



# Maryland Education Coalition



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## **HB1329 - Education - Public School Construction - Funding**

House Appropriations Committee

FAVORABLE

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago (1980) and is the oldest, most experienced, and diverse public education advocacy coalition in Maryland. MEC advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for the estimated 900,000 students in Maryland’s public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status.

This includes adequate funding to ensure that the more than 1,350 public schools in Maryland each have adequate funding to provide all students with access to a high quality school facility that meets each academic, program and student service needs in a safe and healthy environment that also meets 21<sup>st</sup> Century standards.

Therefore, we support HB 1329 that would include the annual school construction allocation to at least \$550,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2027. This would be an increase of \$96,500,000 above what has been proposed by the Governor’s office, but still significantly below the yearly request of the twenty-four (24) Local Education Agencies. It is also less than the real needs within our school systems, especially those with schools beyond their useful life, schools with enrollments well above the state rated capacity, schools that do not meet the current and project academic and program needs of that community and those that do not meet 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and instructional material needs.

Please also note that we continue to support the Built to Learn program and urge further student and consideration of public-private partnerships such as what has been implemented in Prince George’s County as well as other revenue tools that will meet the facility and facility operation needs of all public schools in Maryland.

Therefore, we urge the appropriations committee to issue a favorable report for HB 1329- Public School Construction – Funding.