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SB 720 - Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines, Professional Development, and Collaborative (Artificial Intelligence Ready Schools Act)

House Ways and Means Committee

April 1, 2026

SUPPORT

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Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 720. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

Right now, Maryland has no uniform statewide standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in K-12 schools. That leaves every district and individual teacher to interpret policy on their own. Without clear guardrails, AI tools can be misused or implemented inconsistently in ways that undermine rather than support teachers.

SB 720 takes a step in the right direction by requiring the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to publish AI guidance for students, educators, and administrators, ensuring that every stakeholder has access to clear expectations and best practices. The legislation explicitly requires that the guidances published must “emphasize students and teachers at the center of educational technology,” reinforcing that AI must serve the classroom, not replace the people who make learning possible.

AI should be deployed to enhance instruction, reduce administrative burdens, and support educators and students alike. This only happens when teachers are given the tools and training to use these systems effectively and safely. By mandating professional development and establishing the Maryland AI Education Collaborative, SB 720 further ensures that teachers are given the time, training, and support they need to navigate new AI tools, evaluate their risks, and integrate them into their teaching.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 720.



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