

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 996 (Delegate Angel)
Ways and Means

Homeschool Students in Maryland - Extracurricular Activities

This bill authorizes a public school in the State to allow a home-schooled student who is eligible to attend the public school to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by the school to the same extent that a student who is enrolled in the public school may participate. Extracurricular activities include interscholastic athletics, music, drama programs, student organizations, and other programs in which a student may participate outside regular school hours and for which a student does not earn academic credit. A public school must give placement priority to a student enrolled in the school if there are a limited number of spaces available for students in a given extracurricular activity. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can develop any regulations using existing resources.

Local Effect: None. Allowing, but not requiring, home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities will not affect local school expenditures. It is assumed that under the bill the total number of students participating in public school extracurricular activities is not expanded.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State regulations under MSDE govern the athletic program for all high school students in Maryland public secondary schools that are members of the

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), which includes all 24 school systems. Local school systems may adopt rules governing their athletic programs that are more restrictive than those of MPSSAA; less restrictive rules may not be adopted.

Per State regulation, to be eligible for participation in high school level interscholastic athletics, students must be *officially registered and attending* the MPSSAA member school they are authorized to attend, under regulations of the local school system. They may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements. Each local school system must establish standards of participation which assure that students involved in interscholastic athletics are making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Failure to comply with regulations constitutes a violation which results in specified penalties against the MPSSAA member school and either the student or the coach or both. Depending upon the severity of the violation, more than one penalty may be imposed against the MPSSAA member school, student, coach, or all of the above.

Background: According to MSDE, approximately 27,800 students in Maryland were taught through home instruction during the 2016-2017 school year, ranging from 91 students in Kent County to 4,633 in Frederick County. MPSSAA operates in conjunction with MSDE and the 24 school systems. It is governed by a Board of Control and an Executive Council that represent school superintendents, athletic coordinators, principals, athletic directors, and coaches. In addition, there are many standing and tournament committees that administer State tournaments, as well as many other programs. MPSSAA currently includes nearly 200 public high schools with more than 112,000 participating student athletes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 500 of 2011, a nearly identical bill, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2018
nb/rhh

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510