



**Programs and Services
with a focus on
Actions, Strategies, and
Supports associated with the
Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

Presented to the
Harford County Board of Education
April 29, 2024

MABE's Mission, Vision & Goals

Mission

- The mission of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is to provide members with a strong collective voice, and to **support local school board governance** through professional development, advocacy and member services.

Advocacy Goal

- We serve our members by being advocates for public schools, for local control of education, and for the leadership and legal authority of school boards.



MABE Programs & Services

- **Professional Development** – MABE provides the skills and knowledge required for our members to become effective leaders.
- **Advocacy** – MABE represents all 24 local boards on legislative and regulatory matters before the General Assembly, State Board, and federal government.
- **Legal and Policy Services** – MABE provides legal assistance, including amicus briefs, and policy training and alerts.
- **Insurance Programs** – MABE manages three member owned Property/Casualty, Workers' Compensation, and Health Insurance self-insurance programs.

MABE-MACo Time to Care Act Collaborative

- In response to the new law, in 2023 MABE initiated this collaborative to leverage purchasing power so that school systems and local governments could save costs in administering the new law's 12 weeks of paid time off for employee and family needs.

MABE Health Center Program

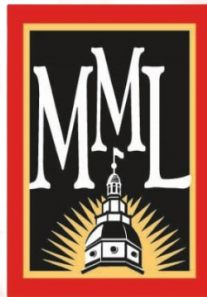
- This program, through Everside Health, is cost-efficiently providing comprehensive primary care services to local school system employees and their dependents in their communities.

MABE Time to Care Act Collaborative

MABE



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES



THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Association of Cities and Towns

MABE 

MABE Time to Care Act Collaborative

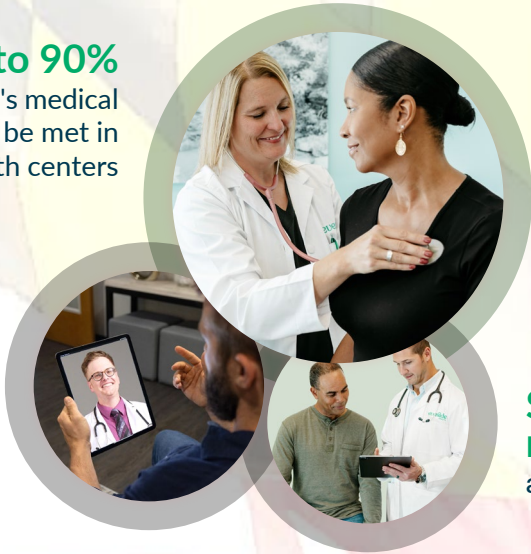
Current & Proposed Timeline

- **10/1/2023** – Employer commitment to participate in Collaborative
 - **10/1/2023** – State Plan premium rates released by MD DOL – 0.9%
 - **1/1/2024** – Regulations released by MD DOL
 - **TBD** – Collaborative RFP released to carriers
 - **TBD** – Proposals due from carriers
 - **TBD** – Final determination of selected carrier
 - **TBD** – Opt-out applications submitted to DOL
 - **10/1/2024 (7/1/25)*** – Premium contributions begin for State Plan
 - **1/1/2026 (7/1/26)*** – Premium contributions begin for Collaborative members
 - **1/1/2026 (7/1/26)*** – Benefits begin for all Maryland employers
- * 2024 legislation – SB485, HB571

