



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

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BILL: HB 1390
TITLE: Public Schools - School Safety Grant Program - Extension
DATE: February 27, 2024
POSITION: Favorable with Amendment
COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** House Bill 1390 with **one amendment**.

This bill repeals the scheduled termination of the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) on June 30, 2026, maintaining indefinitely the \$10.0 million annual mandated appropriation for the program.

The Built to Learn Act of 2020 expressed legislative intent that funding for both the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) and the Aging Schools Program be consolidated into the Public School Facilities Priority Fund (PSFPF) beginning in fiscal 2027. Chapter 679 of 2023 codified this intent language and terminated the SSGP effective June 30, 2026 and shifted its funding to the PSFPF (now called the Nancy K. Kopp Public School Facilities Priority Fund).

PSSAM requests one amendment that would also repeal the termination of the Aging Schools Program. We believe both of these programs have been successful in their respective, and original purposes. Consolidating these into the PSFPF would require mostly smaller, more targeted projects to compete with all other "high priority school construction projects," within the Fund.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** House Bill 1390 and requests a **favorable with amendment** report.