



Board Chairman
Brannndon Jackson
District 6

February 25, 2026

Chair Marc Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

Board Vice Chair
Jonathan Briggs, M.Ed. MLS
District 2

HB 1446 - Commercial Driver's Instructional Permits - School Vehicles - Knowledge Test

Position: SUPPORT

Board Members
Dr. Tiffini Andorful
District 1

Contact: Dr. Phelton Moss, Chair, Policy and Governance Committee
Phelton.Moss@pgcps.org | Johntel Greene, Government Relations Johntel@goodgov.ai

Pamela Boozer-Strother, MBA, CAE
District 3

Dear Chair Korman and esteemed members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Aimee Olivo
District 4

Thank you for the work you all do on behalf of our students, educators, and staff across the state and in the Prince George's County Public Schools community. On behalf of the Prince George's County Board of Education, representing over 130,000 students, and thousands more in our school communities. We are writing to respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1446, which would authorize local school systems to administer the knowledge test for commercial driver's instructional permits for school vehicle operators. Prince George's County Public Schools has made significant progress in addressing our bus driver vacancies, reducing them to under 100 through focused recruitment and streamlined hiring processes under Interim Superintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph's leadership. However, maintaining adequate staffing levels for our transportation system requires continuous pipeline development, and the current requirement that candidates complete full Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training before demonstrating basic knowledge creates unnecessary barriers to entry for qualified individuals seeking to serve our students.

Robin Brown
District 5

Dr. Phelton C. Moss
District 7

Zakya Goins-McCants
District 8

VACANT
District 9

Student Member
Erioluwa Ajakaye

HB1446 would enable PGCPs to administer the knowledge test portion of the CDL process directly, allowing us to assess candidate readiness earlier in the recruitment process and provide more targeted training support. This legislative change addresses three critical operational needs for our school system.

Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Shawn Joseph
Superintendent

First, the bill streamlines the training pipeline by allowing candidates to demonstrate foundational knowledge before committing to the full CDL training program. Currently, prospective bus drivers must navigate external testing centers and processes that create delays and logistical challenges. By bringing the knowledge test in-house, we can evaluate candidates more efficiently, provide immediate feedback, and connect qualified individuals directly to our comprehensive training program. This reduces the time between initial interest and active employment, helping us fill vacancies more quickly.



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Second, the bill enhances our ability to provide wraparound support during the training process. When we control the knowledge test administration, we can identify specific areas where candidates need additional support and provide targeted instruction before they move to the practical driving components of certification. This increases the likelihood of successful completion and reduces the dropout rate during training. For candidates who may be career-changers or returning to the workforce, this structured support can make the difference between successful employment and abandoning the process due to navigational challenges with external testing requirements.

Third, the bill creates a clearer pathway for community members who want to serve Prince George's County students. Many qualified individuals who would excel as school bus drivers are deterred by the complexity of the current system, which requires navigating multiple external agencies and testing locations before even beginning district-specific training. By simplifying the entry point and making the knowledge test accessible through the school system itself, we lower barriers while maintaining high standards for safety and competency. This is particularly important for attracting candidates from the communities we serve, who may have strong motivation to support local students but limited familiarity with CDL processes.

The safety of our students remains paramount, and HB1446 maintains all essential requirements for CDL certification while giving school systems the flexibility to manage the knowledge testing component. Candidates would still complete all required training, pass all practical driving tests, and meet all federal and state safety standards. The bill simply allows us to administer one component of the process more efficiently and in a way that better serves both candidates and our operational needs.

We have demonstrated our capacity to manage complex workforce pipelines effectively. Our dramatic reduction in teacher vacancies from 900.5 FTE positions to approximately 430 shows that when we have the tools and flexibility to manage recruitment and training strategically, we can achieve significant results.

We respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1446. This legislation will help PGCPs and other Maryland school systems maintain safe, reliable transportation for students while creating more accessible pathways to employment for qualified community members who want to serve our schools.

Thank you,

Prince George's County Board of Education