MABE Health Center Program

Up to 90%
of a patient's medical
needs can be met in
our health centers

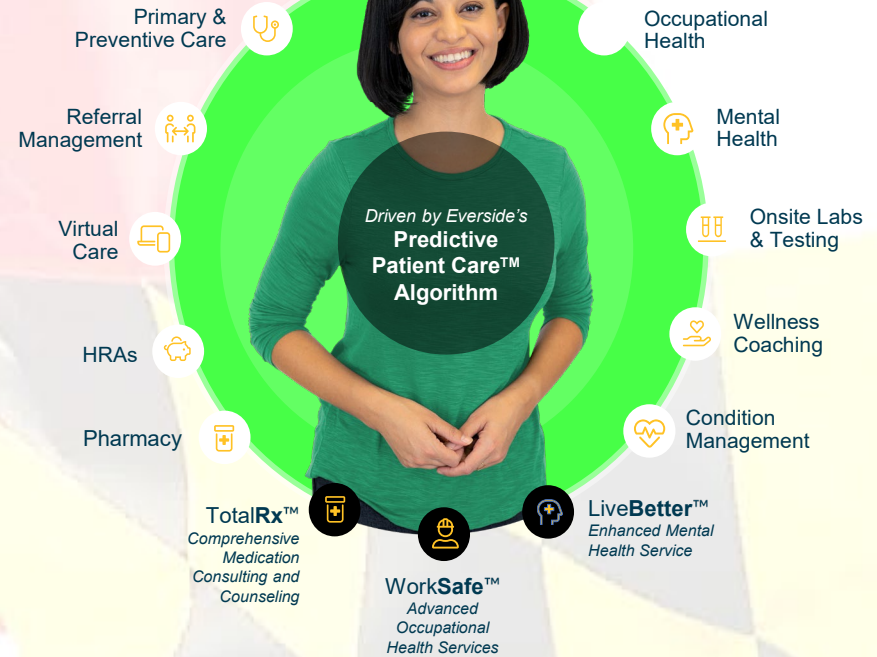
**In-Person
& Virtual**



**Same day/
next day
appointments**

MABE

HEALTH SOLUTIONS



MABE's Professional Development

MABE's goal for professional development is to promote student achievement and effective local governance of schools by ensuring that all school board members understand effective school board leadership. MABE offers diverse and extensive board development programs, designed for the new board member and veteran alike.

MABE
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2024

THE
WESTIN
ANNAPOLIS

OCTOBER
7 - 9
2024

SAVE
THE
DATES

Board Service Academy Opportunities

- Parliamentary Procedure: Maximizing the Benefits & Rewards (***Monday, May 6***)
- ***Pathways to Maryland's Literacy Legacy (May 15)***
- New Laws Passed in 2024 Affecting Your School System (***Wednesday, May 29***)
- Ethics: What You Most Need to Know(***Monday, June 3***)
- Boost Your Effective Governance With Stronger Board Self-Evaluations & Superintendent Evaluations (***Monday, June 17***)

Board Service Academy Opportunities

- The Open Meetings Act: Understanding its Significance, Avoiding Penalties & Ensuring School Board Compliance (***Tuesday, July 16***)
- **The Blueprint for Maryland's Future** (***Tuesday, July 30***)
- Student New Board Member Orientation (***Monday, August 12***)
- “The Trust Edge” & Its Transformative Role for School Districts (***Thursday, August 29***)
- Making Difficult Decisions (***Friday, September 20***)
- **MABE Annual Conference** (***October 7-9***)
- Maryland School Law Deskbook: A Sneak Peak (***Friday, November 15***)

MABE's Legislative Positions in 2024

- Local Board Governance
- State Education Funding
- School Facilities Funding
- Local Funding Security
- Curriculum & Assessments
- Student Health & Fitness
- Employee Relations
- School Safety
- Student Discipline
- Nonpublic School Funding
- And more



MABE's Legislative Priorities in 2024

- MABE supports continued governance autonomy for local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets; and opposition to unfunded mandates;
- Supports full State funding for the **Blueprint** and Maryland's outstanding public schools;
- Supports robust State funding for school construction and renovation projects; and
- Supports sustained and increased local government investments in education.



Legislative Proposals to Improve the Blueprint

MABE supports legislation in the 2024 session to make alterations to state and local funding formulas for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by:

- Adding an inflation adjustment to the minimum Maintenance of Effort (MOE) amount of local funding;
- Re-establishing the MOE “escalator” to require increased local funding in certain jurisdictions;
- Removing Foundation Program funding from the 75% school-based funding allocation requirement;
- Adding a population density-based adjustment to state funding for lowest populated counties; and
- Requiring state and local government cost-sharing for the salaries of local Blueprint Implementation Coordinators.

