

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 48 - Education – Public School
Construction – Alterations

DATE: February 3, 2026

POSITION: Support with Amendments

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy,
and the Environment

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) support **SB 48** with amendments developed in partnership with the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC).

SB48 seeks to make changes to the IAC’s Capital Improvement Program process and clarify and focus the State Superintendent’s oversight of school construction and facility acquisitions to ensure MSDE’s attention remains on student education. Specifically, it limits Superintendent approval to projects and purchases that directly impact student learning spaces, such as new schools, major renovations, or additions, and removes the need for review of routine maintenance or systemic repairs that have minimal effect on educational outcomes. The bill also raises the threshold for Superintendent review of construction change orders, ensuring that attention is given only to changes that meaningfully affect student-occupied spaces. These adjustments reduce administrative burden on MSDE and the Department of General Services, allowing both agencies to concentrate resources on their core missions.

Amendments

MSDE is requesting the following amendments (shown in **BOLD** below) to SB48, which were developed by MSDE’s Office of School Facilities and supported by the IAC. The proposed amendments to SB 48 aim to reinforce the State Superintendent’s commitment to student safety and the effective delivery of educational programs both within school buildings and throughout school sites. These changes will help to ensure that the bill avoids unintended limitations on the State Superintendent’s oversight in all spaces where student learning occurs.

Education Articles §§ 2–303(f)(1)(ii) and 4-115(2) & (3) - Replace the word “**building**” with “**FACILITY**”

Education Article §2–303(f)(1)(iv) - Change to read: “Change order that costs more than [\$50,000] \$200,000 for [the remodeling] AN ADDITION OR RENOVATION restoration, or construction of STUDENT–OCCUPIED SPACES IN a school building **OR ON ITS GROUNDS**.”

MSDE and the State Board look forward to continued collaboration with the Commission to support the implementation of these provisions.

The State Board and MSDE respectfully request consideration of these comments as **SB 48** is discussed and deliberated. For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at 443-571-5461, or laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov.