

INFORMATIONAL
Senate Bill 979
Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines and Pilot Program
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on Senate Bill 979, which would require the State Department of Education to develop and update guidelines on artificial intelligence for county boards of education and generally promote the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

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).

As educators continue to grapple with the implications of a rapidly changing Artificial Intelligence (AI) landscape, we appreciate efforts to ensure that any use of AI in public schools is equitable, research-based, and developed with educator voices at the table. Underscoring the timeliness of this issue is a resolution passed by the National Education Association last year regarding AI in public education:

B-69. Artificial Intelligence

The National Education Association believes that the development and expanding use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies will continue to impact students, educators, public education, and the greater community. The Association also believes that the use of AI in public education should align with the following principles:

- a. AI tools should support the needs of students and educators.



- b. The implementation of AI must be equitable, accessible, and inclusive to ensure that no community is disadvantaged or excluded.
- c. AI tools and their implementation must be free of cultural, racial, and gender biases, and they should not perpetuate or amplify existing biases or discrimination.
- d. Educators should be involved in the development of best practices for pedagogical applications of AI.
- e. The use of AI in public education should be transparent, including its applications, what data is collected, and how that data is used.
- f. AI should not compromise the privacy of educators, students, or their families.
- g. Educators and students should be provided guidance and training on the ethical use of AI tools.
- h. Evaluation of AI implementation should be ongoing to ensure it supports the needs of students and educators and aligns with ethical standards and practices.

We recognize the efforts in this bill to prioritize student and educator privacy, ensure equity and accountability, prevent bias and discriminatory impacts, and proactively develop best practices. As we monitor this space going forward, we will continue to urge alignment with the resolution above and any forthcoming guidance on maximizing the benefits of AI for education while mitigating potential risks, harms, or overreaches.