

UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 976
Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time
Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations and Report

House Appropriations Committee
March 11, 2026

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Executive Director

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 976, which would alter the definition of "full-time equivalent enrollment" in the calculation for State education aid to include the average number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on September 30 and May 31 of the prior school year. If there is an interest in considering a second (or additional) data points, then we would recommend the full-time equivalent enrollment count to be the greater of the two (or more) collection dates.

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).

Per-pupil funding is calculated in part based on full-time equivalent enrollment, which, for K-12 public school students, depends upon the number of students enrolled in their schools on September 30th of the prior year. This bill seeks to change reporting requirements to an average based on multiple points throughout the school year. Student attendance is essential for academic progress and success, and MSEA believes that robust attendance requirements should be promoted wherever possible. However, this change does not meaningfully promote student attendance; instead, it overcomplicates a data snapshot that is intended to ensure adequate funding for schools.

This legislation would increase administrative burdens and complicate reporting requirements to no apparent benefit.

MSEA requests an unfavorable report of House Bill 976.