

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES
FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS
(EFFECTIVE JULY 22, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

Members of the public are encouraged to submit comment(s)/feedback to the State Board of Education to share their views on issues pertaining to matters under its authority and the administration of the public school systems of the State. Since March, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, procedures for public comment were temporarily changed as the State Board shifted to a virtual meeting format. Members of the public were asked to submit their comments in writing to the State Board for distribution to all members.

Starting with its July 28th meeting, the State Board will conduct the public comment portion of the meeting by allowing members of the public to call in by phone. Participants will dial in to the meeting number provided and will be given a passcode to access the meeting. The State Board President, will explain the meeting procedures and call on speakers in order of their registration.

Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. Time will be monitored by staff through use of a timer. When that time expires, the speaker is permitted to finish their sentence, but is required to make no further remarks. At the end of the 3 minute period, speakers will be released from the call/meeting room.

The following general guidelines should be followed:

- 1) Public comment submissions may not be related to personnel matters or issues pending in appeals to a local board or to the State Board.
- 2) Comments shall be directed to the Board, not to an individual Board member(s).
- 3) The State Board will not respond directly to public comment submissions.

A person who desires to speak to the State Board must register with the Office of the State Board of Education by calling 410-767-0467 and leaving a message, or by emailing your request to stateboard.msde@maryland.gov. Registration will open one week prior to the Board meeting date and close at 3 p.m. on the last business day preceding that date. **Sign-up for public comment is limited to 10 speakers and registration is first-come, first-served.** You will receive a notice to confirm your registration, along with the call in number, passcode to join the meeting, and public comment guidelines and procedures.

Questions or comments should also be sent to stateboard.msde@maryland.gov.