

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Opposition of  
House Bill 473 Education – Collective Bargaining – Certificated Employees – Class Size**

**February 17, 2026**

The Baltimore City Board of Education understands that certificated employees have requested to bargain class size over many years. Again, this issue should remain an illegal subject of bargaining.

**House Bill 473 Education – Collective Bargaining – Certificated Employees – Class Size** repeals the prohibition of negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class. As you know, it is critical that locally governed education policies and procedures remain under the authority of boards of education. While school boards are sympathetic with teacher preferences for smaller classes, class size limitations have severe costs impacts. An example shared with that a reduction of the average class size from 30 to a negotiated 25 students would result in a 16% increase in teacher salary costs. Multiplying that across the entire district would result in a large increase in the number of required FTEs. Establishing class size within a collective bargaining agreement restricts the school administration's decision-making about the most effective use of staff, space and scarce financial resources. In addition to wage pressure, facility needs may grow as well.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 473 and urges an unfavorable report.

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