

INFORMATIONAL
House Bill 189
Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools - Start Time for Instruction

House Ways & Means Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on House Bill 189, which would require, beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, each public middle school and each public high school to begin instruction not earlier than 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively, unless granted a waiver by the State Board of Education. It would also require each county board of education and each public charter school to implement a public service campaign to raise awareness of sleep deprivation and later school start times.

MSEA represents 76,000 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).

We appreciate efforts to support students' health and readiness to learn. To the extent to which changes to school scheduling may affect school personnel's job requirements, we would urge that the implementation and impact of any changes are discussed and negotiated with local educators' unions. Bringing unions into the implementation process will mitigate potential unintended consequences to the wraparound services that schools provide and ensure that educators can support students effectively.