



Maryland Education Coalition



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BILL: [HB0325](#) Adult Education - High School Diploma by Examination - Requirements and Study

COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means Committee

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago and is made up of over twenty statewide organizations and individual advocates with extensive experience (see below) We also advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability for the estimated 900,000 diverse students* in Maryland’s public schools, regardless of their status. This includes children and adults whose first language may not be English, who may struggle.

The Maryland population is remarkably diverse with people from all over the world whose first language or dialect may be one of the over 100 found in Maryland schools and communities. Second to English, Spanish is the 2nd most common language in Maryland and many parents and other adults responsible for students in our schools may prefer their primary language. However, this may make it difficult to get a high school diploma or to pass the General Educational Development Test (GED) required for them to obtain employment that pays a salary large enough to help support themselves and their families. Some of them may have an equivalent from their home country that is not accepted here.

Therefore, MEC supports HB0325 - High School Diploma by Examination - Requirements and Study, which could help provide adults to access to the tools needed to obtain a high school diploma or GED if their primary language is Spanish. We also urge the state to pursue ways seek ways to expand these opportunities, they are more accessible to those whose primary language is not English or Spanish.

We also urge applicable state and local government agencies to collaborate with community organizations.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report for HB0325 - High School Diploma by Examination - Requirements and Study so more Marylanders can have access to the documents required to improve their quality of life.

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. Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Sharon Rubinstein