



Renee Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD. 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com

BILL: House Bill 633
TITLE: Education – Teacher and Principal Evaluations – Revisions to Requirements
DATE: February 18, 2016
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 633 alters the requirements for the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education that establish the general standards for performance evaluations for specified teachers and principals; repeals the requirement that specified regulations regarding teacher and principal performance evaluations include default model performance evaluation criteria; and repeals the requirement for performance evaluation criteria to include student growth data as a specified component of the evaluation.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 633. Local superintendents understand the intent of House Bill 633, but believe that it is ill-timed. In October 2015, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was reauthorized. The new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides important flexibility to states and local school systems to prepare students to meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive global economy. The new law grants states and school systems with the flexibility to implement improvement strategies that best meet the needs of individual schools. A component of the new flexibility allows states over a year to work with stakeholder groups to develop new strategies and recommendations, including the critical issue of teacher and principal evaluations. We believe that it would be prudent to allow the State and our 24 local school systems the opportunity provided by ESSA to design an evaluation plan that better meets the need of everyone concerned.

It is important to note that House Bill 633 infringes on the area of collective bargaining. Current law prohibits agreements on evaluation systems from being subject to bargaining. House Bill 633 reverses the position of the current law and requires that such mutual agreements between local boards and teacher unions be subjected to collective bargaining. In addition, this bill would remove the uniformity that now exists statewide with teacher/principal performance evaluations. This element of standardization across the State has great value, which is important to assure effective teachers for all schools and students.

Due to the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 633 and requests an unfavorable committee report.