

FAVORABLE
House Bill 888
Education – Initial Teacher Certification – Qualifications

House Ways and Means Committee
February 25, 2025

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports House Bill 888, which would give Maryland teacher preparation programs the option to develop their own portfolio-based assessment for teacher candidates to count toward licensure requirements.

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).

One of the licensure requirements established by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is that aspiring educators must pass a nationally recognized portfolio-based assessment, which includes the edTPA and PPAT assessments. At the end of 2025, the PPAT will be discontinued.¹

There are alternatives available for some candidates, depending on their licensure pathway, classroom experience, and the program in which they are enrolled. House Bill 888 would offer yet another option for those enrolled in a Maryland teacher preparation program that opts to develop their own portfolio-based assessment. We wholeheartedly believe that providing multiple high-quality pathways to teacher licensure benefits our state's teaching workforce and our students.

Further, research points to troubling effects of requiring the edTPA for teacher licensure. Concerns include that the scoring of the assessments indicates racial and

¹PPAT Assessment. ETS (2025). <https://www.ets.org/ppat/test-takers/register/dates-deadlines.html#:~:text=As%20announced%20in%20August%202024,Spring%202024%20through%20Spring%202025.>

cultural bias, that the assessments have limited ability to accurately predict how effective a teacher will be in the classroom, and that the requirement may pose financial barriers at \$300 for an initial attempt.^{1 2}In recent years, several states have stopped requiring the edTPA for teacher licensure.^{3 4 5}

We know that certification tests cannot fully capture a teacher's skill, creativity, or dedication. Providing high-quality, locally developed alternatives to national portfolio-based assessments would mitigate some of these concerns and help Maryland create a thriving teacher workforce that better reflects the diversity of our state and our students.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 888.

¹ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED509664.pdf>

² <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/northwest/pdf/potential-testing-barriers.pdf>

³ <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAOSPI/bulletins/2d7d4ac>

⁴ <https://www.nysed.gov/news/2021/state-education-department-proposes-changes-teacher-certification-requirements-reduce>

⁵ <https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-06-18/georgia-streamlines-certification-educators>