



**SB 859/HB 1014 – Fair Share for Maryland Act**  
**Ways & Means Committee**  
**February 20, 2025, 1 p.m.**  
**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.

The state of Maryland benefits from being one of the wealthiest states in the nation. However, our state is long overdue for Progressive tax reforms that will help address looming budget deficits without harming our state's low- and mid-income families. The Legislature also committed to transforming our education system through the Blueprint for Maryland's future – a promise that appears to waver with projected shortfalls in the Blueprint Fund. And there are other priorities like transportation and school construction that are already experiencing cuts as deficits loom. Our tax system currently offers loopholes that benefit corporations and the wealthy. Taxes never sound good to anyone; however, House Bill 1014 provides a commonsense approach to reforming our tax system, so everyone pays their fair share. Many working families will see their tax burden reduced while the state will generate enough revenue to continue innovating and reforming our education system. Ultimately, our strong economy, world-class schools, and thriving families will continue to attract businesses and residents to the state.

Efforts to reform the tax code and generate revenue take time; waiting just one more year puts us at risk of making painful and dangerous choices. We applaud Delegate Palakovich Car and the co-sponsors of House Bill 1014 for the political fortitude to take action to address our revenue crisis now – an action which should have been taken with the Fair Share proposals last session. We urge a favorable report for House Bill 1014

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**Maryland Out of School Time Network / Maryland Coalition for Community Schools**

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