



2012 Legislative Priorities

MSEA's chief priority in the 2012 Maryland General Assembly session will be to protect school funding. We must hold the governor and legislators accountable, urging them to protect school funding and safeguard the investments we've made in our public schools and our children's future by:

1. **Fixing the broken Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Law**

A broken MOE law puts our children's education at risk by opening the door to \$2.6 billion in local education cuts. We need to strengthen the law by ensuring it has accountability, flexibility, and fairness and that the state/local partnership to fund our schools remains well-defined, intact, and dependable.

2. **Rejecting the irresponsible shift of teacher pension costs to local governments**

This much debated shift is tantamount to a huge cut in education funding—creating far more problems than it solves. We must reject such an irresponsible shift and instead lead the charge for the continued investment in our students.

3. **Supporting a balanced approach to restore the fiscal health of Maryland**

Solving budget challenges cannot be done on a continued diet of cuts. We need sensible solutions, including new revenue, that will keep our schools great, our quality of life secure, and our jobs here.

Hundreds of other education-related bills will be filed and included in the 2012 legislative agenda. Our efforts to fight on behalf of our students, schools, and profession include:

Urging Gov. O'Malley to introduce a budget that maintains Thornton funding formulas

We call on the governor to introduce a budget that keeps critical resources in our classrooms by maintaining per pupil funding formulas, fully funding the geographic cost of education index, and restoring the inflation factor.

Improving student achievement

Whether it is to encourage greater parental involvement, recruit and retain outstanding teachers, or ensure that high quality professional development opportunities exist, we must focus on solutions that help educators teach and students learn.

Rejecting the BOAST voucher bill

Sponsoring and supporting a voucher bill when schools are already struggling to receive needed resources takes us further away from our goal to provide great public schools to every student.

Improving retirement security

While we would like to repeal the harmful pension reforms from last session, we must prioritize our efforts to end the "Teacher Tax," protect COLAs for current and future retirees, and seek long-term relief in employee contribution rates as the pension system is strengthened and stabilized.

Protecting and strengthening bargaining rights

We call on legislators to oppose "right to work" legislation and any usurping of bargaining rights. We will continue to advocate for statewide agency fee legislation, because we know that strong unions build the middle class.

Visit www.marylandeducators.org/activate to learn what you can do to help protect the investment in our schools!