

Department of Legislative Services  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 39 (Delegate Braveboy)  
Ways and Means

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Education - Public High Schools and Public High School Students - Data  
Collection System

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This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop a data collection system by July 1, 2012, to collect data about students who graduate from high school in three, four, or five years.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** MSDE can develop and implement a system to collect information on students who graduate in three, four, or five years with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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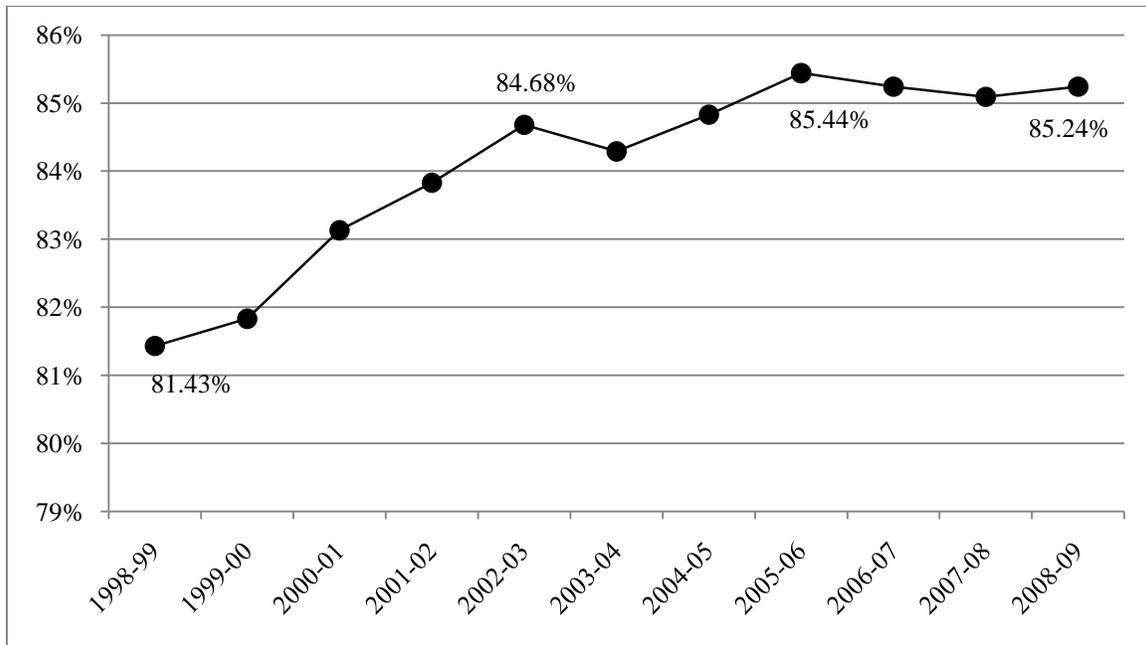
Analysis

**Current Law:** By September 1, 2011, and each year thereafter, each local board of education must collect and analyze graduation rates. The graduation rate has to be reported in the aggregate and disaggregated by race, by students who are limited English proficient, by students who receive free and reduced priced meals, and by students who receive special education services. The graduation rate is measured by dividing the number of students who graduate in four years by the number of students in the four-year cohort. MSDE must provide training and technical assistance to collect this information.

**Background:** The statewide graduation rate from the 1998-1999 school year through the 2008-2009 school year is shown in **Exhibit 1**. The statewide graduation rate has trended upward from 81.4% for the class of 1999, until leveling out at approximately 85% in recent years.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Graduation Rate**  
**1998-99 to 2008-09 School Years**



Source: Maryland State Department of Education

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Graduation rates are not consistent across the State. **Exhibit 2** displays the graduation rates for each of the 24 local school systems in the 2008-2009 school year. The exhibit shows that Baltimore City has the lowest graduation rate (62.7%), followed by several of the smaller Eastern Shore school systems. Carroll County has the highest graduation rate (95.5%).

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**Exhibit 2**  
**Graduation Rate by School System**  
**2008-09 School Year**

<b>School System</b>	<b>Graduation Rate</b>	<b>School System</b>	<b>Graduation Rate</b>
Baltimore City	62.69%	Harford	86.73%
Somerset	77.17%	Montgomery	87.38%
Dorchester	80.26%	Charles	88.26%
Kent	80.50%	Garrett	89.53%
Wicomico	82.08%	Queen Anne's	90.58%
Baltimore County	83.56%	Anne Arundel	90.60%
Cecil	84.05%	Washington	91.53%
Prince George's	84.56%	Calvert	91.99%
Caroline	84.60%	Howard	93.64%
Talbot	84.73%	Frederick	94.08%
Allegany	85.77%	Worcester	94.81%
Saint Mary's	86.27%	Carroll	95.47%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>85.24%</b>		

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

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**State Expenditures:** In 2008, MSDE added unique student identifiers to its data sets to track students from kindergarten through high school. MSDE advises that its existing student database can be used to calculate the number of students who graduate from high school in three years, four years, or five years by the 2012 deadline established in the bill.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1223 of 2009 passed the House, and received a favorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. However, the full Senate never took action on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2010  
ncs/mwc

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