

TO: House Committee on Ways and Means

BILL: House Bill 1264- Public Schools - Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course

DATE: March 5, 2025

POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Department of Education and the State Board of Education respectfully oppose **House Bill 1264**, which proposes an amendment to Maryland's high school graduation requirements, allowing students to satisfy part of their mathematics credit by taking a college preparatory computer science or computer programming course. While this legislation aims to expand access to computer science, it is unnecessary given Maryland's existing policies that already provide flexibility for students to apply rigorous computer science coursework toward their mathematics requirements.

Under current Maryland education policy, local education agencies (LEAs) already have the authority to recognize advanced computer science courses for mathematics credit. This flexibility enables students to count approved computer science coursework toward their math requirements, provided it meets established academic standards. Additionally, MSDE has strategically aligned mathematics and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to ensure students can engage in meaningful interdisciplinary coursework without requiring additional legislation. House Bill 1264, therefore, seeks to codify a practice that is already permitted and actively implemented within Maryland's education system.

Moreover, the State Board of Education is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive PreK-12 Mathematics Policy, which redefines Maryland's secondary math pathways and strengthens alignment between mathematics instruction and college and career readiness. The new policy framework integrates flexible math course options while maintaining rigorous academic standards, ensuring that students have diverse pathways that support their postsecondary goals. The proposed legislation is premature, as the concerns it aims to address are already being resolved through a statewide, research-based policy initiative.

We encourage the committee to continue supporting LEAs in their efforts to integrate high-quality computer science coursework into mathematics instruction through existing and evolving policies. House Bill 1264 duplicates current practice. Lastly, there are no graduation requirements in statute, and the State Board and MSDE believe any future graduation requirement alterations should go through existing processes.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate HB 1264. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs) at 410- 767-0504 or akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.