

JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3493
800-492-7122 Ext. 3493
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 29, 2026

**House Bill 29 - County Boards of Education - Post College and Career Readiness Pathways
- Payment of Costs**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 29 - County Boards of Education - Post College and Career Readiness Pathways - Payment of Costs**. This legislation authorizes county boards of education in Maryland to establish income eligibility guidelines for the payment for college preparatory programs such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) as well as early college and dual enrollment programs.

As you know, the Post-CCR Pathways provisions in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future allow students to develop in-depth specialization and/or earn a recognized credential.

Maryland's Blueprint made programs like AP and IB Exams free for *all* students regardless of income. In FY 25, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) System spent in excess of \$4.2 million on AP and IB exams. While equity remains a critical goal, families who are able to afford the cost of these readiness programs should be responsible for a share or all of the cost. Under HB 29, county boards of education will be authorized to develop and establish income eligibility guidelines and procedures for the payment of Post- College and Career Readiness Pathways (Post-CCR Pathways). For families with income below 400% of the federal poverty level, the bill mandates that those students would be provided access to the Post-CCR pathway at no cost to the student or the student's family

This bill would allow MCPS and other school systems to continue covering the exam costs for families with the greatest need. MCPS and these other school systems would then be able to reallocate some funding to other areas of need for their school systems.

For these reasons, I urge your **favorable vote** on **House Bill 29 - County Boards of Education - Post College and Career Readiness Pathways - Payment of Costs**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins