

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: April 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Legislative Update



Purpose

The purpose of this item is for the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Office of Government Affairs to provide a legislative update to the State Board of Education. This month, the Department will summarize the outcomes of the 2025 legislative session and highlight key education bills that passed both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly.

Background

In total, the Department tracked 333 bills this year, and 70 of those bills passed both chambers.

MSDE Position	Passed Both Chambers	Did Not Pass Both Chambers	Total Bills
Support	11	12	23
Support with Amendments	4	7	11
Oppose	2	15	17
Information	4	49	53
No Position	49	180	229
All Bills	70	263	333

Key Bills That Passed

Summary of each bill in PowerPoint

- [HB0071](#): Education - Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program - Established
- [HB0150/ SB0252](#): Child Care Centers - Certificated Staff Ratio Requirement - Repeal
- [HB0161](#): County Boards of Education - Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study - Discrepancies
- [HB0197/ SB0068](#): Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan
- [HB0324/ SB0293](#): County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members - Requirement (County Board Member Antibias Training Act)
- [HB0477](#): Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Adult to Child Ratios – Alterations
- [HB0504](#): Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act
- [HB0672](#): School Health and Wellness Personnel Assessment and Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers
- [HB0879](#): Task Force to Improve Attendance and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in Schools
- [HB1121](#): Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Program - Establishment
- [HB1473](#): State Government - Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With Limited English Proficiency and Individuals With Disabilities
- [HB1475](#): Maryland State Department of Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten - Analysis and Report (Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act)

Key Policies or Programs That Did Not Pass

- Reportable Offenses Bills: [HB1265](#), [HB0526/ SB0386](#), [HB0588](#), [HB0620](#), [HB0951](#), [HB1211](#)
- [SB0130](#): County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Device Use Policy – Established
- [HB0732/ SB0791](#): Public Schools - Career Ladder - Teacher Classroom Teaching Time
- [HB1025/ SB0845](#): Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - Educator Identification Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)
- [HB1323](#): Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

April 2025 Legislative Summary

April 29, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Alex Reese, Chief of Staff

Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director, Office
of Government Affairs

Madeline Houck, Policy Analyst, Office of
Government Affairs

By the Numbers



- **2,605** bills introduced across the House and Senate
- **333** bills tracked by the Department and the State Board
- **213** fiscal note requests received from the Department of Legislative Services (DLS)
- **124** pieces of testimony submitted by the Department and/or State Board

Testimony



- **34** Letters of Support
- **14** Letters of Support with Amendments
- **59** Letters of Information
- **19** Letters of Opposition

Bill Outcomes by MSDE & SBOE Position

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Support	11	12	23
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HB0504: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act

- Expands the teacher workforce:
 - Grow Your Own (GYO) grant program
 - Teacher recruitment campaign
 - Out-of-state teacher relocation bonuses
- Strengthens community school implementation:
 - County-wide strategic implementation plans
 - Expanded flexibility for use of funding
 - Program evaluation



HB0504: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act

- Extends the Career Counseling for Middle and High School Students Program through FY28
- Establishes programs without FY26 funding
 - Academic Excellence Program (\$17M requested, \$0 appropriated)
 - Blueprint Leadership Training (\$4.5M requested, \$3M appropriated)
- Pauses the requirement to adhere to teaching vs. non-teaching time ratios (“collaborative time”)
- Maintains or sustains funding levels
 - Inflationary increase in the foundation per-pupil amount for FY26 (\$162/student)
 - No pause or freeze in community schools funding

**SB0252 / HB0150:
Child Care Centers
- Certificated Staff
Ratio Requirement
– Repeal
(Departmental Bill)**

- MSDE sets the ratio (as opposed to repealing ratio) for child-to-CPR certificate holder for childcare centers
- MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Update regulations based on MSDE's determination of the appropriate ratio**

HB0161: County Boards of Education- Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study- Discrepancies

- County boards establish curriculum guides and courses aligned with MSDE health guidelines
- System in place for State Superintendent to hold county boards accountable if their curricula and courses do not align with MSDE guidelines
- The standards and resources MSDE establishes will include (for each grade) model lessons, syllabi, curriculum units, model student work, etc.
- MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Begin work on model resources to support LEAs**

