

**SUPPORT: Senate Bill 352**  
Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program  
Personnel and Per Pupil Grants - Eligible Uses  
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
**February 3, 2026**

My name is Nicholas Jeffers, I am a Baltimore City Public Schools student at Baltimore City College, and I am writing **in strong support of Senate Bill 352**, Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program - Personnel and Per Pupil Grants - Eligible Uses.

All students regardless of their socioeconomic class should have what they need. Art has been a part of my life and my education for as long as I can remember, and in these past four years my education has only gotten better. But in this wealth of education I have received, only just recently have I realized my privilege in having it.

Currently, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future states that **concentration of poverty funds from the personnel and per pupil grant** may be used through fiscal year 2027 to provide the programs required under COMAR 13A.04) for core subject areas, including the fine arts. By supporting SB352 and eliminating the sunset timeline in law, you will help ensure that arts education, along with other core subjects, continues to be an allowable use of funding to support the betterment of our youth.

A society should never stop pushing towards progress and the betterment of their youth. That is the focus of school, to educate the young minds and groom them into beneficial members of society. But this must apply to all the minds, not the few. This bill ensures that the arts are not left out. Without proper funding, we allow for the arts to be left unrepresented, and we stunt the growth of our youth and in turn, our society.

I've seen so many students find themselves in theater, band, visual arts and everything else. They found an outlet, and a passion and I watched them open up more to the people around them. I had a friend who had taken very limited art classes up until high school, and though he'd been able to receive decent grades he was struggling his freshman year. Sophomore year he was required to take fine art and he chose visual arts. As he allowed himself to become absorbed into the class he discovered he wasn't a bad artist, in fact he enjoyed art and still does to this day. As he did well in art I watched him do better in other classes. He is not an isolated case.

None of this would be possible without proper art classes and proper materials. Schools that can not afford these things need the funding provided by the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program to bestow upon their students a better education.

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By supporting this bill and eliminating the sunset language, school communities will **continue having the option** to invest their CPG funding in the arts in response to community need. I urge the committee to provide a **favorable report on SB 352**. Thank you for investing in the future of our students

Sincerely,

Nicholas Jeffers

Baltimore City Public Schools student at baltimore city college