



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: July 23, 2019
RE: Implementation Update of Senate Bill 1030, The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

On May 24, 2019, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released draft calculations and guidance for Senate Bill 1030, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, to local school systems (LSS). In addition to SB1030 financial information, MSDE also released detailed information and application guidance regarding the Teacher Salary Incentive Grant program. Applications for these grant funds were due by June 30, 2019.

On June 6, 2019, MSDE released final calculations for SB1030. Additionally, the Request for Application for the Teacher Collaborative Grant was issued with a due date of August 9, 2019.

In total, up to one hundred and fifty (150) grant awards will be entered, reviewed, and processed for award under SB1030. The following is a summary of the grant programs and their current status.

Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program

This program provides grants to public schools in which at least 80% of the students were eligible for free and reduced-priced meals (FRPM). Fiscal Year 2020 grants are based on the number of qualifying schools in the 2017-2018 school year. Each of these schools must employ one community school coordinator and provide full-time coverage by at least one health care practitioner, as specified in the bill. If funding exceeds costs and/or the school already employs individuals in such positions, resulting excess funds must only be used for specified wrap around services or for a required needs assessment. If a local school system has at least 40 eligible schools, the local board may distribute the funds in accordance with a plan developed in consultation with eligible schools that ensures each eligible school receives the required positions and services.

Twelve (12) LSS qualified for the Concentration of Poverty School Grant program. The Maryland State Department of Education awarded a grant to each eligible local school system equal to \$248,333 for each eligible school; that same amount must be distributed by the local board to each eligible school.

Prekindergarten Supplemental Grants

These grants are expanded to include State funding to a local school system based on every 4-year-old in full-day prekindergarten as of September 30 of each year, regardless of whether full day services are available to all 4-year-olds in the county's prekindergarten program.

Eighteen (18) LSS were awarded the Prekindergarten Supplemental Grants. Of the remaining systems, four (4) are eligible under the original Supplemental Prekindergarten Grant through Major State Aid Programs, and two (2) do not report eligible prekindergarten students.

Teacher Salary Incentive Grant

This program provides grants to county boards to increase teacher salaries to improve recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers. The State must provide a grant to a local board if the local board provides a negotiated and funded average salary increase for teachers of at least 3.0%. Funding is dependent on local boards providing required documentation. Priority should be given to increasing starting teacher salaries and salaries for teachers with less than five years' experience.

All twenty-four (24) LSS submitted the required application and documentation for the grant award, twenty-three (23) were eligible for award. Three (3) counties were required to update their application form, we are awaiting the signed documentation before release of the grant funds.

Students with Disabilities Grant

In Fiscal Year 2020, an additional \$65.5 million is provided for special education services for students with disabilities, with specified allocations to each local school system. If any of this funding is not needed to fully implement individualized education programs and 504 plans for students with disabilities, each local board of education must use the remaining funding to implement other recommendations made in the Commission's January 2019 Interim Report.

All twenty-four (24) grant awards have been processed.

Mental Health Services Coordinator

For Fiscal Year 2020, \$83,333 is provided to each local school system to fund the mental health services coordinator that each local school system must appoint, pursuant to the Safe to Learn Act (Chapter 30) of 2018.

All twenty-four (24) grant awards have been processed.

Transitional Supplemental Instruction for Struggling Learners

For Fiscal Year 2020, the State must distribute funds to local boards of education totaling \$23 million, as allocated by the bill, for the provision of Transitional Supplemental Instruction (TSI) for struggling learners, which involves additional academic support using evidence-based programs and strategies that meet the expectations of strong or moderate evidence as defined in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). TSI includes one-on-one and small group tutoring with a certified teacher, a teaching assistant, or any other trained professional; cross age peer tutoring; and screening, identifying, and addressing literacy deficits. Struggling learners are students who perform below grade level in English/language arts or reading in kindergarten through grade 3.

Budget narratives and additional documentation were due to MSDE on July 12, 2019. As of July 16, 2019, three counties were still pending. We are continuing to review and release awards as eligible.

Teacher Collaborative Grant

This program, administered by MSDE in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), awards grants to multiple collaboratives in various regions of the State to develop model, state-of-the-art, professional development programs for prospective and current teachers. A collaborative must constitute a partnership of at least one local board, one teacher preparation program, and one exclusive employee representative. For Fiscal Year 2020, the State must distribute \$2.5 million for the program. MSDE must evaluate the program at least once during the grant period and report to the Governor and General Assembly about specified aspects of the program.

The application for this grant program is due August 9, 2019.

Summary Table of SB1030 Grant Awards

Grant	Amount	Status
Concentration of Poverty	\$51,385,768	Complete
Supplemental Prekindergarten	\$31,677,733	Complete
Teacher Salary Incentive	\$75,000,001	Complete
Students with Disabilities	\$65,468,588	Complete
Transitional Supplemental Instruction	\$23,000,000	Review in Progress
Mental Health Coordinator	\$1,999,992	Complete
Teacher Collaborative	\$2,500,000	Awaiting Applications