

INFORMATIONAL
House Bill 515
Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public-Private
Partnerships for Calvert County Public Schools

House Appropriations Committee
February 6, 2024

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The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on House Bill 515. This legislation establishes a workgroup to study the fiscal and operational viability of public-private partnerships (P3s) for Calvert County Public Schools. Specifically, the workgroup is charged with studying: i) the use of a P3 for financing, constructing, maintaining, and operating schools in Calvert County Public Schools; ii) implementation of a P3 by Calvert County Public Schools, and iii) how a P3 may relieve funding obligations for new school construction and renovations for Calvert County Public Schools. Members of the Workgroup include representatives from the House of Delegates, Senate, Board of Calvert County Commissioners, Calvert County Board of Education, the Interagency Commission on School Construction, and the Maryland Stadium Authority.

MSEA represents 75,000 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 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA appreciates county and local governments taking the initiative to address the pressing need of modern, safe, and healthy public school facilities to make certain students, their families, and educators have high quality learning environments. MSEA supports funding for necessary school construction and renovation to ensure high-quality teaching and learning environments, including construction to reduce class size, expand universal pre-kindergarten, and meet appropriate school



environmental health standards, which includes maintenance and improvements to HVAC systems.

MSEA encourages policymakers to include labor stakeholders on workgroups that explore the use of P3s for school construction projects, or solicit and invite their input on P3 proposals, to ensure county and local governments maintain high labor standards on P3 school construction projects. Additionally, where applicable, P3s should not be used to displace public school employees who perform the day-to-day work of public school facility maintenance and operation.

MSEA supports continued efforts to address school construction and renovation needs for students, families, and communities in a sustainable, prudent manner that serves the public interest.