Ensure Local Funding for the Blueprint

Re-establish the Maintenance of Effort “escalator” to require increased local funding in certain jurisdictions.

- Amend the law to restore a successful approach in place between 2012 and 2023 to require jurisdictions to increase local funding based on their level of education spending relative to local wealth and in comparison to other jurisdictions.

Add an inflation adjustment to the minimum Maintenance of Effort amount of local funding.

- Amend the law to ensure that local funding is at least keeping pace with inflation, a requirement already in place for state funding.

Improve Systemwide Blueprint Budgeting

Remove Foundation Program funding from the 75% school-based funding allocation requirement.

- This amendment would allow flexibility for the foundation program (base amount of per pupil state funding) to be utilized on systemwide costs (utilities, health care, teacher retirement, transportation, maintenance, etc.).
- The amendment would ensure that 75% of all funding for high-needs students (special education, English Learner, and economically disadvantaged) continue to “follow the student” to the school.

Equitable Assistance for Rural Systems

Add a population density-based adjustment to state funding for Blueprint implementation in Maryland's most rural school systems.

- This amendment would provide targeted \$250,000 funding allocations to school systems with very low population densities, including: Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, and Somerset County school systems.

Local Blueprint Coordinator Support

Require state and local government cost-sharing for the salaries and services of local Blueprint Implementation Coordinators.

- Amend the law to require combined state and local funding to provide annual allocations of \$150,000 to fund the salary, benefits, and administrative supports for each of the 24 local Blueprint Implementation Coordinators.

Education in the State Budget

SB 360 - FY 2025 State Budget Bill

SB 362 - FY 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)

- Increases Funding for Public Schools: State support for public schools will total \$9.1 billion. Aid to local school systems will increase an estimated \$457.1 million, or 5.3%.
- Improves the Financial Condition of the Blueprint Fund: The budget erases the projected FY 2027 Blueprint Fund shortfall by increasing taxes on cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices and dedicating both the new revenues and a portion of existing tobacco tax revenues to the Blueprint Fund.
- Other actions improving the health of the Blueprint Fund include reducing FY 2025 spending and transferring \$40 million from the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund.
- Preserve Reserves: About \$2.4 billion in cash resources are preserved including \$2.3 billion in the Revenue Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) (9.4% of general fund revenues) and \$128 million in the General Fund.

Education in the State Budget

SB 360 - FY 2025 State Budget Bill

SB 362 - FY 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)

MABE advocated for the following provision of the BRFA, as introduced. It was removed in the Senate, reinstated in the House, and adopted by the Conference Committee.

School-based Behavioral Health Highlight:

For FY 2025 only, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund provided for Coordinated Community Supports (the Consortium) may include reimbursements for school-based behavioral health services (not to exceed \$12 million), and to reimburse the Medical Care Programs Administration for services provided on a fee-for-service basis through a Medicaid waiver.

- Conference Committee Summary Report

Blueprint

HB 1082 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation – Funding and Independent Evaluation – Alterations

- Requires each county board of education to provide \$150,000 for the salary and benefits of the Blueprint Implementation Coordinator.
- The state and county governments must pay for coordinator salaries in the same proportion as the foundation program.
- Local boards of education receive \$3.6 million in additional annual state and local funding for local Blueprint coordinator salaries (\$1.84 million in state funding and \$1.76 million in local funding).
- The requirement to appoint an implementation coordinator for each county, which currently terminates after FY 2026, is extended indefinitely.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Blueprint

HB 1426 - Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Alterations

- Authorizing the State Board and the AIB to establish limits on courses taken by dually enrolled students.
- Authorizing the State Board, rather than AIB, to determine criteria for classroom teaching time.
- Extending the date for the external report on Blueprint implementation.
- Other deadline extensions and miscellaneous provisions.

