

BILL: Senate Bill 311
TITLE: Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions
HEARING DATE: April 1, 2026
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
CONTACT: Jessica Goff, Governmental Affairs Associate (jgoff@mabe.org)

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, **supports Senate Bill 311, Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions.**

Senate Bill 311 makes a series of revisions to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including extending the compensatory education hold harmless provision through 2027, which is particularly important. As amended, Senate Bill 311 requires the AIB and MSDE to identify a methodology for counting students from low-income households to calculate the Compensatory Education formula, and by December 31, 2026 the AIB and MSDE must submit a report to the General Assembly and to the Governor on their fundings and recommendations regarding the methodology. Senate Bill 311 also allows greater flexibility in use of Concentration of Poverty Grant funds, broadens the definition of wraparound services for community schools, and further delays a requirement for a teacher to be Nationally Board Certified before in order to be a principal. Senate Bill 311 also makes important amendments to the CTE Committee's charges related to career pathways and high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations for Maryland.

MABE supports Senate Bill 311's extension of the hold harmless provision for compensatory education, because until a more accurate and reliable methodology is identified, this provides consistency for school systems where they need it most—funding and ensuring that they can serve low-income students. A stable and accurate method for identifying students in poverty is essential to targeting resources effectively, supporting community schools, aligning Title I allocations, and ensuring that Blueprint investments are distributed in a way that advances true resource equity. MABE looks forward to the opportunity to work with the AIB and MSDE in the development of the new methodology as we approach the December 31, 2026 deadline for a report to the Governor and General Assembly.

Additionally, MABE supports the additional flexibility provided to the use of concentration of poverty grant funds. While the Blueprint establishes clear statewide goals, local school systems must retain the ability to tailor strategies to the specific academic and community needs of their students.

Lastly, MABE supports the amendments to further develop Maryland's CTE and workforce development system. The amendments requiring the CTE Committee, in collaboration with the Governor's Workforce Development Board, to publish career pathway information will be immensely helpful to students as they navigate postsecondary opportunities. Providing students, school systems, and employers with the enumerated information in section 21-210 will increase transparency and ensure that students are prepared for life after high school graduation.

For these reasons, **MABE supports Senate Bill 311** and requests a favorable report.