

A Call to Action-Be a Changemaker

What is a changemaker? A changemaker is a person who identifies opportunities that can contribute to the greater good. Opportunities can come to us in our homes, communities, organizations, and our places of work. As educational professionals, many opportunities to make change come to us in the schools where we work. Every day we can impact students through our interactions with them, our colleagues, and administration, building relationships that will open doors to education and a strong future. Opportunities to interact with families and influence what is happening within a student's home can lead to change.

But how can we make change when we feel like the deck is stacked against us? Entities outside of the school building have an effect on the work done within the school, impacting the positive change that can be made. To be completely transparent, our state legislators have enormous influence on the work done in local school districts. Funding for general school district budgets, special programs, and the laws that dictate how schools are to be run are all controlled at the state level. If you want to be a changemaker at your school, advocating for education issues leads down to the MD State legislature.

This year the educator shortage, the lack of a diverse teacher workforce, book ban policies that negatively impact BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, and the ESP Bill of Rights are going to be discussed in Annapolis. We want our voices heard and we want you to come along! On Monday, February 19th a charter bus will start in Allegany County and pick up members from across the counties of the West and head to Annapolis. We will talk in one-on-one appointments with our local legislators about the issues that are going to impact our schools. Food will be provided on the trip, and we will have some fun along the way. There will be training to get you prepped for the trip on Thursday, February 8th at 6pm. If you want to join us for a trip to speak to your representatives, sign up through this weblink <https://fcta.wufoo.com/forms/kc2ubat05uu9wc/>

All of us can be changemakers. Your students need you to step up for them and make a difference with the bills that will come before the legislature this session. Join us as we go to Annapolis and talk with our lawmakers on Monday, February 19th!