

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair
Pensions Subcommittee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD 21401

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April 7th, 2026

SB170: Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and esteemed members of this committee,

This bill, SB170: Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth, will establish a task force to study the gaps in funding that occur in school systems across the state due to the growth in their enrollment rates. Every year, the attendance snapshot is taken on September 30th. However, the funding due each school system, based on that snapshot, is not disbursed until July 1st of the following year. The problem is that some school systems are growing at rates that leave counties fully responsible to absorb the difference.

In Frederick County, our school system's growth has far exceeded any other public school system in the State. In FY23, this left 804 children in Frederick without state funding — but Frederick is not the only county impacted by this phenomenon. In that same time frame, more than 2,000 students throughout Maryland went without education funding for the entire school year.

This is far from just a Frederick issue. Many counties, including Anne Arundel, Carroll, Charles, Prince George's and Wicomico are also experiencing this funding shortfall. Moreover, recent data shows that this problem could begin to impact the majority of Maryland schools. Between 2023 and 2024, 22 out of 24 counties in Maryland experienced population growth, including our four largest counties and Baltimore City.

The task force will study this pressing issue and share a report before next session on how best to address the growth some counties are facing in relation to the school funding formula. We will consult best practices around the country. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Karen Lewis Young

Senator Karen Lewis Young