



Briefing Paper: Making Class size a permissive subject of collective bargaining for public K12 schools.

Support HB 85, Allowing Teachers Unions and School Board to Negotiate Class Size

The pandemic has coupled with deteriorating working conditions for educators in Baltimore and across the state to cause a mass exodus of those in the teaching profession. Just this past year, local and national headlines drew our attention to the historic levels of teaching vacancies in our public schools. One major reason cited by teachers as to why they are leaving the profession is the increase in class sizes. Teachers unions should have the right to at least bring up bargaining proposals to manage these ballooning class size numbers.

- Educators need to have the tools and a voice - to enact measures that they know through experience will help students to succeed. One such tool is the ability to negotiate class size.
- Maryland is one of only 9 states that bars discussions of class size as a subject of collective bargaining.
- Because class size cannot currently be a subject for bargaining – teachers do not have a voice on this important policy that directly affects students.
- Changing the law will give educators and administrators the ability to discuss and come to agreements on what is best for students and teachers.

AFT-Maryland is a strong advocate for reducing class size to help raise student achievement, especially in high-poverty and at-risk schools.

Please support HB 85



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