

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 937 - Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program – Established

DATE: March 6, 2024

POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) extend their support for **Senate Bill (SB) 937 – Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program – Established**, with amendments. MSDE and the State Board are dedicated to supporting the expansion of Grow Your Own teacher preparation programs that allow individuals who have already committed to Maryland’s children and families to earn an income while they prepare for teacher licensure.

MSDE and the State Board believe that in addition to supporting noncertified education support professionals through teacher preparation, it is critical to also support conditionally licensed teachers. On October 15, 2023, there were 5,304 conditionally licensed teachers employed in local education agencies (LEAs) across the State making up 8.39% of the teacher workforce. Every Maryland LEA employs at least four conditionally licensed teachers and ¼ of LEAs staff over 10% of their teaching positions with conditionally licensed teachers. The table below includes the total number of teachers, number of conditional teachers, and percentage of conditional teachers for each Maryland LEA:

Local Education Agency	Total Teachers	Conditional Teachers	Percent Conditional Teachers
Allegany	625	4	0.64
Anne Arundel	6,128	581	9.48
Baltimore City	5,153	697	13.53
Baltimore	7,555	610	8.07
Calvert	990	28	2.83
Caroline	418	15	3.59
Carroll	1,880	108	5.74
Cecil	1,110	52	4.68
Charles	1,839	353	19.20

Local Education Agency	Total Teachers	Conditional Teachers	Percent Conditional Teachers
Dorchester	359	46	12.81
Frederick	3,086	206	6.68
Garrett	298	6	2.01
Harford	2,684	114	4.25
Howard	4,354	163	3.74
Kent	161	10	6.21
Montgomery	11,966	664	5.55
Prince George's	8,958	1,342	14.98
Queen Anne's	529	22	4.16
St. Mary's	1,103	98	8.88
SEED School	40	8	20.00
Somerset	252	31	12.30
Talbot	339	23	6.78
Washington	1,569	39	2.49
Wicomico	1,217	79	6.49
Worcester	606	5	0.83
State Total	63,219	5,304	8.39

The number of conditionally licensed teachers employed in Maryland LEAs has increased 251% since 2018. In the fall of 2023, conditionally licensed teachers made up the largest pathway to teaching and are often the most under-supported. Of critical importance is the fact that conditionally licensed teachers are significantly more diverse than traditionally prepared teachers and more closely mirror Maryland's student population.

With this in mind, we request an amendment to SB 937 that allows conditionally licensed teachers to also participate in the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program as they pursue teacher licensure.

MSDE and the State Board respectfully request that the committee consider this information as you deliberate on **SB 937**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy, and Government Relations, at Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504 or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.