

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 529
Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program and Program
Workgroup – Establishment

House Ways & Means
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The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 529 as amended by the sponsor. As amended, this bill would require the University System of Maryland to develop, in consultation with the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education Commission, recommendations for a Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program and a teacher preparation pathway. It would also establish the Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup.

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).

Maryland continues to face educator shortages, and as we invest in the pipeline of future teachers and education support professionals, we must increase our focus on recruiting high school students who are deciding their next steps. We appreciate the sponsor's commitment to investing in young Marylanders and preparing the next generation of talented educators.

It is crucial to ensure that any new program model is aligned with existing initiatives, including the Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM), a four-course Career and Technology Education (CTE) program for high school students who wish to pursue a career in education.¹ Often, TAM students complete their ParaPro

¹ CTE Programs, Maryland State Department of Education. <https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/pages/cte-programs-of->

certification through the program, which enables them to work as paraeducators after graduation. TAM is active in Charles County Public Schools, Calvert County Public Schools, and St. Mary's County Public Schools.^{2 3 4} Additionally, MSDE recently launched a Registered Teacher Apprenticeship that is open to Marylanders 16 years or older, and Charles County Public Schools is already a participating employer.⁵

We are enthusiastic about the breadth of new pathways to careers in public education, and we welcome efforts to strengthen partnerships and scale programs to reach as many high school students as possible. We appreciate the sponsor's amendment to ensure input from the educators who have firsthand experience implementing CTE and dual enrollment efforts by designating educator seats on the workgroup, and we look forward to collaborating on the clarifying language to specify the number of seats designated for educators with experience leading postsecondary readiness and early teacher preparation programs.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 529 as amended.

[study/clusters/hrs.aspx#:~:text=TAM%20students%20can%20enroll%20directly,with%20a%20teacher%20preparation%20program.](#)

² Teacher Academy of Maryland, Charles County Public Schools. <https://www.ccboe.com/departments/career-and-technical-education/programs-by-school/st-charles-high-school/teacher-academy-of-maryland-tam>

³ Teacher Academy of Maryland, Career and Technical Education, Calvert County Public Schools. <https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/instruction/career-and-technical-education>

⁴ Human Resource Services, St. Mary's County Public Schools. <https://courses.smcps.org/james-a-forrest-tech-center/human-resource-services>

⁵ MSDE-Sponsored Registered Teacher Apprenticeship, Maryland State Department of Education. <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Program-Approval/Registered-Teacher-Apprenticeships.aspx>