



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 170 – Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth

DATE: January 21, 2026
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

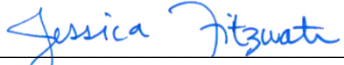
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 170 – Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth** a favorable report.

As you may know, Frederick County is the fastest-growing jurisdiction in Maryland, and that trend is particularly apparent in our public-school enrollment. Over the last decade, Frederick County Public Schools has consistently seen the highest enrollment growth rate in the state. While this growth is a great endorsement of Frederick County and FCPS, a lack of adequate funding to keep up with this enrollment brings challenges and costs to the County.

The current foundation formula that determines state aid uses outdated local enrollment numbers, resulting in unfunded students in jurisdictions with enrollment growth. Local enrollment is measured on September 30th of the prior school year, which means the State share of per-pupil funding does not reach school systems until the following school year. This delay puts a significant burden on jurisdictions like Frederick County that are seeing high rates of enrollment growth without matching state investment. While Frederick County is one of the few jurisdictions that has recently experienced enrollment growth, student enrollment often fluctuates and other jurisdictions may face this challenge in the future as we work to expand housing availability statewide.

The General Assembly passed legislation in 2024 to create the Frederick County School Construction Workgroup, which convened over the interim prior to the 2025 session. The bi-partisan workgroup consisted of local elected officials, school board representatives, IAC representatives, and General Assembly members. One of the recommendations from this workgroup was for the State to reevaluate the funding formula – SB 170 would implement this recommendation by bringing together the key stakeholders to evaluate this formula. This task force is a crucial step to ensuring that state funding formulas fairly and adequately account for enrollment changes.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 170 and I urge a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD