

**UNFAVORABLE**  
**House Bill 1430**  
**Maryland Public Charter School Program - School Facilities – Funding**

**House Appropriations Committee**  
**March 11, 2026**

**Sean Johnson**  
**Executive Director**

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 1430, which would require the Interagency Commission on School Construction to distribute \$1,600 per charter school student to public charter schools for the maintenance and operation of public charter school facilities.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports Maryland's public charter schools and the students and educators who learn and work in their facilities. Maryland has found the right balance in demanding accountability and supporting the ability to replicate success stories in our charter school laws. Recent regulations by the State Board of Education have tried to settle disputes related to "commensurate funding" for charter schools, and MSEA has been actively involved in those conversations to ensure equity, predictability, and support for traditional and charter schools alike.

When it comes to school construction, equity is a vital goal. School construction funds are not distributed equally. They are distributed based on need and through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) evaluation process initiated by every local school system and supported by the Interagency Commission on School Construction on how to best utilize limited funds to meet seemingly unlimited needs. School systems and the commission are constantly balancing renovation and construction demands based on age, size, use, and needs of every school building. And if a public charter school is in a facility operated by the local school system, then such facilities are eligible for the school system's CIP considerations to prioritize maintenance and construction dollars. If a public



charter school has opted to identify, finance, and support their own facility, then that decision should not become the responsibility of taxpayers.

House Bill 1430 further violates the equity principle by guaranteeing a per pupil allocation of limited school construction dollars. That is an equality approach, and the only way the state could dedicate \$1,600 per pupil in this approach is if we have \$1.4 billion in the capital budget annually (to account for the nearly 900,000 K-12 students multiplied by \$1,600). That is roughly \$1 billion more than the FY27 capital budget. The dedicated funding in HB 1430 creates huge inequities to the benefit of charter schools over the students at traditional schools.

Per pupil funding for school construction is also flawed because it would never yield the dollars necessary to complete major projects. Many projects are subject to fixed costs whether the school is serving 100 students or 2,000 students – HVAC systems, new roofs, safety upgrades, etc. are rarely variable based on the number of students served and so capital funding on projects is inherently different than the per pupil funding for operating funds.

As noted, charter schools are oftentimes eligible under the current process. This bill would move charter schools to the front of the line ahead of any other school/construction project. We have so many unmet needs, and a more comprehensive approach needs to be adopted and funded before imagining a world where this kind of dedicated funding for charter operators is a reasonable consideration.

**MSEA requests an unfavorable report of House Bill 1430.**