



That's all folks!

Happy Sine Die, better known as the end of the legislative session. This was a busy one with many of our legislative priorities making forward progress. **A few priorities that made it through the legislative process:**

1. Freedom to Read Act- Under the law, local boards of education and county library officials must adopt state standards, consistent with the principles laid out in the legislation. The bill defends the professional judgment of educators in vetting. This point of defending professional judgement is one of the extremely positive aspects to this bill as educators in other counties were being threatened with termination based on the books that they chose. Overall, this bill should allow freedom to select books and should limit the attempts to ban books.
2. Blueprint funding- Overall with an increase of fees, the \$63 billion fiscal year 2025 budget fully funds the Blueprint and retains two features that MSEA fought for: \$10 million in restored community college funding and a less dire reduction to the Cade funding formula for the community colleges in future years.



Priorities that did not make it through the legislative process:

1. Innovative Scheduling Bill- This was the bill proposed by the Anne Arundel County Delegation. This would change the law that requires schools to be 180 days and 1,080 hours. The new law would be 180 days OR 1,080 hours. The bill which was on its second attempt, did not make it out of committee but will likely return again next year.
2. Blueprint definitions- This bill would change the definition of teacher under the blueprint to include School Counselors and Literacy Teachers. Many of our members advocated for this bill and like the innovative scheduling bill, we are likely to see this bill return again!
3. Contractors- This bill would require the school systems to have a more open and transparent process when they hire contractors. This bill did not make it through the legislative process but was an important step to keeping public education part of the public rather than giving it to private entities.

Overall, this was a quieter legislative session. Our priorities are clear: continue to work for a fair and equitable Blueprint, student and staff safety in the schools, and keeping public education public. While our work with the legislative session has come to an end, we now must pivot to the budget process and ensure that the County Executive and County Council fully fund the education budget.

Take these two actions to help pass and increase the public education budget:

1. Like our budget posts on social media
2. Email your Councilmember: bit.ly/4aB1id0



TAAAC Member Resources

MEET Mary Jo

Our UniServ Director Beth Ramey has left TAAAC for an opportunity with the Massachusetts Teachers Association. Temporarily replacing her is MJ who will cover the Annapolis, Broadneck, Severna Park, South River, and Southern Feeders! Mary Jo Neville, called MJ by friends, worked at MSEA for 24 years. The first 14 were in Government Relations, then the last ten as a UD at TABCO and then Howard County. Since retirement she has spent time traveling, loving the Orioles and filling in for MSEA when needed.

PRIMARY DAY ACTIONS

On May 14, TAAAC members will help voters cast their ballots for teacher-recommended candidates. Volunteer at: bit.ly/3VVYyIU

Also, we're hosting a watch party at Ellie's place! Join us for music, trivia, and speeches from our candidates! We'll also have a drawing for books throughout the evening. RSVP here: secure.ngpvan.com/oLioM9LI9U_uCsRIW-LQV0g2

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Join your union as a member organizer (\$30/hour) to help recruit new members and plan our first annual Leadership Development Conference, which will be held August 14-15, 2024! Learn more at: forms.office.com/r/1EgzMrzvsZ

RUN FOR TAAAC LEADERSHIP

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the following positions until May 8.

- Sick Leave Bank
- Calendar Committee (Elementary)

Terms will begin August 1, 2024. Learn more at taaaconline.org/taaac-elections/

GET OUT THE VOTE

Help elect our endorsed Board of Education candidates! We're hosting Monday night phone banks, and door-knocking every weekend.

Visit taaaconline.org/for-members/politicalaction/ for more information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Join us to discuss our union's budget for the upcoming year. Members may provide virtual testimony on May 22. Visit taaaconline.org/events for more information.

ECE BOWLING SOCIAL

Join the Early Career Educator Committee's end of year social at Greenway Bowling on April 25! secure.ngpvan.com/mRwAwj2eFO-BYzRvEkrJkg2

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to Allison Criswell, special education teacher at Central Elementary for being named Educator of the month!

Welcome to the 12 new TAAAC members who joined our union last month! If you know someone who wants to join, visit: <https://www.mynea360.org/s/join-now>