

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1373
Ways and Means

(Delegate Fisher)

Calvert County Public Schools - Extracurricular Activities for Homeschooled
Students - Pilot Program and Workgroup

This bill establishes the Extracurricular Activities for Homeschooled Students Pilot Program, administered by Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS), to allow a student who participates in a home instruction program in Calvert County to participate in an extracurricular activity sponsored by a public school in the county. The bill also establishes a Workgroup to Study Access to Extracurricular Activities in Calvert County Public Schools for Homeschooled Students, staffed by the Calvert County Board of Education (CCBE). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024; provisions related to the workgroup terminate June 30, 2025, and provisions related to the pilot program terminate June 30, 2030.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Administrative costs for CCPS may marginally increase from FY 2025 to 2030. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Pilot Program

“Extracurricular activity” includes interscholastic athletics, music, drama programs, student organizations, and other programs sponsored by a school. The pilot program begins in the 2025-2026 school year and lasts for three years. CCBE must select up to five public

schools in the county to participate in the pilot program. Each public school in the pilot program must allow a student who is not enrolled in the school to participate in any extracurricular activity sponsored by the school to the same extent that a student enrolled in the school may participate, if the student who is not enrolled:

- participates in a home instruction program under written agreement with the county superintendent;
- is eligible to attend the public school sponsoring the extracurricular activity; and
- meets and complies with the public school's requirements for participation in the extracurricular activity.

CCPS must establish a policy and guidelines for the implementation of the pilot program, distribute copies of the policy and guidelines to each school participating in the pilot program, and collect specified data from each participating school. Beginning November 1, 2026, and annually thereafter through November 2029, the county superintendent must annually report to CCBE and the General Assembly regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program, as specified.

Workgroup

The workgroup must (1) study specified issues regarding homeschooled student participation in extracurricular activities sponsored by public schools in the county; (2) study and evaluate data from other states or jurisdictions, if any, that allow homeschooled students or other nonenrolled students to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by a public school; and (3) make recommendations regarding the feasibility of homeschooled student participation in extracurricular activities sponsored by public schools in Calvert County.

By December 31, 2024, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Calvert County Commissioners, CCBE, and the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly.

Current Law: State regulations under the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) govern the athletic programs for all high school students in Maryland public secondary schools, which are members of Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA). 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.

Students must be officially registered and attending the member MPSSAA 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. For the purpose of parity in competition in meets and tournaments administered by MPSSAA, member schools are divided into classifications based on enrollment.

Under Chapter 804 of 2023, a virtual school is a public school established by a local board or multiple local boards that uses one or more technologies to deliver instruction to its students entirely or primarily online and in which students and instructors participate remotely from separate locations. A virtual school must provide each enrolled student with access to, among other services, (1) to the extent practicable, extracurricular activities at the public school the student would otherwise be required to attend in person and (2) notwithstanding any other law or regulation and subject to a participation agreement between the public school and the parent or guardian of the student, to the extent practicable, participation in organized athletics and on athletic teams at the public school the student would otherwise be required to attend in person.

Local Fiscal Effect: It is assumed that under the bill the total number of students participating in public school extracurricular activities is not meaningfully expanded; public school students may, in some instances, be displaced by homeschooled students. According to an [MSDE report](#), there were 1,043 homeschooled students in Calvert County during the 2022-2023 school year. MPSSAA notes that the bill would set a different standard of participation for interscholastic athletics that is less restrictive for one county as compared to other counties in the State.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2024
rh/mcr

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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