

TO: House Appropriations Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 48 - Education – Public School Construction – Alterations

DATE: April 01, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) support **Senate Bill (SB) 48 - Education – Public School Construction – Alteration**, developed in partnership with the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC).

SB48 seeks to make changes to the IAC’s Capital Improvement Program process and clarify and focus the State Superintendent’s oversight of school construction and facility acquisitions to ensure MSDE’s attention remains on student education. Specifically, it limits Superintendent approval to projects and purchases that directly impact student learning spaces, such as new schools, major renovations, or additions, and removes the need for review of routine maintenance or systemic repairs that have less effect on educational outcomes.

The bill also raises the construction cost threshold for State Superintendent review of capital projects and their change orders, ensuring that attention is given only to changes that meaningfully affect student-occupied spaces. These adjustments not only reduce administrative burden on the local jurisdictions, but also MSDE and the Department of General Services as well, allowing both agencies to concentrate resources on their core missions.

The amended bill includes the amendments developed by MSDE’s Office of School Facilities and supported by the IAC. The proposed amendments to SB 48 aim to reinforce the State Superintendent’s commitment to student safety and the effective delivery of educational programs both within school buildings and throughout school sites. These changes will help to ensure that the bill avoids unintended limitations on the State Superintendent’s oversight in all spaces where student learning occurs.

MSDE and the State Board look forward to continued collaboration with the Commission to support the implementation of these provisions. We respectfully request consideration of these comments as **SB 48** is discussed and deliberated. For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov.