



Written Support

House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees *House Bill 504 Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act*

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On behalf of the eleven member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) that offer teacher preparation programs, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of [House Bill 504 Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act](#). This bill alters the funding amounts and the sources for some provisions of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund; establishes the Collaborative Time Innovation Demonstration Grant, the Maryland Teacher Relocation Incentive Grant, the Academic Excellence Program, and the Academic Excellence Fund; alters some provisions of the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program; enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact; establishes requirements for multistate licensure; and establishes the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission.

MICUA institutions are proud of our long-standing history of providing teacher education programs designed to develop a high-quality teacher workforce throughout the State of Maryland. Of MICUA's 13 members, 11 prepare highly qualified teachers for Maryland primary and secondary education classrooms through State-approved teacher preparation programs. Over the last five years, MICUA institutions have awarded over 12,000 Education degrees and certificates. In 2024, MICUA institutions awarded 56% of the Education degrees above the bachelor's level in the State.

HB 504 establishes the Academic Excellence Fund, which will provide grants to institutions of higher education to address critical academic need in schools, particularly those identified as low-performing. The bill also alters the purpose, eligibility criteria, distribution and use of Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program grants.

In response to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, MICUA institutions have introduced various initiatives aligned with the Blueprint goals. These include:

- Development and launch of programs in Early Childhood Education;
- Development and launch of a strong National Board Certification (NBC) program model to assist and support service teachers to attain NBC;
- Development and launch of a new model of graduate professional development courses designed to provide support for in-service teachers that will also lead to career ladder advancement;

- Redesign of the Master of Science in Teaching program to provide a one-year accelerated model with a 180-day internship experience;
- Launch of teacher residency programs developed in collaboration with local education agencies (LEA's);
- Collaboration with LEA's around the Science of Learning focusing on supporting teacher candidates and new teachers in their knowledge and application of science of learning principles;
- Partnerships with LEA's to support conditionally certified teachers; and
- Development of two summer courses: (1) methods and strategies and (2) literacy designed specifically for conditionally certified art teachers.

HB 504 also enacts the Interstate Mobility Teacher Compact. Participation in the Compact would support teachers through new pathways to licensure and reduce barriers to teacher mobility.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asherman@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 504.