support the establishment of antibias training for educators in the 2024 legislative session.¹ Extending this training to county board members will help ensure that those making critical education policy decisions are well informed of their role in preventing bias, prejudice, and hate.

We support efforts to ensure that all decision makers in public education are prepared to address alarming incidents motivated by prejudice. Students and their families will benefit when everyone leading our schools, from educators to elected officials, has a deep understanding of bias and how to prevent it.

We urge the Committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 293.

¹2023 Hate Crime Statistics for Maryland. <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/state-data/maryland>