HB0672: School Health and Wellness Personnel Assessment and Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers

- MSDE and the Department of Health annually conduct an assessment of school health and wellness personnel which includes (by jurisdiction):
 - Ratio of student-to-health professionals
 - Vacancy rates
 - Feedback on strategies to improve recruitment and retention of school health professionals
- Report due on December 1 of each year beginning in 2027
- MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Coordinate with DOH and update annual data collections**

HB0324 / SB0293: County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members - Requirement (County Board Member Antibias Training Act)

- LEA board members must complete the antibias training once during their term
 - This can be the same training employees receive, but the training must be conducted separately
- **MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Communicate with LEAs that the training is a requirement for board members in addition to staff**

HB0197 / SB0068: **Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan**

- MSDE will develop a comprehensive plan for the establishment of restorative practice schools
- The plan will include a framework on providing training and a model training; establish standards for designation as a Restorative Practice School; and establish performance metrics
- MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Develop plan by July 1, 2026**

HB1473: State Government - Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With Limited English Proficiency and Individuals With Disabilities

- Each State department develops a language access plan focused on providing equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency.

- Language access plans must be updated every two years.

- Create and implement language access plan by July 1, 2028

- Department arranges for translation of vital documents for a language spoken by any limited English proficiency population of 3% or more of the relevant geographic area.

- Agencies must submit an annual report to the advisory group summarizing activities for language access.

- State Superintendent or designee sits on an advisory group on language access.

- MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Designate MSDE representative for advisory group**

HB0071: Education - Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program - Established

- MSDE manages a \$50K grant
- LEAs apply to MSDE for grant funding to support teacher training or materials on the Holocaust
- **MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Establish grant management process**

HB0879: Task Force to Improve Attendance and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in Schools

- MSDE establishes a task force on chronic absenteeism
- MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Update regulations on attendance by December 1, 2025; by June 30, 2026, MSDE publishes chronic absenteeism toolkit
- **MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Add public school student and a school-based health professional to task force; update attendance regulations on or before December 31, 2025**

HB1475: Maryland State Department of Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten - Analysis and Report (Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act)

- MSDE convenes a workgroup (with specified members) to conduct an analysis of the mixed delivery model for publicly funded prekindergarten
- The report analysis will focus on discrepancies in policies regulating private/public providers, private provider reimbursement, the invoicing process, the process for changing Maryland EXCELS levels, language access, facilities challenges, etc.
- **MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Final report due December 31, 2027**

HB0477: Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Adult to Child Ratios - Alterations

- MSDE conducts an analysis of the State's regulatory requirement for childcare facilities
- MSDE must study frameworks and governing regulations in other states and evaluate whether they result in higher levels of safety, quality, and operating
- **MSDE / SBOE Next Steps: Final report due September 1, 2026**

HB1121: Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Program - Establishment

- MSDE establishes a framework for Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Program to remove certain barriers for parenting foster youth
- DHS will refer individuals to MSDE for access to the program
- **MSDE/ SBOE Next Steps: Update CCATS and implement program by January 1, 2026**

Key Policies or Programs Not Passed This Session

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- [SB0130](#): County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Device Use Policy – Established
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Summary

- State Board Legislative Principle: **Bolster investments in public education**
 - HB0504 – teacher workforce programs, inflationary increase in the foundation per-pupil amount
- State Board Legislative Principle: **Prioritize fiscal accountability**
 - HB0504 – pauses the requirement to adhere to teaching vs. non-teaching time ratios (“collaborative time”)
 - HB0197 – supports the expansion of restorative practices with minimal fiscal impact

Summary

- State Board Legislative Principle: **Equity-focused leadership**
 - HB0504 – policies strengthening the implementation of community schools for students in high-poverty schools
 - HB1121 – supports youth transitioning from foster placements and their children
 - HB1473 – language access plan focused on providing equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency
 - HB0879 – supports work on chronic absenteeism to address barriers to consistent attendance that result in achievement gaps
 - SB0451 – allows Marylanders to choose to take all components of the GED in Spanish
 - SB0431 – strengthens apprenticeship opportunities for Marylanders and advances Blueprint goals