

MSEA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2015

Now more than ever, we must invest in the students, educators, programs, and services that will prepare our children for career jobs in a competitive global economy. Here's how:

1. Protecting vital state and local investments in our schools, students, and educators

Properly preparing our students requires a commitment at the state and local level. MSEA supports full funding of Thornton education formulas and of the updated geographic cost of education index (GCEI). Additionally, we support the state keeping its promise to educators by making both the full actuarial required pension contribution and supplemental payments. In the capital budget, MSEA supports expanded school construction funding to address the unmet needs for building and improving safe, modern facilities across the state. We also will oppose efforts to water down the 2012 maintenance of effort improvements that protect the delicate partnership between the state and local governments to fund our schools.

2. Ensuring students have the time to learn and educators have the time to teach

Thanks to federal education mandates and numerous state and local tests, students are spending disproportionate amounts of time preparing for and taking standardized tests, even though they are not proven to effectively measure student growth or lead to improved teaching and learning. Because of the resulting loss of teaching and learning time and the financial burden put on our schools, we support efforts to limit the amount of annual state and local testing that occurs across all 24 school districts. Additionally, Maryland continues to struggle with the implementation of Common Core and corresponding PARCC state assessments. We support a continued moratorium on the high-stakes consequences of the problematic and unproven PARCC test for students and teachers.

3. Rejecting vouchers, neo-vouchers, and use of state dollars for private schools

As public schools struggle to receive the resources they need, we must reject schemes that divert public money to private schools that fail to meet the same standards of accountability as public schools. Additionally, MSEA opposes efforts in the operating and capital budget to finance private school supplies and construction.

MSEA engages in hundreds of other education-related topics and legislation. Our efforts to support schools, school employees, students, and their families include:

- **Meeting the needs of special education students, families, and educators**

Providing a world class education for all students is a priority for MSEA, as is respecting the judgment and workload demands on educators. As the state addresses issues of "burden of proof" it must balance the impact on resources and staffing needs to ensure that special educators have adequate time to work with their students.

- **Defending Maryland's charter school law**

Maryland's charter school law is the strongest in the nation because it strikes the right balance between local control, accountability, and innovative instruction. Our top-ranked schools depend on keeping our standards high and our charter school law strong.

- **Protecting local control in evaluations, curriculum, and school calendar**

Local communities are the appropriate authority to work with schools, students, educators, and parents in the development of teacher and principal evaluations, curriculum to meet mandates and increased standards, and issues related to the school calendar. Start dates, start times, and specific courses should not be mandated by the General Assembly.

UP the STREET

MSEA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

STAY INFORMED NOW AND THROUGHOUT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION—SIGN UP FOR UP THE STREET, AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST TO MARYLAND EDUCATORS.

VISIT MARYLANDEDUCATORS.ORG/UPTHESTREET