

Board of Education of Baltimore County

2024 Legislative Priorities



The Baltimore County Board of Education is committed to the school system priorities of **academic achievement, safety and climate, infrastructure, and the recruitment and retention of highly effective teachers, leaders, and staff**. Correspondingly, the Board supports the 2024 legislative priorities of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and other efforts that align with system priorities, improve student outcomes, maintain local board governance, and provide adequate, equitable funding for school systems. The Board does not support unfunded mandates. This document highlights strategies the Board believes will improve teaching and learning and expand college and career success.

Legislative and Governmental Relations Committee Members:

Ms. Tiara Booker-Dwyer, Chair

Ms. Jane Lichter, Vice Chair

Ms. Christina Pumphrey

Ms. Kayla Drummond

BCPS Staff Liaisons:

Ms. Mildred Charley-Greene, Chief of Staff

Mr. Tony Baysmore, Director, Governmental Relations and Constituency Services

Ms. Erin Sebolt, Support

Priorities to Enhance Teaching and Learning

Reducing Class Sizes

Why: Schools are staffed based on student enrollment, need and special programs. Efforts to reduce class sizes, *coupled with our investment in high-quality teaching and learning*, will yield improved student outcomes.

Baltimore County Board of Education supports:

- Increasing development impact fees and establishing a dedicated capital fund/fee to support public school construction projects that proactively address school overcrowding.
- Providing incentives to school systems that support reducing class sizes.
- Providing incentives that support public-private partnerships that expand Pre-K enrollment opportunities for public school students.
- The Baltimore County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance Task Force recommendations.

Expanding Out-of-School Time Learning

Why: Out-of-school learning experiences improve academic outcomes, promote positive student behavior and build skills and knowledge that enhance college and career readiness. The expansion of government and community partnerships increases the opportunity to provide robust offerings to all students.

Baltimore County Board of Education supports:

- Incentivizing the expansion of out-of-school time programs that complement the continuum of learning experiences and activities that occur during the school day.
- Providing resources that support expansion of community schools.

Innovative School Schedules

Why: Students benefit from increased learning time. Innovative school calendars and schedules that increase learning time and reduce learning loss have a positive impact on student learning. The Board acknowledges that the successful implementation of new calendars requires a studied, gradual approach.

Baltimore County Board of Education supports:

- Revising Education Article §7-103 to remove the day or hour requirement for public schools to allow school systems flexibility to implement calendars that maximize learning opportunities for their students.
- Revising Education Article §7-103 to expand the implementation of innovative school scheduling models from low-performing or at-risk public schools to any school.
- Providing resources that support expansion of community schools.
- Incentivizing school systems to implement innovative school calendars.