Prekindergarten

HB 902 - Prekindergarten - Ulysses Currie Head Start Program - Eligibility for State Funds

- Establishes that a provider in the Ulysses Currie Head Start Program is eligible to receive full state funds under the full-day prekindergarten program, even if the program receives federal funds.
- Providers may be exempted from including specified structural elements that are evidence-based and nationally recognized as important for ensuring program quality, in order to qualify for full-day prekindergarten funding.
- This bill will presumably impact both state and local shares of prekindergarten funding for additional Head Start students beginning in FY 2026.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Prekindergarten

HB 1441 - Early Childhood Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs - Alterations

- Makes numerous changes related to publicly funded prekindergarten programs, including adjusting staff credentials, altering slot allocations for providers, requiring agreements between local boards and relevant agencies, authorizing applications for state funding for leased space, introducing support initiatives, establishing a career ladder for private prekindergarten providers, establishing provider hubs, and extending funding timelines for grant programs.
- Highlight: Extends PreK Expansion Grant funding, at nearly \$20,000 per pupil, through FY 2030 to incentivize private participation.
- Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, private PreK slots “shall account for at least 10% of the total” by county; increasing by 10% per year until 2028-2029 (when private slots must account for 50%).
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Career & Technical Education

SB 33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024

- Requires public high schools, in the same manner in which the school informs students of postsecondary educational options (Naviance), to inform students of employment and skills training opportunities available through:
 - (1) apprenticeship sponsors registered with the division of workforce development and adult learning;
 - (2) employers registered with the Maryland Department of Labor or local workforce development boards; and
 - (3) schools licensed by MHEC that provide training, retraining, or enhancement in employment skills.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Career & Technical Education

HB 1492/SB 1042 - Education - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery - Student Information

- Alters the requirement that each public school that administers the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) select “Option 8” as the score reporting requirement to prohibit the general release of student information to military recruiters, and instead requires local school systems to notify students (and their parents or guardians) two weeks before administering the ASVAB of the option to withhold the release of a student’s personal information and ASVAB test scores to military recruiters.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

- Consolidates and modifies the Blueprint law's required school leadership training programs, already required to be established by MSDE in conjunction with the AIB.
- Requires the State Superintendent of Schools, local superintendents of schools, the chairs and vice-chairs of the State Board, AIB, and each local board to complete the training but only at least once.
- Encourages, to the extent practicable, training of all members of local boards, the State Board and AIB, principals, and senior leadership staff.
- Training is to be cohort-based to encourage collaboration and shared learning, provided through virtual sessions and in-person sessions, including through regional gatherings of education leaders and other meetings.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.
- Specific training topics are outlined on the following slides.

Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

The school leadership training program shall include:

- a review of education in the United States relative to countries with top performing education systems and the implications of high performance for students, the economic security of the United States, and quality of life;
- a model for strategic thinking that will assist education leaders to transform districts and redesign schools under their leadership;
- overview of ethical leadership directly tied to the educational leaders' responsibility to drive equitable learning in their schools;
- lessons in transformational leadership;
- research-based model for coaching school leaders and instructional coaches;
- training to provide a working knowledge of research on how students learn and its implications;
- training to provide a deep understanding of standards-aligned instructional systems;

Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

- a method for organizing schools to achieve high performance, including (1) building instructional leadership teams; (2) implementing career ladders for teachers; (3) overseeing teacher induction and mentoring systems; and (4) identifying recruiting and retaining high quality and diverse school leaders; and
- review of research regarding (1) the benefits to students from access to high-quality and diverse teachers; (2) methods to attract highly qualified teachers from diverse backgrounds who reflect the demographics of the students they teach; and (3) best practices for teacher retention, including retention of teachers from diverse backgrounds.

The Future

- Continue to stay engaged with key stakeholders
- Be responsive to member needs
- Be forward thinking
- Continue proactive approach to proposing legislatively required modifications to the Blueprint

Thank You!

Milton E. Nagel, CPA
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