

**UNFAVORABLE**  
**House Bill 1039**  
**Education – Primary and Secondary Schools – Alternative School Options**

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**March 4, 2026**

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**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly opposes House Bill 1039, which seeks to establish a school voucher system and codify the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

All children should have access to a high-quality education in their local public schools, regardless of zip code. Yet instead of supporting more resources for our State's public schools, this bill would strip their much-needed funding and channel it to private schools. We made an incredible investment in Maryland's children by passing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. To see it through, we need to ensure that public funds – taxpayer dollars – support the operation of public institutions that serve all students, not unaccountable private entities.

We are especially troubled by the provision stating that county boards should promote military boarding schools to the family of any student whom “the school administrator determines is violent.” This is dangerously undefined, stigmatizing language that fails to recognize the importance of supporting students in crisis. Overall, this bill advocates for a troubling diversion of public resources to private schools and would undermine our state's goal of working toward a high-quality public education for all students.

**MSEA urges the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 1039.**