

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 450 (Delegate Martinez, *et al.*)
 Ways and Means

State Department of Education - Soccer Opportunities Program - Establishment

This bill establishes the Soccer Opportunities Program in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to increase opportunities for minority students to participate in soccer in their communities. Only local education agencies (LEAs) serving student populations at least 80% of which are “minority students” and youth soccer nonprofit organizations located in a county with an eligible LEA may receive grants under the program. The State Superintendent of Schools must develop and administer the program and provide grants to eligible LEAs and youth soccer nonprofit organizations, to the extent funds are available. The Governor must include at least \$80,000 annually for the program in the State budget, beginning in fiscal 2026. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$80,000 annually, beginning in FY 2026. MSDE can review grant applications and administer the program using existing resources. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2026.**

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$80,000)	(\$80,000)	(\$80,000)	(\$80,000)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: State grants to local school systems may increase by as much as \$80,000 annually beginning FY 2026, with Baltimore City and Charles and Prince George’s counties being the only jurisdictions currently eligible to receive grants under the program. State grants would have to be matched with federal, county, municipal, or private funds.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: To be eligible for funding, a youth soccer nonprofit organization must provide soccer opportunities for children under the age of 18 and be recognized by U.S. Youth Soccer as a member of the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association.

A grant application must include (1) a description of the scope and purpose of the proposed program; (2) a business plan that includes the estimated total cost of the proposed program; and (3) any other information required by MSDE. Grantees must provide matching funds from any combination of federal, county, municipal, or private sources, and MSDE must ensure that the grant does not exceed 50% of the total annual cost of the grantee's program. The State Superintendent must develop regulations to carry out provisions of the bill.

Current Law: There is no such program under current law. However, the Lacrosse Opportunities Program has a similar structure.

Chapter 706 of 2012 established the Lacrosse Opportunities Program in MSDE to increase opportunities for minority public school students to participate in lacrosse in their communities. Initially, only specified LEAs were eligible to receive grants under the program. Chapter 551 of 2017 expanded eligibility for grants to include youth lacrosse nonprofit organizations in specified counties. The State Superintendent of Schools must develop and administer the program and provide grants to eligible LEAs and youth lacrosse nonprofit organizations, to the extent funds are available. MSDE advises that in recent years, it has not received any requests for grants under the program.

Only LEAs serving student populations at least 80% of which are “minority students,” and youth lacrosse nonprofit organizations in those counties, may receive grants under the Lacrosse Opportunities Program. For the purposes of the program, State regulations define “minority student” as a student who is an Alaska Native, American Indian, Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander. The Governor must include at least \$40,000 annually for the program in the State budget.

Local Fiscal Effect: As of September 2022, minority students accounted for over 80% of total student enrollment in Baltimore City and Charles and Prince George's counties, as illustrated in **Exhibit 1**. Therefore, it is assumed that LEAs in these three jurisdictions are currently the only ones eligible to receive grants under the program.

Exhibit 1
Racial Composition in Maryland Public Schools
September 2022

County	White	African American	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Two or More Races		Percent Minority	
Allegany	85.6%	3.8%	2.0%	0.9%	0.2%	0.1%	7.4%	1.	Prince George's	96.2%
Anne Arundel	47.0%	22.0%	20.2%	4.0%	0.3%	0.2%	6.3%	2.	Baltimore City	92.8%
Baltimore City	7.2%	72.7%	17.2%	0.9%	0.2%	0.1%	1.7%	3.	Charles	81.8%
Baltimore	31.5%	40.2%	15.3%	7.1%	0.4%	0.1%	5.3%	4.	Montgomery	75.6%
Calvert	65.9%	13.6%	8.4%	1.5%	0.2%	0.1%	10.3%	5.	Howard	68.9%
Caroline	56.8%	14.5%	18.7%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	8.6%	6.	Baltimore	68.5%
Carroll	78.5%	5.1%	8.4%	3.5%	0.2%	0.3%	4.1%	7.	Somerset	65.4%
Cecil	71.0%	10.8%	9.3%	0.8%	0.2%	0.1%	7.8%	8.	Wicomico	63.1%
Charles	18.2%	57.3%	13.0%	2.9%	0.3%	0.2%	8.0%	9.	Dorchester	60.2%
Dorchester	39.8%	40.6%	11.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.1%	6.9%	10.	Anne Arundel	53.0%
Frederick	50.4%	14.4%	20.6%	7.4%	0.2%	0.1%	6.9%	11.	Frederick	49.6%
Garrett	95.3%	0.4%	2.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	12.	Talbot	48.3%
Harford	58.9%	20.8%	9.0%	3.4%	0.2%	0.1%	7.6%	13.	Kent	45.9%
Howard	31.1%	24.8%	13.6%	23.6%	0.2%	0.1%	6.5%	14.	Caroline	43.2%
Kent	54.1%	23.8%	12.4%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	8.9%	15.	Washington	41.9%
Montgomery	24.4%	21.8%	34.6%	13.9%	0.2%	0.1%	5.1%	16.	Harford	41.1%

County	White	African American	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	<u>Percent Minority</u>		
Prince George's	3.8%	52.2%	39.3%	2.7%	0.4%	0.2%	1.3%	17.	St. Mary's	39.5%
Queen Anne's	74.7%	5.5%	12.1%	1.1%	0.2%	0.1%	6.4%	18.	Worcester	35.4%
St. Mary's	60.5%	19.4%	8.2%	2.4%	0.2%	0.2%	9.1%	19.	Calvert	34.1%
Somerset	34.6%	46.2%	10.6%	0.8%	0.2%	0.1%	7.6%	20.	Cecil	29.0%
Talbot	51.7%	14.8%	25.2%	2.0%	0.1%	0.0%	6.1%	21.	Queen Anne's	25.3%
Washington	58.1%	15.5%	14.7%	2.1%	0.1%	0.1%	9.3%	22.	Carroll	21.5%
Wicomico	36.9%	37.2%	14.1%	2.8%	0.6%	0.2%	8.2%	23.	Allegany	14.4%
Worcester	64.6%	17.9%	8.4%	1.7%	0.2%	0.0%	7.2%	24.	Garrett	4.7%
Maryland	32.9%	32.7%	22.0%	6.7%	0.3%	0.1%	5.2%		Statewide	67.1%

Note: American Indian includes Alaska Native. Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian.

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that rent or sell athletic equipment or facilities, or run athletic programs, especially in affected jurisdictions, may realize increased revenues.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 433 (Senator King) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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