



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 70: Adult Education – High School Diploma Pathways – GED Option Pilot Program and
MDiplomaWorks Pathway**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

January 28, 2026

Strong Schools Maryland is a statewide network of parents, educators, and advocates committed to the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. **We support Senate Bill 70 because it advances the Blueprint’s goals of equity, graduation success, and strong college and career readiness pathways.**

The Blueprint calls for improved outcomes for all students, including higher graduation rates and expanded access to career-connected learning and credentials of value. Yet Maryland’s current policies leave many overage and under-credited students without realistic options to complete high school. Students facing academic gaps, economic pressures, or family responsibilities are often forced to disengage entirely before accessing alternative pathways. Senate Bill 70 addresses this failure by expanding flexible, rigorous diploma options that keep students connected to education and workforce preparation.

The GED Option Pilot Program established under this bill allows selected school systems to offer GED instruction during the school day to students at significant risk of not graduating. This approach improves re-engagement and completion while aligning with the Blueprint’s focus on reducing dropout rates and expanding access to postsecondary and workforce pathways. The pilot’s limited scope, geographic diversity, and required outcome reporting ensure accountability and evidence-based evaluation.

Senate Bill 70 also establishes the MDiplomaWorks pathway, recognizing demonstrated academic skills, industry-recognized credentials, career and technical education, and on-the-job learning as valid measures of diploma attainment. This pathway directly supports the Blueprint’s emphasis on career readiness and credential attainment aligned with labor market needs. By expanding diploma pathways that are both flexible and rigorous, Senate Bill 70 helps ensure the Blueprint’s promise reaches students who are not well served by traditional models.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 70.

For more information, contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org