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BILL: SB 343  
TITLE: County Boards of Education – Post College and Career Readiness Pathways – Payment of Costs  
DATE: February 18, 2026  
POSITION: Favorable  
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
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The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four Maryland local school superintendents, **supports** Senate Bill 343.

This legislation authorizes a county board of education to develop and establish income eligibility guidelines and procedures for payment of costs for certain post college and career readiness (post-CCR) pathways, and requires a county board to provide access to the post-CCR pathway at no cost to the student or parents if the student's family income is below 400% of the federal poverty level.

PSSAM thanks the sponsor for her leadership in putting forth this legislation that largely mirrors one of our [policy and legislative recommendations](#) (rec. 15) put forward last year. PSSAM and its superintendent members strongly support this legislation that would authorize county boards of education to develop income-eligibility guidelines for CCR.

Currently the Blueprint requires all students meeting CCR to enroll in a post-CCR pathway at no cost to the student or their families. These pathways include:

- Competitive entry college prep (IB, Cambridge, or AP).
- Dual enrollment leading to an associate degree or 60 college credits.
- Career and technical education (CTE) programs, apprenticeships, or industry certifications.

We believe that fully funding all post-CCR pathways for every eligible student may create significant financial strain on state and local budgets, and jeopardize the long-term sustainability of this initiative. Also, creating some guardrails for this generous opportunity may prevent overuse by some students who enroll in multiple pathways without a clear postsecondary or career plan, leading to wasted resources. Directing resources toward students who need them most ensures equitable access without overspending.

As we look for ways to make the Blueprint affordable, reigning in these costs should be seriously considered by the Legislature. Providing unlimited access to these resources raises fiscal and academic concerns; their use should be targeted to students for whom they are academically appropriate and beneficial. To ensure the sustainability of this popular and successful initiative, LEAs should have the flexibility to develop and establish income eligibility guidelines and procedures for payment of costs for these post-CCR opportunities.

Therefore, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 343 and kindly requests a **favorable** report.