

**SB 712/HB 976:** Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations and Report (Education Funding Accuracy Act): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this **BIPARTISAN BILL**.

Dear Budget & Taxation Committee & Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT SB 712/HB 976, the Education Funding Accuracy Act**, during committee consideration or floor votes.

These bipartisan bills would improve the accuracy of full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment counts that determine state funding for public schools. They require more frequent and real-time verification of enrollment data (beyond the current September/October snapshot), better alignment of funding with actual average daily membership across the school year, and annual reporting to the General Assembly on discrepancies, over/under-payments, and corrective actions.

Current funding relies heavily on a single point-in-time count that can significantly overfund districts with declining enrollment or underfund those with growing or highly mobile student populations. This creates inequities, wastes taxpayer dollars, and leaves some schools short of resources they need to serve students effectively. In rural and suburban areas, where enrollment can fluctuate due to housing patterns, military families, or other factors, **accurate and timely data is essential for fair allocation**.

**Requiring better counting methods, annual transparency reports, and corrective measures is a commonsense, fiscally responsible reform. It ensures every Maryland student receives the funding their school system is entitled to based on actual enrollment—not outdated snapshots—and promotes accountability in how billions in education dollars are distributed.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of SB 712/HB 976** and help make Maryland's public school funding more accurate, equitable, and transparent.

Thank you for your attention to this important bipartisan education funding and accountability legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals