

**Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session**

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 925  
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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**Task Force to Study Implementing a Year-Round School Curriculum in Prince  
George's County  
PG 417-06**

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This bill establishes a task force to make recommendations regarding the implementation of year-round schooling in Prince George's County as a method for reducing the county's achievement gap. The task force must be appointed by July 1, 2006 and submit its findings by December 31, 2006. Staff for the task force is provided by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MSDE could staff the task force with existing personnel and resources.

**Local Effect:** The establishment of the task force would not materially affect Prince George's County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

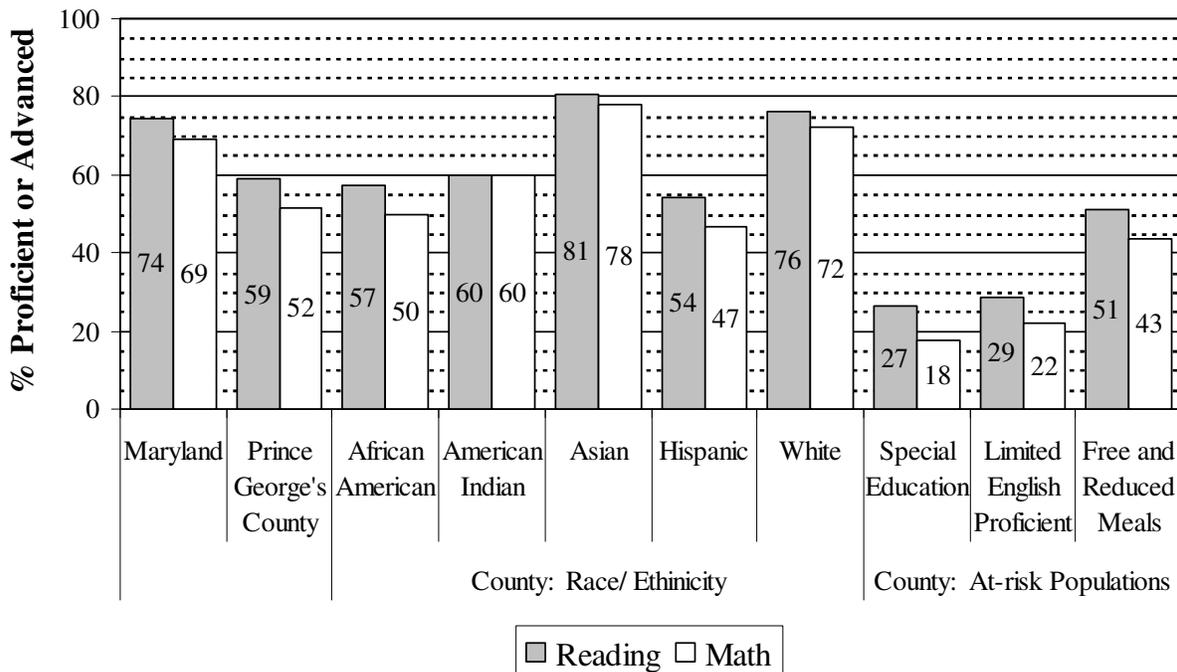
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**Analysis**

**Background:** As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the percentage of fifth grade students in Prince George's County who score at the proficient or advanced levels on State reading and math assessments is approximately 15 percentage points below the statewide average. The exhibit also shows the percentage of Prince George's County students scoring at the

proficient level among five race/ethnicity categories and among three categories of at-risk students. The exhibit demonstrates the “achievement gap” between Asian and white students and their African American, American Indian, and Hispanic peers. The percentage of Asians and whites who score at the advanced or proficient levels meets or exceeds the State average, while the percentage of students in the other race/ethnicity categories who score at the proficient or advanced levels is approximately 10 to 20 percentage points below the statewide average. Examining the at-risk populations shows even greater disparities between statewide assessment results and the results for special education and limited English proficient students in Prince George’s County.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Percentage of Fifth Grade Students Scoring at the Advanced or Proficient Levels**  
**2005 Maryland State Assessments**



Source: Maryland State Department of Education

### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced last year as HB 1121. The bill received an unfavorable report by the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2006  
mll/rhh

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