



Senator Guy Guzzone
Senator Jim Rosapepe
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Monday, January 26, 2026

Bill: SB 0235 – Baltimore County - Property Tax Credits - Public Safety Officers and Public School System Employees

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair , and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 Maryland school psychologists. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state. School psychologists play a vital role in school communities.

MSPA is in strong support of the proposed bill that would provide tax credits for school psychologists in Baltimore County. Our schools are experiencing a critical shortage of school psychologists at a time when student needs are increasing in both number and complexity. Working conditions for school psychologists have become increasingly difficult due to high caseloads, limited resources, and expanding responsibilities, making retention and recruitment an urgent concern for the health of our education system and the students it serves.

While Maryland's Blueprint for Education has made important investments in educators, particularly through Pillar 2, *High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders*, it contains no language that directly supports school psychologists with training opportunities or financial incentives. Although the Blueprint does include grant funding to create new positions—such as school psychologists—it does not provide concrete support for current practitioners who are already managing unmanageable student ratios. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends 500–750 students per psychologist, while Maryland's average stands at approximately 1,027:1. These shortages leave students underserved and existing staff overwhelmed.

Baltimore County has publicly pledged to support school psychologists through reforms such as increased staffing and partnerships with local agencies, yet there are no localized resources or funding streams to provide this support. Unlike neighboring districts such as Carroll and Montgomery Counties, Baltimore County does not provide incentives or reimbursement for maintaining the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential.

This bill represents an important step toward addressing a clear gap in the Blueprint and recognizing the essential role school psychologists play in our schools. Supporting this bill is an investment in workforce stability, equity, and, most importantly, the well-being and educational success of our children. For the above reasons, MSPA respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 0577.

Laura M. Grubb, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA
Chair, MSPA Legislative Committee