



# Maryland Education Coalition



Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Jr. – Co-Chairs

Web site - [www.marylandeducationcoalition.org](http://www.marylandeducationcoalition.org)

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Email - [md.education.coalition@gmail.com](mailto:md.education.coalition@gmail.com)

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HB 118 - Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

Ways & Means Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) has been at the forefront of public education advocacy for over 40 years, standing as Maryland's oldest, most experienced, and most diverse coalition fighting for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability for all public school students. Today, we face a critical moment in our state's educational future that demands immediate action.

Maryland is grappling with a teacher shortage crisis that threatens the very foundation of our public schools. This crisis isn't just about recruitment and retention challenges—it is also a systemic issue rooted in the inability of our educator preparation programs (EPPs) to meet the growing demand. In the 2022-23 school year, there were 2,144 teacher vacancies, yet EPPs produced only 1,914 potential future teachers—far short of what is needed.

This shortage has been used to justify decisions undermining the Blueprint Funding Formula, such as removing funds designated for teacher collaborative time—a cornerstone of research-based practices designed to improve student outcomes and support educators. The ripple effects of this decision are devastating. It directly jeopardizes funding for our most vulnerable students: multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and those experiencing poverty. It also compromises our ability to attract and retain high-quality teachers, exacerbating the shortage.

House Bill 118 represents a critical step forward. By streamlining the licensure process for qualified, certified teachers from other states and providing alternative pathways that uphold rigorous standards, this legislation offers a practical and immediate solution to strengthen our educator workforce. The ITMC delivers significant advantages for professionals in the teaching field, including:

- Streamlining the process for obtaining teaching licensure while upholding high teaching standards.
- Eliminating the need for repeated exams, additional testing, and administrative fees when relocating across state lines.
- The ITMC also supports states by enhancing teacher mobility and workforce flexibility.

We thank Delegates Mireku-North, Fair, and Miller for their leadership in sponsoring House Bill 118. We urge the Ways & Means Committee to give this bill a favorable report and help us build a stronger educator workforce to meet the needs of our students.

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ACLU of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children's Behavioral Health Coalition, Free State PTA, Decoding Dyslexia of Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, MSC-NAACP, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman R. Hettlerman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Sharon Rubinstein

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