



Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 810: Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and
Enforcement
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Support

March 4, 2026

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. It was designed to specifically address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. The students and families promised this sense of safety and support include our immigrant communities. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland offers favorable testimony in support of SB 810 – Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.**

At its core, SB810 is about upholding Maryland’s values – fairness, dignity, and justice for all. Senate Bill 810 strengthens student protections against unlawful immigration enforcement activities. It also serves as a critical step towards restoring community trust in our public school system, trust which has been undermined by the unjust targeting of Black and brown students and their families for deportation.

In January 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescinded its long-standing “sensitive locations” policy and has since conducted immigration enforcement on school campuses across the country¹. In response to DHS’ rescission, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Values Act and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) issued updated guidance on student protections. Despite these actions, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across the state have interpreted state law in widely varying ways and, on occasion, have created local policy that contradicts both the letter and the spirit of the law. Because of this, CASA respectfully requests that the General Assembly again exercises its leadership to explicitly and unequivocally ban any collaboration between Maryland School Resource Officers (SROs) and federal immigration enforcement agents.

¹ <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ice-activity-on-k-12-school-grounds/810648/>

¹ [How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms School Children](#)

² [American Immigration Council](#)

³ [Immigration Enforcement and US Schools: What Could Happen and What Education Leaders Can Do](#)

During the 2024–2025, student enrollment declined across the state of Maryland². At the same time, chronic absenteeism rates increased and graduation rates decreased for Latino students and for Multilingual students³. The State Superintendent has indicated that if action is not taken to address these inequities, we will only see greater disparities reported for the 2025–2026 school year. Key to addressing the crisis is ensuring that all students feel truly welcomed and valued within our public education system. It means demonstrating through both policy and action that all members of the school community strive to provide Maryland students with protective and supportive learning environments. SROs are intended to reinforce students' actual and perceived security in educational spaces so that they can focus on learning and achieve their full academic potential. At a time when so many of our Black and brown students are living with the daily fear of family separation, it is critical that they understand our Maryland SROs will not betray their fundamental role of enhancing school safety by participating in the current deportation machine.

These enforcement practices directly contradict the mission of our public school system. The Blueprint is built on the very foundation of active community engagement and accountability to governing systems in order to ensure that all students are equitably served, including and prioritizing supports and protections for immigrant and undocumented students. It is interwoven into every pillar of the Blueprint. Without preserving the protections for immigrant communities, the promises of the Blueprint will never be realized, and real students and families will be harmed in the process.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 810.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

²<https://www.thebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-school-enrollment-shrinking-why-UDZRSMI5FZFC7GOYWCSVUCYDR4/>

³ <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/documents/2026/0127/cohort-graduation-rate-data-a.pdf>