



MARYLAND FEDERATION  
*of*  
Republican Women

To the Chairman and Members,  
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
House Appropriations Committee  
House Ways and Means Committee

RE: SB 1000 (HB-1300) -Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation –MFRW - OPPOSED

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women Oppose SB 1000. This bill is very long - 172 pages and is intended to “transform Maryland’s early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high-performing systems around the world”; It:

- is very complicated and is an over-reaching expansion of state control of education;
- is very costly - \$32 Billion additional over 10 years, and about \$4 billion additional every year after.
- mandates additional expenditures by local governments;
- requires additional expenditures for the English Learner program equal to 100% of foundation funding;
- does not identify long-term funding sources;
- has little parental or family involvement in decision making.
- adds at least 6 new state boards/teams/programs, from the overall Accountability & Implementation Board to the Expert Review Team; Teacher Quality & Diversity Program; Career & Technical Education Committee Expert Review Team & CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee all to adopt regulations, guidelines, evaluations, and reports and coordination.
- adds heavy bureaucratic reporting burden for county school systems;
- increases paperwork reporting for teachers and reduces teacher decisions on what to teach.
- increases state influence and indoctrination of young children (3 and 4-year-olds);
- expands school-based health clinics, and social services including behavioral health assessments and services with no mention of parent knowledge, involvement or consent.

SB 1000 is excessively complex, expands government control of families and children, increases state bureaucracy, and is too expensive. While the “world class” goals are laudable, we must first concentrate on all students achieving grade-level competency. We urge, over the next two years to require all Maryland public schools to:

(1) ensure every student can read (words and comprehension), write and do math at grade level. Add science competence at appropriate grade level next. If the Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys in Baltimore City can improve math scores by 50% in one year, public schools should be able to improve them in 2 years. (source: 13 Baltimore City High Schools, zero students proficient in Math by Fox News Nov. 10, 2017).

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(2) require disruptive-behavior students-those who frequently act out and cause their classroom to be evacuated—be placed in “alternative classes” until they can conform their behavior, and not be allowed to repeatedly reduce learning opportunities for all other students in the class or endanger students or teachers.

(3) concentrate on getting students to attend class, every day. Regularly attending class will improve learning.

Maryland currently spends approximately \$16,000 per student. That is \$320,000 per 20 student class. Are we to believe that you can't pay a teacher a competitive salary on that level of funding? It's not just how much money is spent, but how much is actually going into the classroom and teachers vs on contracts, administration, etc.

Please, don't rush this massive, increase in bureaucracy, cost and unknown-funding plan, SB 1000, through this year. Go step-by-step – bring student achievement up to grade level. Involve the community and parents and teachers as proposed in SB 275 the Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act of 2020. Provide competition through vouchers. Competition works and costs less.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis

Legislative Chairman

Maryland Federation of Republican Women