

**BILL:** Senate Bill 48  
**TITLE:** Education - Public School Construction - Alterations  
**HEARING DATE:** April 1, 2026  
**POSITION:** FAVORABLE  
**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations  
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all 24 local boards of education in Maryland, **supports Senate Bill 48 - Education - Public School Construction - Alterations**. MABE has worked closely with the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) to amend SB 48 to align more closely with the school construction planning and implementation process across all of Maryland's school systems. We appreciate the IAC's willingness to work with school systems when amending SB 48 and its House crossfile, HB 233.

Senate Bill 48, as amended, represents the collaborative efforts of the IAC, MABE, PSSAM, and facilities directors from across Maryland's local school systems. MABE appreciates the IAC's responsiveness to feedback and amendments so that Senate Bill 48 achieves the IAC's goals while also providing school systems with the concrete information needed for the construction planning and implementation process. We highlight many of these amendments below:

Senate Bill 48 clarifies the type of proposals and plans that require the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools. For instance, amendments increased the dollar threshold for which a county board of education must request and receive approval from the State Superintendent before a county board may proceed with additions or renovations to school buildings/approving contracts for doing so, to \$1,250,000. The IAC also increased the threshold for change orders that must be reviewed to \$350,000. MABE appreciates the IAC's willingness to increase this threshold dollar amount, as school construction and change order projects are typically expensive and most would have fallen under the previous thresholds.

MABE also appreciates the IAC's willingness to include specifics for the reports that will replace the December 31 requirement for a 75 percent State Capital Improvement Program (CIP) approval. This 75 percent CIP approval stage has been critical for school systems in their contract approval and bidding processes, so MABE and PSSAM worked with the IAC and facilities directors to amend SB 48 to include specifics that the IAC must

include in each report to school systems—the status of the request, the maximum state award (estimated or adopted by the IAC), and the projected 100% capital award. We are confident that school systems can work with the IAC to ensure that they receive sufficiently concrete and actionable information – akin to their long-relied upon 75% State CIP approval—in the reports to use in the contract approval and bidding process.

MABE supports the amendments to clarify that the statewide facilities assessment information provided by school systems to the IAC was not intended to be more burdensome than the current schedule. Thus, MABE supports the amendments in 5-310(b)(2)(ii).

MABE also worked with the IAC on the amendments to 5-314, as the previously drafted language in SB 48 did not achieve the intent of the IAC. The current language in 5-314 was a collaborative effort and we support the limitation to the process for the approval of public school construction projects. We would like to highlight, however, that facilities directors noted that it is very common for HVAC systems to cost several million dollars, so if the intent is to limit review to only substantial or major projects, the increase to \$1,250,000 will not significantly decrease the number of projects requiring IAC review.

In summary, SB 48 makes meaningful changes to Maryland’s school construction approval and funding framework. **MABE supports Senate Bill 48, requests a favorable report**, and we look forward to working with the IAC to ensure that Maryland’s local school systems continue to have a seat at the table in decisions that affect the construction or renovation of their schools.