

**Favorable
House Bill 828
State Board of Education - Membership - Educational Support Member**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
April 7, 2026**

**Paul Lemle
MSEA President**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports House Bill 828. This legislation allows for the addition of more educator voices on the State Board of Education. As passed in the House, it would designate a seat for an elected education support professional on the State Board of Education.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Seven years ago, this body recognized that when the State Board of Education is setting policies and regulations for our schools, it was necessary to have an educator at the table – someone who is in a classroom every day. As such, we have a designated teacher member on the State Board, who provides an essential perspective on how Board decisions will affect teachers' day-to-day operations and students' learning.

To fully represent educator voices on the State Board, we must include the perspectives of an education support professional. Education support professionals are often underrecognized for their essential contributions to our schools even though they are integral by providing daily critical services that enable the operations of our schools. Imagine a school with no bus drivers dropping off kids, no front desk staff checking them in, no school nurse responding to scrapes and stomachaches, no food service staff serving breakfast and lunch, and no paraeducators assisting students and teachers. It wouldn't look much like a school at all.



This bill would not increase the size of the State Board, nor would it displace any other specialized appointees. Representation of education support professionals is a vital component of MSEA's ESP Bill of Rights work. We are interested in working with the General Assembly, the State Board of Education, and any other partners to either guarantee that representation or otherwise provide a pathway for such an appointment in the future. We continue to fight to lift up the voices of educators on the State Board.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 828.