

State Board Legislative Summary

March 22, 2022

New Legislation:

House Bill 1450 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations

Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh

Hearing: 3/8; Committee: Appropriations

MSDE Position: Support with Amendments; Status: Second Reading Passed with Amendments

Synopsis: HB 1450 pushes back the requirement date in which entities must develop and submit the implementation plans required within the Blueprint. The Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) would have until December 1, 2022 to adopt their comprehensive implementation plan, while MSDE and other entities (including local school systems) would have until March 15, 2023 to submit their plans to the AIB.

By September 1, 2022, the Department shall develop criteria to be used to recommend approval or disapproval of local school system implementation plans. The bill also alters the distribution of certain sales and use tax revenues to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund in future fiscal years.

The bill makes technical amendments regarding the withholding of funds for local school systems. 25% of the required withholding from local school systems shall be based on the amount provided in the *prior* fiscal year. In FY23, the withholding will be released after the AIB determines that the local system has met minimum requirements for submission of its initial Blueprint implementation plan.

Each county board, in collaboration with the community colleges, now shall develop and implement a program of study for students who have not met the CCR standard by the end of the 10th grade by the 2023–2024 school year, instead of the 2022-2023 school year.

Update on Previous Priority Legislation:

Senate Bill 362 - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Schools - Revisions

Sponsor: Senator Pinsky

Hearing: 2/16; Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

MSDE Position: Support with Amendments; Status: Passed Senate (31-15)

State Board Position: Support with Amendments

Synopsis: This bill changes the requirements for a local board of education or the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish a virtual school and sets requirements for students, teachers, and services at a virtual school. A local school system is limited to establishing one virtual school per grade band; however, MSDE may authorize a local school system to establish an additional virtual school on a showing of just cause. A virtual school may not include classes for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students. A teacher preparation program must include instruction on training in the skills and techniques for teaching effectively in a virtual learning environment.

The Department may revoke the approval for a virtual school if the school fails to meet performance standards established by MSDE, MSDE and county boards shall adopt policies for the mandatory return of students to in-person learning if they are failing academically. Neither MSDE nor a county board may contract with a for-profit entity to run or administer a virtual school. Students enrolled in a virtual school shall have access to resources that would otherwise be available through their assigned public school, including participation on sports teams.

House Bill 1163 - Primary and Secondary Education – Virtual Education – Requirements

Sponsor: Delegate Washington

Hearing: 3/9; Committee: Ways and Means

MSDE Position: No Position; Status: Second Reading Passed with Amendments

Synopsis: This bill establishes requirements related to virtual education for public schools. MSDE must study the best practices for the provision of virtual education and develop criteria for the establishment of virtual schools. A virtual school may not be established through a contract with a for-profit institution that is responsible for the day-to-day education of the students within the school. All employees within a virtual school will be considered public school employees and will have the right to collectively bargain to address the needs of the particular school.

The bill encompasses other mandates including a statewide implementation of a learning management system, a pilot program to enable students to learn through recorded lectures and apply lessons from the recorded lectures during classroom time, annual grants totaling \$500,000 for the purpose of establishing virtual education courses in accordance with the bill, and requiring a local board of education to pursue virtual learning in the event of a sustained emergency (as declared by the Governor or governing body of a county) that prevents in-person attendance at a public school over several school days.

Senate Bill 379 - Caroline County, Charles County, and Prince George's County Boards of Education - Removal of Member

Sponsor: Senator Klausmeier

Hearing: 3/24; Committee: Ways and Means

MSDE Position: No Position; Status: Passed Senate (44-0)

Synopsis: This bill removes the requirement that the State Board of Education have the approval of the Governor in order to remove a member of the Caroline County Board of Education, the Charles County Board of Education, or the Prince George's County Board of Education under certain circumstances.