

# Stephen Schawalder

## WCTA High School Member-at-Large; MSEA Rep Assembly Delegate

My name is Stephen Schawalder and I have had the honor of teaching at Clear Spring High School for the past 17 years. This is also my 5th year as building representative. I am certified to teach Spanish, Business Education, and Multilingual Learners, so I know what it is like to juggle multiple prep periods in a day. This year, I am teaching Spanish I-AP.



Over the past several years, I have attended various MSEA/WCTA events including 3 years at the MSEA Convention and Representative Assembly in Ocean City, the Summer Leadership Conference in July, and the Western Maryland Education Practices Summit in August. My commitment to representing my colleagues has driven me to attend nearly all building representative meetings last year, and I continue to prioritize them this year.

This year, I am honored to have been accepted into the Emerging Leaders Academy, a program dedicated to developing leadership skills and preparing participants for future leadership roles within our association. Through this program, I aim to bring fresh ideas and strategies to our work, helping to address the challenges we face as educators and advocates.

If elected to the WCTA board, I am committed to promoting membership engagement because I believe our collective strength lies in unity. I will work to develop opportunities for members to connect and collaborate through both formal and informal means, fostering a stronger sense of community within our organization. I am also passionate about improving internal communication structures to ensure that every member is informed, supported, and empowered to engage in the vital work we do.

As a board member, I will also advocate for working conditions that prioritize the mental, emotional, and physical wellness of educators. By addressing these needs, we can better serve our students and contribute to the success of our school community. Additionally, I will seek to strengthen partnerships with community stakeholders, as collaboration is key to achieving our vision of optimal outcomes for every student.

In addition to my role within WCTA, I am active within my school community. I was a class advisor twice (total of 8 years), FBLA advisor for 10 years, and Spanish Honor Society advisor for 6 years. I also make it a priority to support my students and community by attending games, dances, and other events. During volleyball season, you'll find me working the scorebook at all our home games.

Outside of school, I'm proud to contribute to professional and local organizations. I serve a board member and the webmaster for MFLA-Maryland ([mflamd.org](http://mflamd.org)), a world languages association dedicated to providing outstanding professional development to teachers across the state. I currently run our website, collaborate on the communications team, and work with the other board members to plan our two conferences each year. Locally, I am also the vice president for my local Neighborhoods First organization, organizing events such as bi-monthly meetings, community cleanups, and other networking/social events.

In what little free time I have, you will likely find me hiking the Appalachian Trail, biking on the C&O Canal Towpath, working out, or relaxing. Thank you for considering me. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you and our profession.