

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

TITLE: Discussion of 2017 Legislative Position Statements

DATE: September 14, 2016

OVERVIEW: Legislative position statements are approved by the Board of Education each year to provide input to the Carroll County Delegation for legislation impacting the effective and efficient operation of the school system.

Board Members meet with the Delegation, annually, in an open forum for the dual purpose of discussing the Board's legislative positions and fostering positive relations between elected officials.

The Legislative Position Statements for the 2017 General Assembly are submitted for the Board's discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unable to determine at this time.

RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:

The Proposed Legislative Position Statements will be submitted for public comment and return for Board action at the November 9, 2016, Board meeting.

Submitted by:

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Assistant Superintendent of Administration

Approve/Concur:

Stephen H. Guthrie
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CARROLL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENTS
2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Positions

Support local control of education policy, curriculum, calendar, and school system administration.

Support local control of appropriations and expenditures within budget categories.

Support full state funding for education including the Geographic Cost for Education Index (GCEI) and revised definitions of adequate and equitable funding that account for declining enrollment.

Oppose unfunded or partially funded state mandates.

Oppose revisions to the charter school law that impedes the Board's governance authority or alters operating or capital funding requirements.

Specific Legislative Positions

Curriculum

Support local control of the number of minutes during the school day devoted to any subject area.

Oppose legislation requiring mandatory pre-kindergarten unless both the full operating and capital costs of the program are borne solely by the State of Maryland.

Education Funding & Budget

Support as a minimum requirement the current maintenance of effort as stipulated in the *Education Article, Anno tated Code of Maryland*.

Support hold harmless provisions in the State operating budget and/or legislation to offset any FY17 and FY18 declines in State aid based on enrollment decline.

Support full funding of the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act for Fiscal Year 2018 including increased funding to reflect inflationary increases in the cost of education, and the impact of declining enrollment and relative wealth adjustments.

Support any measures for the State's Adequacy of Funding Study to include consideration of sustained, declining enrollment, the wealth formula, and an annual inflationary factor.

Support the inclusion of pre-kindergarten students in the state funding formula.

Oppose use of education tax dollars to support private school education.

School Facilities

Public School Construction - School Construction Funding

Support consistent state funding level for school construction and renovation projects.

Support legislation or regulations to revise the state's definition of eligible project costs to include architectural, engineering and site development costs.