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BILL: Senate Bill 903
TITLE: Education - Engagement Policies and School Compact (Maryland Public Education Parental Partnership Act)
HEARING DATE: March 4, 2026
POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and the Environment
CONTACT: Jessica Goff, Governmental Affairs Associate (jgoff@mabe.org)

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all 24 local boards of education in Maryland, respectfully **opposes Senate Bill 903 - Education - Engagement Policies and School Compact (Maryland Public Education Parental Partnership Act).**

Senate Bill 903 requires each county board to develop a comprehensive parent and family engagement policy. Senate Bill 903 also requires that each public school must develop a parent-school compact. Each school would be required to hold an annual meeting with parents to review, discuss, and update the compact, and provide training materials to parents. The county board would be required to certify to the State Board that it, and its schools, are in compliance.

MABE firmly supports parent and family engagement, as parents and guardians have the right to participate in the education of their children. However, the decisions regarding the contents of a parent and family engagement policy should be left to the county boards who are most responsive to the communities they serve. Furthermore, school boards have frequent meetings with opportunities for family and community engagement and, as such, there are plenty of opportunities for families to have their voices heard.

MABE appreciates the intent to meaningfully engage families in their children's education and in their school communities, but prescribing that each school must have a specific parent-school compact that meets specific enumerated requirements is an overreach into local school system policies and operations that are best left to the local boards and superintendents who are closest to the students and communities that they serve.

For these reasons, **MABE opposes SB 903 and kindly requests an unfavorable report.**