

UNFAVORABLE
House Bill 1528
Education - Homeschool Students – Extracurricular Activities

House Ways and Means Committee
March 12, 2026

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The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 1528, which would authorize a public school to allow a child whose family opts for homeschool instruction to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by the school.

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).

MSEA opposes public money going to private schools or homeschooling, whatever the vehicle—state-funded vouchers, textbooks, programs, or tax credits. School extracurricular activities are not standalone activities, but rather an outgrowth of the school's educational program for the students. They are activities that further advance the mission of the school in a cross-curricular manner, as well as the education of the whole child. They often require a certain grade point average for participation or another qualifier like positive behavior or a certain attendance record.

Marylanders pay taxes for the common good, covering services that some may not personally use, including public schools, senior citizen centers, libraries, and more. We believe allowing homeschooled students and their families to pick and choose the programs in which they would like to participate, even if it is based on space availability, would be an unreasonable ask for school systems that are already stretched thin.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 1528.