

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 726
Primary and Secondary Education - Educator Professional Development - Course on
Well-Being and Flourishing

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 726, which would require the State Department of Education to make available a continuing professional development course on educator well-being and flourishing to school personnel and administrators.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As public school educators, we are committed to career-long learning about how to best serve our students. High-quality, research-based professional development can improve our professional practice and classroom environments. As growing numbers of educators report burnout and demoralization at work, identifying and prioritizing strategies for personal well-being is a valuable tool.¹

The course offered under this bill is based on the eight dimensions of wellness identified by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), including social, emotional, intellectual, and physical wellbeing.² While it cannot replace a sustainable workload and adequate resources at work, this would be a valuable option for educators seeking a holistic understanding of what they, and by extension their students, need to thrive. We also appreciate that this training would be eligible for the Professional Development Points (PDPs) that educators earn toward maintenance of their licenses.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 726.

¹ National Education Association (2025). <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/whats-causing-teacher-burnout>

² Promoting Wellness: A Guide to Community Action. SAMHSA (2016). <https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma16-4957.pdf>