

FAVORABLE
House Bill 457
Primary and Secondary Education – Educator Professional Development – Course on
Student Well-Being and Flourishing

House Ways & Means Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 457, which would require the State Department of Education to offer a continuing professional development course on student well-being and flourishing to school personnel and administrators.

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 public school educators, we are committed to career-long learning about how to best serve our students. High-quality, research-based professional development can improve our pedagogy and classroom environments. Understanding child development and how to support students' social-emotional learning helps educators support the whole child.

The course offered under this bill is based on the eight dimensions of wellness identified by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), including social, emotional, intellectual, and physical wellbeing.¹ This would be a valuable option for educators seeking a holistic understanding of what students need to learn and thrive. We also appreciate that this training would be eligible for the Professional Development Points (PDPs) that educators earn toward maintenance of their licenses. **We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 457.**

¹ Promoting Wellness: A Guide to Community Action. SAMHSA (2016).

<https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma16-4957.pdf>