



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

HB 976 – Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations and Report (Education Funding Accuracy Act)

DATE: March 11, 2026
COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **HB 976 – Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations and Report (Education Funding Accuracy Act)** a favorable report.

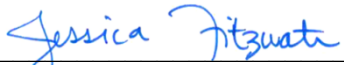
This legislation would alter the definition of full-time equivalent enrollment that is used to calculate State education aid and local government education funding requirements. This alteration would account for student enrollment numbers from September 30th through May 31st of the prior year, rather than just the September 30th number that is currently used.

As you may know, Frederick County is the fastest-growing jurisdiction in Maryland, and that trend is particularly apparent in our public-school enrollment. While this growth is a great endorsement of Frederick County and FCPS, a lack of adequate funding to keep up with this enrollment brings challenges and costs to the County.

The current foundation formula that determines state aid uses outdated local enrollment numbers, resulting in unfunded students in jurisdictions with enrollment growth. Local enrollment is measured on September 30th of the prior school year, which means the State share of per-pupil funding does not reach school systems until the following school year. This delay puts a significant burden on jurisdictions like Frederick County that are seeing high rates of enrollment growth without matching state investment.

HB 976 would help ensure growing counties in Maryland are receive their fair share of state education funding. As counties continue to absorb cost shifts from the state, and deal with rising inflation, funding our schools at or above MOE levels is becoming increasingly difficult. This legislation ensures that jurisdictions such as Frederick County receive accurate per pupil funding for each school year.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 976 and I urge a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD