

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1254  
Ways and Means

(Delegate A. Washington)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Education – School Discipline – Data Collection

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This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to (1) disaggregate and report data on student discipline in specified manners and (2) collect and report data on alternative school discipline practices. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** MSDE can implement the bill with existing resources, assuming that the bill can be implemented in accordance with federal data reporting standards. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can implement the bill’s requirements with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** MSDE must disaggregate information in every student discipline report for the State, each local school system, and each public school by (1) race; (2) ethnicity; (3) gender; (4) disability status; (5) eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or an equivalent measure of socioeconomic status; and (6) English language proficiency. Special education-related data must be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender. “Alternative school discipline practice” means a discipline practice in a public school that is not in-school or out-of-school suspension. MSDE must collect specified data on each local school system’s use of alternative school discipline practices, including the types of

alternative school discipline practices that are used and the type of misconduct for which alternative discipline practice is used.

**Current Law/Background:** The State Board of Education must establish guidelines that define a State code of discipline for all public schools with standards of conduct and consequences for violations of the standards. The guidelines were last updated in 2014. The State board must also assist each local school board with implementing the guidelines. Each local school board must adopt regulations designed to create and maintain within schools the atmosphere of order and discipline necessary for effective learning. The regulations must provide for educational and behavioral interventions, counseling, and student and parent conferencing. They must also provide alternative programs.

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act requires that disclosure avoidance strategies must be implemented to prevent unauthorized release of information about individual students. MSDE suppresses all records for a population size of 10 or fewer.

MSDE publishes annual reports on suspensions and expulsions in public schools; much of the data in the reports is disaggregated at the State and local school system levels and by race/ethnicity and disability status. Data is not disaggregated at the individual school level.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2018  
mm/rhh Third Reader - March 26, 2018  
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