



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

BILL: House Bill 684
TITLE: Education – State Grants for Education Aid
DATE: March 23, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 684 establishes the criteria for a county board of education to be eligible to receive a specified State grant in a specified fiscal year; and specifies the calculation of a specified amount in a specified year for a specified purpose.

PSSAM **supports** House Bill 684.

Local superintendents appreciate the financial support that several schools systems will receive through this legislation. House Bill 684 eases the burden for school systems that are experiencing declining enrollment. This legislation provides reasonable time for school systems to address the ramifications of the financial loss they face when enrollment declines. Fluctuations in enrollment faced by local school systems are a difficult situation to manage from a fiscal standpoint.

As amended, House Bill 684 also includes funding for several school systems that offer full day Pre-K for their 4 year olds. PSSAM appreciates this additional funding as well as the supplemental grants to systems with declining enrollment.

In addition, the Kirwan Commission is delving into these issues and will ultimately provide recommendations to the legislature. The outcome could be a major modification in aid dollars to all Maryland school systems. This grant program for fiscal year 2018 through 2020 will prevent local school systems from taking drastic measures such as furloughs, reductions in programs, reductions in force, or even the closing of schools in one year when the following year could result in modifications that would have prevented such drastic measures.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **supports** House Bill 684.