

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG  
Legislative District 3  
Frederick County

Budget and Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 21st, 2026

**SB170: Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, 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 but the funding due each school system, based on that snapshot, is not disbursed until July 1st 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "Y".

Senator Karen Lewis Young