

**SUPPORT**  
**Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**  
**Senate Bill 170**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**January 21, 2026**

**Sean Johnson**  
**Executive Director**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 170, which would create a task force to examine changing the way student enrollment is calculated for the purposes of education funding.

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 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports passage of adequate, sustainable, predictable funding that supports the operating costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators.

Our school funding model is based on enrollment counts from the previous year. This does not adequately account for major shifts in the current year, particularly in terms of significant enrollment growth that puts pressure on facilities and best practices in educator to student ratios. Some counties, like Frederick County, are experiencing explosive growth which has led to overcrowding in the schools. With a lag in funding due to lagging enrollment counts there is no additional funding for those new students, yet school systems and educators still must serve all students enrolled. This gap affects students and the services that educators can provide to them.

A task force is welcomed to ensure that school funding matches the students in our classrooms. We appreciate the sponsor including MSEA as a representative on the task force along with the other organizations.

**MSEA urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 170.**